

OPINION 6
 FAILING THE PEOPLE

WORLD 8
 TRUMP ASKED CHINA TO HELP HIM GET REELECTED: BOLTON

SPORT 12
 JUVENTUS PAY PRICE FOR PENALTIES

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Parley inconclusive: India, China stick to guns

India asserts until China retreats to pre-May 5 position, no resolution possible, rejects its untenable claims on Galwan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 The talks between senior commanders from India and China didn't achieve any breakthrough on Thursday, even as India also took strong exception to China claiming sovereignty over the Galwan valley in eastern Ladakh, saying its "exaggerated and untenable claims" are contrary to the understanding reached on the issue between the two sides.
 Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said this after China claimed that the Galwan valley in eastern Ladakh is a part of its territory. "As we have conveyed earlier today, External Affairs Minister and the State Counsellor and Foreign Minister of China had a phone conversation on recent developments in Ladakh," Srivastava said late on Wednesday.
 "Both sides have agreed the overall situation should be handled in a responsible manner and that the understandings reached between Senior Commanders on 6th June should be implemented sincerely. Making exaggerated and untenable claims is contrary to this understanding," he said.
 Making New Delhi's stand clear on Thursday, the MEA 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. On 6th June 2020, the Corps Commanders of India and China held a meeting in the Chushul Moldo region where an agreement was reached on de-escalation

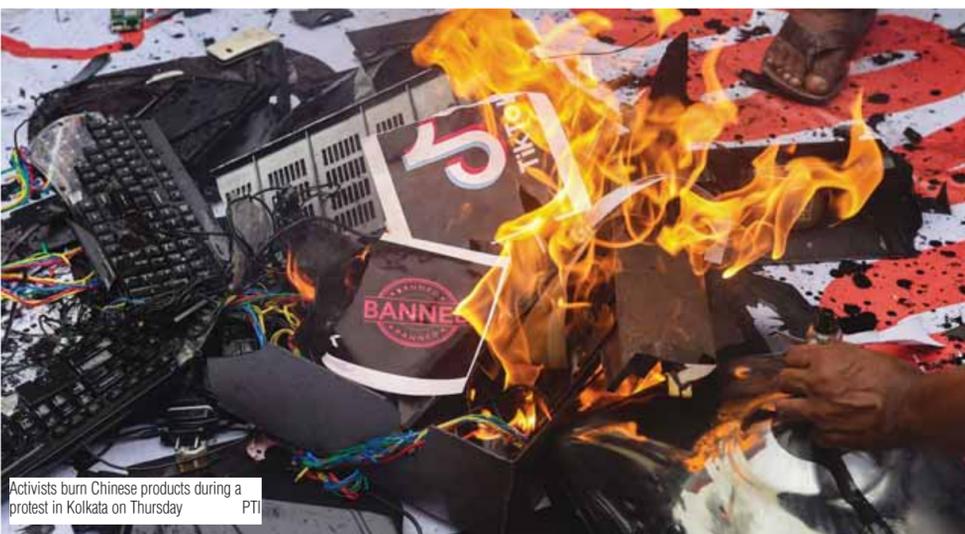


- The two sides are in regular touch through their respective embassies and foreign offices
- At the ground level the two sides have maintained communication at the commanders' level
- So far the Chinese have not shown any inclination to restore the status quo ante pre May 5 at the LAC in Ladakh. This is India's main condition
- New Delhi cannot accept anything short of it, because that would mean conceding Indian territory to China

and disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Ground Commanders were meeting regularly to implement this consensus through-out last week.
 "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. On the late evening and night of June 15, a violent face-off happened when the Chinese side unilaterally attempted to change the status quo there. They took premeditated and planned action that was directly responsible for the resulting violence and casualties suffered by both sides. This could have been avoided had the agreement at the higher level been scrupulously followed by the Chinese side," the Ministry 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 Chinese side to also confine its activities to its side of the LAC, the Ministry said.
 "It was agreed that both sides would implement the disengagement understanding of 6th June sincerely. Neither side would take any action to escalate matters and instead, ensure peace and tranquility as per bilateral agreements and protocols," the Government said.
 The two sides are in regular touch through their respective embassies and foreign offices. At the ground level the two sides have maintained communication at the commanders' level. Meetings of other established diplomatic mechanisms such as Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border Affairs are under discussion.
 The External Affairs Ministry also asserted that

"While we remain firmly convinced of the need for maintenance of peace and tranquility in the borders areas and the resolution of differences through dialogue, at the same time, as the Prime Minister stated yesterday, we are also strongly committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and territorial integrity."
 Meanwhile, the senior commanders from India and China held talks for third consecutive day on Thursday. The main focus was to restore peace there and ensure that the mutually agreed withdrawal of troops takes place unhindered.
 So far the Chinese have not shown any inclination to restore the status quo ante pre May 5 at the LAC in Ladakh. This is India's main condition. New Delhi cannot accept anything short of it, because that would mean conceding Indian territory to China.
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Activists burn Chinese products during a protest in Kolkata on Thursday

Acquisition of SUs, MiGs put on fast track

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

China has in the past resorted to such tactics to control the flow of the Brahmaputra river in Assam and Satlej river that flows into Himachal Pradesh from China. Analysis of the high resolution satellite imageries as also inputs gathered by the agencies suggest the PLA also used bulldozers to doze off a hillock in their bid to maximise casualties to the Indian troops during the skirmish earlier this week in which 20 Indian personnel, including a Colonel rank officer, were killed.
 Intelligence estimates here also suggest China may resort to denying hydrological data on Brahmaputra and Satlej rivers to India during the monsoon season. The bulldozers were deployed by the PLA on their side of the LAC and could be intended to stop the flow of the water.
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amid the continuing stand-off with China, India has decided to procure 21 MiG-29 and 12 Sukhoi fighter jets from Russia on a fast-track basis even as satellite imageries suggest China has yet again resorted to the tactic of weather warfare to change the course of Galwan river in Ladakh.
 The decision to acquire the additional fighter jets has been taken to strengthen the air force's reserves. The process for the acquisition of the fighters has been expedited as India and China are engaged in an intense stand-off in the Galwan valley and other points on the LAC for over a month now.
 With three decades of experience in weather warfare, the Chinese People's Liberation Army has 10 divisions (one lakh personnel or the strength of a corps) dedicated for weather manipulation in the hinterland and warfare along the LAC. Besides, China, Israel is the only other country with such capabilities.
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Jaishankar refutes RaGa claim, says soldiers were armed in Galwan valley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said all Indian troops guarding the border with China carried arms, refuting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's questions as to why Army personnel in Galwan Valley were sent "unarmed to martyrdom".
 Jaishankar pointed out that armies of the two sides do not use firearms as per provisions of two bilateral agreements sealed in 1996 and 2005.
 "Let us get the facts straight. All troops on border duty always carry arms, especially when leaving the post. Those at Galwan on June 15 did so. Long-standing practice (as per 1996 & 2005 agreements) is not to use firearms during face-offs," Jaishankar said in a tweet.
 The latest incident may see the Government revisiting the standard operating procedure at the LAC, officials said.
 Earlier in a video message Rahul Gandhi condemned China's actions in eastern Ladakh that resulted in the death of 20 soldiers. Pointing out that Indian soldiers were unarmed, Rahul sought to know who is responsible for this situation.
 "China committed a crime by killing India's unarmed soldiers. I want to know who sent these unarmed soldiers in the harm's way and why. Who is responsible," said Rahul.
Continued on Page 2

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Continued on Page 2

Rlys to terminate Chinese firm's contract over 'poor progress'

New Delhi: The Railways has decided to terminate the contract of a Chinese company due to "poor progress" on the signalling and telecommunication work on the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor's 417-km section between Kanpur and Mughalsarai.
 The Railways had given the contract worth ₹471 crore to Beijing National Railway Research and Design Institute of Signal and Communication Group in 2016. The move comes after 20 Indian Army personnel were killed in a fierce clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh on Monday night, the biggest military confrontation in five decades that has significantly escalated the already volatile border standoff in the region.
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Soldiers losing temper with China for mutilating bodies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Situation remained tense on Thursday on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh following reports that Chinese army men mutilated the bodies of Indian jawans after a clash at the Galwan valley on Monday night.
 While there was no official word on this, senior officers were making all efforts to keep the troops all along the border calm and not allow any more face-offs.
 The Army denied media reports that at least ten Indian soldiers were made captives by the Chinese. The clarification that no Indian soldier was missing in action came after reports that scores of Indian soldiers were captured in the free for all.

As regards mutilation of some bodies, sources said this issue had led to rising anger amongst the troops deployed on the already volatile border. Reports said Colonel B Santosh Babu was reportedly ambushed in the initial stages itself and struck down in the hand to hand combat. Then more troops from both the sides rushed to the site.
 Reports indicated that at one point the Indian side was vastly outnumbered with not more than 100 Indians surrounded by nearly 800 Chinese. They were armed with clubs, barbed wires, batons and iron rods studded with nails. Sources also reiterated that the murderous attack took place on Indian soil.
 Sources said the Chinese army men brutalised the Indian

soldiers after they fought bravely and fell prey to treachery. The Chinese reportedly mutilated the bodies of several soldiers after they were killed with stones and sharp edged weapons and nail-studded batons and clubs.
Continued on Page 2

China parries question on attack on Indian soldiers, Galwan dam

Beijing: Parrying questions about the brutal attack carried out by its troops on the Indian soldiers with iron rods and spikes on June 15, China on Thursday also declined to respond to queries on reports of it building a dam on the Galwan river at the Sino-Indian border to obstruct its flow.
 Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian in his media briefing skirted questions for a second consecutive day about the casualties suffered by the Chinese troops in their clash with the Indian soldiers at the Galwan Valley on Monday night.
PTI Detailed report on P2



Delhi, NCR need unified anti-Covid strategy, says Shah

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
 Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday favoured a unified strategy for Delhi and NCR to tackle the coronavirus pandemic and said the suburbs like Gurgaon, Noida and Ghaziabad can't be separated from the national Capital in this battle.
 Shah conveyed this message at a meeting with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and senior officials to review the Covid-19 situation in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), amidst increasing number of COVID-19 cases in these urban centres.
 "In view of the structure of Delhi-NCR region, all concerned bodies need to unite and work on a common strat-

egy against the coronavirus pandemic. In this context, I met with Delhi Chief Minister and senior officials of Center and Delhi-NCR today to discuss how to evolve a strategy as soon as possible," Shah tweeted.
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Covid-19 more infectious among family, people who live together

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19 may spread more easily among people living together and family members than other virus like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) or Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), as per a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.
 The analysis, based on contact tracing data from 349 people with Covid-19 and 1,964 of their close contacts in Guangzhou in China, found people with Covid-19 were at least as infectious before they developed symptoms as during their actual illness, and that older people (aged 60 years or more) were most susceptible to household infection with coronavirus.
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India elected non-permanent member to UN Security Council

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 India has been formally elected as non-permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council for a two-year term. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "deeply grateful" for the overwhelming support from the international community.
 There were five vacant seats in the UNSC, out of which four were filled by the first round of voting on Wednesday. Along with India, Kenya, Ireland, Mexico and Norway obtained the requisite two-thirds majority in the General Assembly.
 The other non-permanent members are: Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam.
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Congress stakes claim to form its Govt in Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 The Congress on Thursday staked claim to form the Government in Manipur a day after nine MLAs withdrew support to the BJP-led coalition Government of N Biren Singh.
 Now Congress has 20 MLAs of its own as one member has been disqualified and seven rebels barred from entering the Assembly. With the help of nine MLAs who withdrew support from the BJP Government, the Congress will have the support of 29 MLAs in the House whose effective strength in case of a floor test will be 52. The magic number will thus be 27.
 Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Okaram Ibobi Singh met Governor Najma Heptulla seeking special Assembly session for no-confidence motion against the Biren Singh Government.
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Nepal map Bill that includes 3 Indian areas becomes law

PTI ■ KATHMANDU
 Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari on Thursday signed a Constitution amendment Bill to update the country's new political map which incorporated three strategically important Indian areas, hours after the Parliament approved it, a move that could severely hit the bilateral ties with New Delhi.
 India has already termed as "untenable" the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belong to it.
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CJI: Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow Rath Yatra during corona crisis

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
 The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed this year's Puri Rath Yatra, which is attended by lakhs of people from across the world and was to start from June 23, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and said "Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow" it.
 A bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and AS Bopanna said that in the interest of public health and safety of citizens, this year's Rath Yatra at Puri in Odisha can't be allowed.
 "Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow this year's Rath Yatra to go on," CJI Bobde said, adding that as such a huge gathering can't take place during the pandemic.
 While the Rath Yatra festival, held over 10-12 days with



WHO scientist hopes for vaccine by end of 2021

London: The chief scientist at the WHO says the agency hopes there will be about 2 billion doses of a vaccine against Covid-19 by the end of next year that would be reserved for "priority populations."

CAPSULE

- PM TO LAUNCH JOB SCHEME FOR MIGRANTS**
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday launch a ₹50,000 crore job scheme for migrant workers who returned to their home States during the coronavirus lockdown.
- RAM TEMPLE'S 'BHUMI PUJAN' POSTPONED**
Lucknow: The proposed 'Bhumi Pujan' ceremony, scheduled to be held in Ayodhya on July 2, has been postponed in view of the escalation of border tension between India and China, said Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust secretary Champat Rai in a statement.

GALWAN VALLEY TENSION

China skirts questions on killing Indian soldiers

Refuses to respond on building dam on Galwan river

Beijing: Parrying questions about the brutal attack carried out by its troops on the Indian soldiers with iron rods and spikes on June 15, China on Thursday also declined to respond to queries on reports of it building a dam on the Galwan river at the Sino-Indian border to obstruct its flow.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian in his media briefing skirted questions for a second consecutive day about the casualties suffered by the Chinese troops in their clash with the Indian soldiers at the Galwan Valley on Monday night.

Asked about allegations that Col Santosh Babu and other Indian soldiers were brutally attacked with iron rods and

spikes by Chinese soldiers and whether the confrontation started when the Indian troops arrive to demolish structures set up by China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Zhao reiterated China's allegation, squarely blaming the Indian troops for the incident.

"The right and wrong of this case is very clear and responsibility doesn't lie with the Chinese side," he said, adding that China has provided the details of the case.

India has trashed China's claim of sovereignty over the Galwan Valley, saying such "exaggerated" and "untenable" claims are contrary to the understanding reached during a high-level military dialogue on June 6.

China's foreign ministry as well as the military this week claimed that the Galwan Valley has always been a part of the country. In a sharp reaction to the claim by China's People's

Liberation Army (PLA), Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava referred to an agreement reached between the Chinese and Indian militaries on "disengagement" during the Lt General-level talks on June 6.

"Making exaggerated and untenable claims is contrary to this understanding," he said in a statement in New Delhi early on Thursday.

The Galwan Valley was the site of the violent clash between the two militaries on Monday night in which a Colonel and 19 other Indian Army personnel were killed. China's official media has acknowledged casualties on the Chinese side without mentioning numbers.

To a question about satellite photos taken on June 16 showing China building a dam on the Galwan river blocking its water flow and whether it violated any agreement with India, Zhao said, "I am not aware of the

specifics you mentioned".

During Thursday's press briefing, Zhao referred to Wednesday's telephone talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during which, he pointed out that, "both sides agreed to deal with the serious situation caused by the conflict in a just manner and jointly observe the consensus reached at the commander level meeting, de-escalate tensions as soon as possible".

The two ministers have also agreed based on the agreements reached by the two countries reached so far to maintain the peace and tranquillity in the border areas, he said.

"I would like to stress the Indian troops at the western section of the boundary and some other areas crossed LAC and tried to unilaterally change the status quo," he alleged.

"The Chinese troops are committed to uphold peace

and tranquillity along the border areas. They have been exercising restraint. They are determined to safeguard our national sovereignty and security", he said.

"We urge the Indian side to immediately withdraw their personnel crossing the line, strictly restrain its troops and observe consensus reached by the leaders of two countries and agreements existing so far and jointly work with us to uphold peace tranquillity in the border area," he said.

After this incident, both sides are in communication and coordination on the matter through diplomatic and military channels, he said.

"Both sides agreed to deal with the serious matter caused by the conflict at the valley in a just manner, jointly observe the commander level talks consensus and deescalate the tensions as soon as possible and safeguard the peace and tran-

quillity," he said.

"Currently the overall situation is stable and controllable. We believe under the guidance of the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries the two sides can deal with the relevant matter jointly safeguard peace and stability at the border areas and work for the sound development of bilateral relations", he said. During the briefing, the spokesman read out the whole press statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday on the telephonic conversation between Wang and Jaishankar.

A large number of Indian and Chinese troops have been engaged in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation in Galwan Valley and certain other areas of eastern Ladakh for the last five weeks, including in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh. **PTI**

Jaishankar refutes RaGa...

From Page 1
The Congress party in a statement also asked whether the huge mistake in understanding the intention of China, not a symbol of the gross failure of the Central Government and their leadership.

Experts are also asking why the Indian jawans were not asked to use firearms in self-defence when the Chinese assaulted them with such deadly weapons and the bloodshed continued for hours.

Congress leader KC Venugopal and party spokesman Randeep Singh Surjewala said that today there is anguish in every mind. The entire country is suffering not only because of the inexplicable suffering that the Ranbankurs were shamelessly

martyred, as well as the resentment as to why they were sent unarmed to meet China officials, they said.

Army sources said that the Indian Army patrols are strictly prohibited from opening fire at the LAC and as a precaution, they do not carry guns. This confidence building agreement was inked between the two countries in 1996. It binds both the countries that neither side shall open fire or conduct blast operations within two km of the LAC.

The 1996 agreement saw both the sides refraining from brandishing weapons at each other. The face-offs used to be pushing and jostling. The Chinese of late started pelting stones and now graduated to more lethal weapons like clubs with barbed wires and nails.

Acquisition... Parley inconclusive: India, China...

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Also to subsequently release the collected water with much more kinetic energy to hit the Indian Army's paraphernalia on the base of the valley, sources said. The PLA has intensified its activities and presence in the region for over a year and hundreds of vehicles including trucks, armoured military carriers and bulldozers are estimated to be deployed along the banks of the Galwan river across the LAC. The imageries also suggest pre-fabricated huts for accommodating the PLA troops have been erected in their side of the LAC.

India elected...

From Page 1
The 15-member Security Council has five permanent members - the US, the UK, France, Russia and China - and 10 non-permanent members.

There were 192 Member States present for voting and the two-thirds required majority was 128. India garnered 184 votes. Canada lost the elections.

New Delhi's candidature was unanimously endorsed by the 55-member Asia-Pacific grouping, including China and Pakistan, in June last year. Previously, India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the Council for the years 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and most recently in 2011-2012.

From Page 1
There has not been any breakthrough in this regard and the all official comments from both sides have remained mired in the jargon of disengagement and de-escalation.

The agreement to pull back troops from all the four face-off sites was arrived at on June 6 during the talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin. India has maintained that China agreed to withdraw troops from the operational areas and shift them back to peacetime locations. It was also reportedly agreed between the two sides to remove heavy weapons also from forward areas.

However, the entire scenario changed after the violent clashes on Monday in the Galwan valley leaving 20 Indian soldiers including their commanding officer Colonel B Santosh Babu dead.

Since Monday night Major General level officers of both the armies are holding talks at Patrol Point 14 but failed to make any breakthrough till Wednesday. On Thursday, the two officers met again at the LAC and agreed to continue the dialogue to find ways to cool down tempers at the border. Incidentally, the troops from both the sides had disengaged from the brawl site, officials said.

India's election to UNSC shows goodwill country enjoys in world community: V-P

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday expressed delight over India's unopposed election to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member, saying it reflected the goodwill enjoyed by New Delhi.

"Delighted that India is elected unopposed as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. The support from 184 out of 192 members reflects the goodwill India enjoys in the world community," the Vice President's Secretariat tweeted.

India garnered 184 votes out of the 192 ballots cast in the General Assembly to win the election for the non-permanent seat in the powerful Security Council. India's two-year term will begin on January 1, 2021.

This is the eighth time that India will sit at the UN high-table, which comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.

"India has always been a voice for peace and non-violence and will continue to do so," Naidu said. **PTI**

Looking forward to working with India for more stable world: US

New Delhi: The US on Thursday congratulated India on the successful election to the UN Security Council and said it looks forward to working with New Delhi for a more stable, secure, and prosperous world.

"Hearty congratulations to India's successful election to the @UN Security Council. The United States looks forward to working with India for a more stable, secure, and prosperous world," US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster tweeted.

His remarks came hours after India's overwhelming election as a non-permanent member for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2021. In an unprecedented election where envoys from the 192 member-states voted wearing masks and in adherence to the strict social-distancing norms due to the COVID-19 pandemic, India, the endorsed candidate from the Asia-Pacific States, won 184 votes out of the 192 ballots cast in the election for the five non-permanent seats of the Security Council, the world organisation's most powerful organ. **PTI**

Congress stakes...

From Page 1
Ibobi Singh handed over letter of support from the TMC, NPP and Independent MLAs. These parties have formed a new coalition, the Secular Progressive Front (SPF).

In a related development, 12 Congress MLAs have given a notice to the secretary of the Manipur Legislative Assembly for removal of Speaker Yumnam Khemchand. The notice challenged Speaker Khemchand's decision to advance the date for deciding disqualification of seven Congress MLAs to June 18 from previously fixed date of June 22.

This relates to disqualification of seven Congress MLAs who had pledged support to the BJP-led Government while staying as the Congress members. The Manipur High Court had last week banned their entry into the Vidhan Sabha until disqualification matter is decided by the Speaker. Congress leader Meghachandra Singh, who submitted the notice, cited Article 179 (C) of the Constitution to assert that Speaker Khemchand can no longer decide the disqualification matter. Singh said till removal is pending, the Speaker is powerless in disqualifying MLAs.

Rlys to terminate Chinese firm's contract over...

From Page 1
However, the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation Limited (DFCCIL), the implementing agency of the project, made it clear that there was no link between the border face-off and the contract's termination, the process for which had started as early as January 2019.

Officials said the Chinese firm was supposed to complete the work by 2019, but only 20 percent of the work has been completed so far.

"We were in discussion with the World Bank on the issue since January this year as their progress was very slow. We approached them in April telling them of our decision to terminate the contract. We have decided to terminate the contract and if the World Bank disagrees, then we will approach the Railways to fund the section.

"There is no link between the termination of this contract and what is happening at the borders. It is purely coincidental," said Anurag Sachin, Managing Director, DFCCIL.

Soldiers losing temper with...

From Page 1
Sensing the anger among the Indian troopers, mood, the commanders have increased their vigil on all the stand-off sites along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

Meanwhile, four personnel critically injured are now stable. In addition there are 18 injured in Leh military hospital are also now stable, sources said. Another 58 personnel with minor injuries should be joining work within few days, they added.

On the fracas which claimed 20 Indian lives, sources said it appeared that the Chinese had planned the attack in advance by using drones to monitor the patrolling pattern of the Indian army.

This is the first time since 1975 that Indian soldiers were killed on the 4,000 km long LAC. In October 1975, a patrol was ambushed and at least five Indian jawans were killed. In this backdrop, sources admitted the current situation is extremely serious.

PAK REFUSES TO FELICITATE INDIA AFTER ITS ELECTION

Islamabad: Pakistan on Thursday refused to felicitate India after it was elected as a non-permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council, accusing it of violating the UN resolutions on Kashmir.

India was overwhelmingly elected as a non-permanent member of the powerful UN

Security Council on Wednesday for a two-year term.

India, the endorsed candidate from the Asia-Pacific States, won 184 votes out of the 192 ballots cast in the elections for the five non-permanent seats of the Security Council, the world organisation's most powerful organ.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said at a regular media briefing that the General Assembly elected four non-permanent members to the Security Council for a two-year term commencing from 1 January 2021.

"We congratulate Ireland, Norway and Mexico on their election to the Council. The election of India, however, raises fundamental questions," she said.

She said that the UN Charter has entrusted the Security Council with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. "India stands in flagrant violation of several resolutions of the Security Council that prescribed a UN-supervised plebiscite to enable the people of J&K to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination," she said.

Pakistan will be working with the rest of the members of the Council in advancing the objectives of global peace and security in South Asia and beyond, she added. **PTI**

Nepal map Bill that includes 3 Indian...

From Page 1
Nepal last month released the revised political and administrative map of the country laying claim over the strategically important areas, more than six months after India published a new map in November 2019.

The bill was authenticated by President Bhandari on Thursday afternoon as per the constitutional provision, according to a notice issued by her office.

Earlier in the day, the National Assembly, or the upper house of the Nepalese parliament, unanimously passed the Constitution amendment bill providing for the inclusion of the country's new political map in its national emblem. The bill to amend the Constitution to update the new map was tabled in the National Assembly, the upper house on Sunday, a day after the House of Representatives unanimously endorsed it.

Delhi, NCR need unified...

From Page 1
Authorities in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi imposed border restrictions on different times during the Covid-19 lockdown, leading to inconvenience to many and complaints about difficulty in accessing medical services during the pandemic.

According to a Home Ministry source, Shah said all authorities concerned in Delhi-NCR need to come together in this fight given how closely these cities are linked. "The home minister favoured a unified strategy for Delhi-NCR to tackle the coronavirus," the source said.

Shah said there is a need to scale-up testing for COVID-19 and provide treatment to those found positive. The Home Minister also suggested that the NCR districts can consider adopting Rs 2,400 charge fixed for Covid-19 test in Delhi, besides the new rapid antigen methodology being implemented in the national Capital from Thursday.

A Home Ministry statement said Shah

also told the meeting that an expert committee decided the rates for Covid-19 beds and treatment in Delhi, and these could be applied to hospitals in the NCR cities after consultations.

He said it would be better to conduct Covid-19 testing through the new rapid antigen methodology approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which will ramp up the testing capacity and help in early diagnosis and treatment.

He directed officials from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Governments to submit information about COVID-19 beds, ventilators, oxygen cylinders, ICU and ambulances available with them and their plan to augment these resources by July 15 to the Union Home Ministry so that a common strategy can be devised in the NCR in the battle against the virus, the statement said. Shah assured the NCR districts that the central government will provide all support to them in their fight against the coronavirus pandemic, another source said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Department	Electrical (TRD)
Tender No.	T-04-Elect-TRD-MB 16-17-VII
Name of work	Periodic Overhaul (POH) of 132KV/25KV, 21.6 MVA, BHEL Traction Transformer of Fazalpur TSS (TR-82) over Moradabad Division.
Tender Closing Date & Time	13.07.2020, 15:00 Hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	816510.42 (Excl. GST)
Earnest Money (Rs.)	16300.00
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	2000.00
Validity of offer (Days)	45 Days
Period of completion	180 Days
Website particulars & Address of office	www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, Moradabad
No. Elect/TRD/MB/2020-21/TN-06	Date: 18.06.2020 1385/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

A) (1) 13/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (Annual Maintenance R/o Non clog submersible Motor and other electrical work at Network Sector-46,47,48 & SPS-43 Part-II) Noida. Cost - Rs.48.22 Lacs
(2) 19/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, D/o Village (Annual Raising, repairing & Cleaning of Sewer manholes in Village-Nagla Charandas, Kakrala, Bhuda & Sapera Basti) Noida. (AMC for Two Year) Cost - Rs.47.38 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 02.07.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre - qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 03.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.

B) (1) 03/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, M/o W/o (Annual R/o PVC Water lines in Sector-92 & 93) Noida. (AMC for Two Years) Cost - Rs.30.58 Lacs
(2) 09/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (Cleaning of Sewer Manholes & Sewer line by Super Sucker Machine in Sector-82, 92, 93, 93B & Gejha) Noida. Cost - Rs.44.13 Lacs
(3) 88/SM-Jal - III/ET/19-20, M/o W/s (R/o Bowl assly and tubeshaft for Network Sector-125, 126 & 127) Noida. (AMC for Three Year) Rs.29.40 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 28.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre - qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 29.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.

(M.K. JAIN)
SENIOR MANAGER (JAL)-III
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Government of Uttar Pradesh Superintending Engineer Irrigation Work Circle Saharanpur Irrigation and Water Resource Department, Uttar Pradesh, India

Telephone: (0132) 2662123 National Competitive Bidding For E-mail: sawidups-up@nic.in
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF REAL TIME DATA MONITORING FOR EASTERN YAMUNA CANAL SYSTEM OF IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT UTTAR PRADESH UNDER NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT (NHP) (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

1	Bid Reference	03/NHP/UP(SW)/RTDAS/CE(Yamuna) 2020-21 Package No. NHP-2019-2020-UPSW-231456
2	Date and time of uploading and availability of bidding document from https://tender.up.nic.in (Website)	25-06-2020 From 12.00 Hours onwards (Server Time)
3	Bid Document Fee (inclusive of tax)	Rs. 1000 + GST @ 18% Rs. 1180.00 (Rupees One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only).
4	Bid Clarification Starting date & time:	25-06-2020 From 12.00 Hours onwards (Server Time)
5	Bid Clarification Closing date & time:	10-07-2020 Upto 12.00 Hours (Server Time)
6	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	10-07-2020 From 13:00 Hours (Server Time)
7	Place of Pre Bid Meeting	(National Hydrology Project Hall, 3rd Floor, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Parkalpal Bhawan Telibagh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Irrigation and Water Resources Department Uttar Pradesh, India
8	Last date and time for receipt of bids	25-07-2020 upto 15.00 Hours (Server Time)
9	Online opening date & time of Part "A" i.e. Technical Bid	25-07-2020 From 15.30 Hours (Server Time)
10	Online opening date & time of Part "B" i.e. Financial Bid	7 Days after informing to the Bidder.
11	Place of Opening of e-bid	Office of Superintending Engineer Irrigation Works Circle, Saharanpur Irrigation and Water Resources Department Uttar Pradesh India
12	Bid Securing Declaration	Bid Securing Declaration shall be required in the form included in Section-IV. Bidding forms.
13	Period of Completion (from the date of signing of contract)	12 Months + 4 Years (O&M)

Note: In the event of the specified date opening of bids being declared a holiday for Purchaser the bids shall be opened on the next working day at the same and venue. Completed bids shall be uploaded on the tendering platform by the Bidders using their user ID and addressed to the Superintending Engineer, (IWC), Saharanpur in the manner described under Instructions to the Bidders Section 11 of Bid Documents on or before the stipulated last date & time.

Superintending Engineer
Irrigation Works Circle, Saharanpur, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh,
Pin Code: 247001, Telephones: (0132) 2662123

U.P.: 152562, Date: 17.06.2020
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

CJI: Lord Jagannath...

From Page 1
"Having regard to the danger presented by such a large gathering of people for the Rath Yatra, we consider it appropriate in the interests of public health and safety of citizens who are devotees to restrain the respondents from holding the Rath Yatra this year," the bench said.

It said Article 25(1) of the Constitution itself confers the right to freely profess and propagate religion subject to health. "We accordingly direct that there shall be no Rath Yatra anywhere in the temple town of Odisha or in any other part of the State this year. We further direct that there shall be no activities secular or religious associated with the Rath Yatra during this period," it said. During the hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the petitioner, an NGO, said that if Rath Yatra is allowed huge congregation of people will take place, exposing them to higher risk of infection by coronavirus.

The bench observed that it is a serious matter. Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that it needs time till Friday to file the reply. A counsel appearing for an intervenor said the Odisha Government has issued a notification that there shall be no public gathering till June 30.

However, the bench said that it is restraining the respondents from holding the festival starting from June 23 and issuing notice on the plea and replies be filed in four weeks.

The Chief Justice said he came to know recently that the word juggernaut is related to Lord Jagannath which means a force that cannot be stopped, Mehta said, "But, you stopped it today".

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS ELECTRICAL WORKS
Sr.No.1. Tender Notice No. & Date: EL/81764/WA/7 dt. 18.06.2020. Work and Location: Mumbai Division: Augmentation of power supply in Mumbai Division. Approx. cost of work Rs.: 1,87,49,680. Cost of EMD Rs.: 2,43,800. Completion Period: Six Months. Sr.No.2. Tender Notice No. & Date: EL/Maint/166/119/WA/7 dt. 18.06.2020. Work and Location: Mumbai Division: Monitoring and Maintaining working of escalators and lifts at various stations for 01 year. Approx. cost of work Rs.: 82,74,823.75. Cost of EMD Rs.: 1,25,500. Completion Period: One Year. For Sr. 1 & 2: Date & Time of submission: till 20.07.2020 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 20.07.2020 till 15.30 hrs. NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. **15**
Like us on www.facebook.com/WesternRly

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public, that the Environment Clearance for Affordable Flatted Colony Project (under Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna) Situated at Village Hariyehra, Sector-36, Sohna, Gurgaon, Haryana (area 10.5310 Acres) to be developed by M/s Signaturreglobal Homes Private Limited, has been granted by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Haryana vide memo No. SEIA/HR/2020/232 on 03rd June, 2020 and the copy of the Environment Clearance is available with State Pollution Control Board and on the website of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority i.e. <http://environmentclearance.nic.in/>

Sd/-
Director
For Signaturreglobal Homes Private Limited
CIN: U70100DL2009PTC176441
Address: 1309, 13th Floor Dr.Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer of ownership in respect of House No. 814 Sector-21A, Faridabad Haryana in respect of 100% share upon the intestate of Khurshid Ahmed Mr. Khurshid Ahmed who was the owner of the subject cited property to the extent of 100% as per record died on 17 February 2020 and has left no registered or unregistered will.

Mrs. Rukhsana Ahmed, Mr. Aftab Ahmed, Mr. Mehtab Ahmed & Mr. Anjum Ahmed intend to apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the legal heirs.

If any person is having any objection against the transfer of plot/house, he/she may do the same before Estate Officer, Faridabad, Haryana Shri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSPV), along with the supporting documents, within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise the Estate Officer may sanction transfer of the property as per HSPV policy.

Dhruv Gautam
Advocate, Faridabad

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

10K beds at world's largest Covid facility

Patients with mild symptoms or asymptomatic will be admitted at Chhatarpur

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday visited the Radha Soami Satsang Beas Centre at Chhatarpur to take stock of the preparations being done in Delhi to ramp up medical infrastructure in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia during their visit to Radha Swami Satsang Vyas Centre, which is being converted into Covid-19 isolation facility, in New Delhi on Thursday

Notably, Radha Soami Satsang Beas center has temporarily been converted into the world's largest Covid care facility with 10,000 beds, to help the city deal with the surging coronavirus cases.

Kejriwal said, "Radha Soami Satsang Beas has given us space where we are setting up a 10,000-bed isolation center. Patients with mild symptoms or asymptomatic patients will be admitted here. Generally, such patients can be treated at home but in many cases, people do not have much space in their homes. There are no separate toilets in the homes of poor people, and so it would serve them better if we keep them in isolation centers. The Delhi Government follows up with the people who stay in

home isolation every day regarding their health situation."

"Inspected Delhi Govt's upcoming 10,000-bed Covid Care Centre at the Radha Soami Satsang Beas grounds at Chhatarpur. A small section of

the beds will also have oxygen support," Kejriwal tweeted soon after his visit to the Centre.

"We are also arranging doctors, nurses, and medical staff for this accommodation. We are hopeful that by the first week of July, this place will be

fully prepared. By June 30, we will need 15,000 beds and by July 15, we will need 30,000 beds, therefore, we are preparing these accommodations," he added.

Adding further on arranging the beds for Corona

patients, he said that the Delhi Government has taken over various hotels and banquet halls to arrange more beds for the treatment of Covid patients. He said, "Some of the hotels appealed to the court for a stay order, but we have won the case and the work of converting the hotels into isolation centers is in process. All hotels are connected with a hospital, we will shift a patient directly to the attached hospital if he/she needs immediate medical treatment or becomes critical. But I think, we may need more ICUs in the coming days, I am in talks with doctors and the authorities to figure out how this can be done."

Sharing details of his meeting with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, he said, "I had a meeting with the Hon'ble Home Minister today, where he discussed that the whole NCR should work together in the battle against Covid-19. We discussed that NCR cannot be separated, and we have to fight Corona together. District officials from Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad, etc were also present and we discussed issues related to Corona."

Sisodia takes charge of health as virus afflicted Jain recuperates

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday took over the charge of Health, PWD, Power and other departments which were handled by Health Minister Satyendar Jain who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Jain was admitted in Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality

Hospital early Tuesday after running high fever and a sudden drop in oxygen level, his test result came positive on Wednesday evening after a second test.

Meanwhile, Jain will remain the cabinet minister without any portfolio in the Arvind Kejriwal government until he recovers, he said, adding, "The deputy chief min-

ister has been given the charge of health, public works department, power and other departments."

It may be recalled, on Sunday, Jain attended a high-level meeting on the corona situation in Delhi, chaired by Union home minister Amit Shah with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Sisodia and lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal.

Ramp up house-to-house survey in containment zones: L-G Bajjal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal has directed all officials concerned to prepare a comprehensive roadmap to closely monitor emerging situations by ramping up testing, house to house survey in containment zones, aggressive contact tracing and treatment.

"To increase testing capacity, 169 Antigen Testing Center (ATC) are being established in Delhi for Rapid Antigen Testing Procedure with 341 teams," Bajjal tweeted.

The direction came in the meeting chaired by Bajjal that was attended by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister, minister (revenue), Chief Secretary, Commissioner of Police, Director (AIIMS) Randeep Guleria and other senior officers.

Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has approved recommendations of a high level expert committee for fixing Covid-19 testing rate in Delhi at ₹2400 for all facilities



whether government or private. "DDMA Members were informed that the report prepared by the committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr Vinod K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog on the directions of Hon'ble Union Home Minister on the issue of fixing the rates for the COVID RT PCR Test, has been received," he said.

The DDMA approved recommendations of the High Level Expert Committee for fixing Covid testing rate at ₹2400 for all facilities including private and Government.

Bajjal advised that the health department should ensure that the labs adhere to quality and provide a robust

patient feedback and grievance redressal system for the users.

In the meeting, it was also informed that 'Antigen Detection Tests' (ADT) have commenced with effect from today at about 169 locations with 341 teams, according to the statement released by L-G office.

"ICMR has already conducted training for the concerned health professionals. During the ADT, all social distancing norms will be observed. The Medical teams at the centers will ensure that all Covid positive cases should be followed up for treatment as per the guidelines and protocol issued by the ICMR," it said.

City clocks peak power demand of 5,985 MW, season's highest yet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's peak power demand clocked 5,985 MW on Wednesday night that is the highest in the season till now.

A senior BSES official said that because of the weather, Delhi's peak power demand had been a bit muted since the last few days but it has been steadily increasing for the past few days.

On their part, BRPL and BYPL successfully met the peak power demand of 2720MW and 1341 MW respectively. Last year, Delhi's peak power demand had clocked 7,409 MW. In BRPL's area, it was 3211 MW and 1686 MW respectively.

The official further said that after the end of lock-down on May 17 and the easing of restrictions, Delhi's peak power has started increasing and the gap narrowed. Since easing of restrictions on May 18, power demand has increased by over 44 per cent.

"If we compare the peak power demand of April 2020

with that of June 2020, Delhi's peak power demand has already increased by over 78 per cent. Peak power demand in April was 3362 MW and in June (June 15) 5,805 MW," he said.

Since June 15th year, power demand has increased by over 57 per cent. It was 3,807 MW on June 1.

The official said that ensuring reliable supply in any season is as much the function of proper power arrangements as also accurate demand forecast and robust distribution network. On all these aspects, BSES discoms are fully geared to ensure adequate power availability during the summer months, he said.

Arrangements have been made by BSES discoms to source adequate electricity to meet the power demand of over 44 lakhs consumers, he said, adding that these arrangements include long term PPAs and banking arrangements of up to 800 MW with other states.

In case of unforeseen contingencies because of low generation and outages in power

plants, the discoms will purchase short-term power from the exchange, he said.

Meanwhile, Tata Power Delhi Distribution (Tata Power-DDL) successfully met the peak power demand of 1,713 MW in its areas on Thursday afternoon, highest for this season, without any network constraint and power outage.

As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), Delhi is witnessing a severe heat wave with temperatures in the range of 44-46 degrees. The Department has already declared a Red Alert in the city so that the service providers and the Government agencies can plan things in advance for the overall public good. A senior Tata Power-DDL official said that it has made adequate arrangements of power of up to 2,500 MW along with contingency planning, through long-term tie-ups, bilateral imports and power banking arrangements with other states and upgraded network to ensure regular supply in its area of distribution.

G'gram reports 129 new cases, 1 dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram district found 129 more Covid-19 positive cases on Thursday. The situation is alarming now as the tally has zoomed up to 3,991.

One more patient infected with coronavirus died on Thursday in Gurugram. With this, a total of 52 persons have lost their lives in Gurugram city and 48 of them died in the last two weeks.

The figures of Covid active patients are 1,775. A total of 2,164 have been cured and discharged including 215 on Thursday.

Meanwhile, in a meeting organized by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday through video conferencing on Covid-19. The Union Health Secretary praised the arrangements made in Gurugram and said that Gurugram's Covid Helpline is a user friendly and the model of isolation centre being created by Resident welfare association (RWA) for Covid infected



Patients are exemplary.

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 the district Gurugram, Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri said that a provision of about 4000 beds and 350 ventilators in both private and government hospitals have 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.

Man wanted in several cases arrested from Moradabad after brief exchange of fire

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a brief exchange of fire, the Special Cell of Delhi Police nabbed a 27-year-old man wanted in several robbery and dacoity from Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad district.



area on a bike.

The accused, identified as Ajay, was carrying a reward of ₹50,000. Police said that during the brief encounter, the accused suffered injuries in his right leg.

According to Pramod Singh Kushwaha, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, the arrest was made on Wednesday night after police received information that Ajay would come near Moradabad's university

"Accordingly a trap was laid and the Crime Branch team of UP's Moradabad police also assisted the Delhi Police in this regard. A .315 single shot pistol with two live cartridges was also recovered from Ajay, who was wanted in 10 cases, including robbery, dacoity and arms act," said the DCP.

3 held for killing man, injuring two others over minor issue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three men for allegedly killing a man and injuring his wife and a relative following a quarrel over a minor dispute.

The accused were identified as Nazar (22), Sakir (30) and Aftab (19), all residents of Pul Prahladpur in southeast Delhi.

According to RP Meena, DCP, Southeast district, the incident took place on June 15 and after receiving police control room (PCR) call regarding the quarrel, a police team reached the spot where, they found Dilshad (35), his wife Nagma (30) and his relative Najeem (23) injured and rushed them to a trauma centre for treatment. "However, two days

later, Najeem succumbed to his injuries. Dilshad told the police that on the day of incident, Sakir first started abusing his brother-in-law Mubejeb and later came with another person named Sahid and beat him with iron rod and sticks," said the DCP.

"After some time, two other men, associates of Sakir, came and attacked Najeem and other family members with knives, following which they fled. The three accused were identified and arrested from Tuglakabad on Wednesday," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the accused disclosed that on June 15, after a quarrel over a minor dispute, Nazar stabbed Najeem with a knife while Sakir and Aftab beat Mubejeb with sticks, he said.

Toll Plaza employees stabbed for just ₹5, four held

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram police has arrested all the four accused who had assaulted and stabbed a manager and a toll attendant at the Kherki Daula toll plaza on Wednesday night.



from Gurugram and Faridabad. A preliminary probe suggests the accused were drunk.

The culprits confessed before the police that they had attacked the victims for just ₹5. The police have recovered a knife and a car used in the crime from their possession.

Those arrested have been identified as Jitu aka Jatun, Nikhil, Mohit and Deepak, all residents of Ballabgarh in Faridabad district. Nikhil and Mohit were nabbed by the toll staff on the spot while Jatun and Deepak were arrested by the city police on Thursday

and the four men in the car over toll payment. While handing out the change to one of the men, Sukhbir dropped a Rs 5 coin. The men in the car started abusing Sukhbir after which he handed them another Rs 5 coin and asked them to leave and not block the lane.

"An argument broke out between toll operator Sukhbir

"During questioning, the above accused has admitted to committing the incident. A crime weapon and a car have also been recovered from their possession. The culprits were produced before a local court on Thursday which sent them judicial custody," said Preet Pal Singh, ACP (crime).

An FIR has been registered at the Kherki Daula toll plaza against the culprits under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The entire incident was captured in the CCTV cameras installed on the toll plaza. "The footage shows an argument breaking out, although the stabbing has not been captured as far as we can tell. However, we are procuring the footage and conducting further investigations in the matter," he said.

Rlys completes largest recruitment exercise

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Railways claimed to have successfully concluded the world's "largest" recruitment exercise to fill up critical safety and operational posts.



of newly recruited 19,120 candidates will resume as soon as Covid lock down related measures ease out.

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) had invited online applications for a total 64,371 combined vacancies of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs) and Technicians and received a total of 47,45,176 applications, the Ministry said in a statement.

"Panel of selected candidates has been approved for 56,378 candidates (26,968 ALPs, 28,410 Technicians) out of 64,371 vacancies (27,795 ALPs, 64,371 Technicians)," it said, adding that appointment letters have been issued to 40,420 candidates and training

Joining letters were issued to candidates before lockdown was announced but some can-

didates could not join due to Corona outbreak and lockdown, it said.

manner. The training of fresh appointees is required because Railway is an operational department and safety of train operations is paramount." It said.

The ministry further said that training includes class room training followed by field training followed by testing of the competence before deployment on working post. "Since training is given batch wise considering the capacity constraints of class room, hostel, library, instructors, etc. It has to be done in a phased manner by optimum utilization of training resources," it added.

Indian Railways is formulating a viable strategy to conduct massive examination of 1.25 crore applicants and scheduling of all the processes etc while observing all norms in Covid-19 scenario.

Mercury crosses 46 degrees C-mark in parts of Capital

NEW DELHI: The national Capital sweltered under the stifling heat with the mercury crossing the 46 degrees Celsius-mark in some parts on Thursday.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded a maximum of 42.5 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal.

At 46.4 degrees Celsius, the weather stations at Ayanagar recorded the maximum temperature in the city.

The Pusa Observatory recorded a high of 45.1 degrees Celsius.

Humidity levels oscillated between 38 and 81 per cent in the city.

Friday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to settle at 43 degrees and 30 degrees Celsius, respectively.

On Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said monsoon is likely to reach the national capital three to four days earlier than the usual date of June 27.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the regional forecasting centre of the IMD, said a cyclonic circulation over West Bengal and the neighborhood will move towards southwest Uttar Pradesh by June 19 and June 20. "It will help in further advancement of the monsoon in western Uttar Pradesh, some parts of Uttarakhand, northeast Rajasthan and eastern Haryana

between June 22 and June 24," he said. PTI

4 held for stealing 27 mobile phones from delivery boy's vehicle

NEW DELHI: Four men were arrested for allegedly stealing 27 mobile phones from the vehicle of a courier delivery boy in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area, police said on Thursday.

The suspects have been identified as Vikas Tiwari (21), Mohit (20), Tarun (19) and Rahul (22), and all four are residents of Faridabad, they said.

The courier delivery boy, Govinda, had lodged a complaint in this regard at Badarpur police station on June 4, police said.

his vehicle parked near Mohan Co-operative Estate, an official said.

The package was stolen from the three-wheeler when he had gone to have lunch with his colleague Tiwari, now a suspect in the case, police said.

During investigation, police apprehended Rahul on Wednesday and recovered one of the stolen mobile phones from his possession, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) R P Meena.

Rahul told police that he, along with Mohit and Tarun, stole the mobile phones from Govinda's three-wheeler, the DCP said. PTI

BJP cancels political events in tribute to martyred jawans

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Having faced flak, the BJP on Thursday cancelled all its political programmes for the coming two days as a mark of tribute to the fallen soldiers at the Galwan Valley. At the same time, while it slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for making 'irresponsible' statements showing lack of faith in the Indian Army, it asserted that India should reduce imports from other countries, specifically from China.

"The soldiers who died while fighting for the country in Ladakh's Galwan valley will be remembered forever. Nation is indebted to them. I pay my tribute to the soldiers. BJP has decided to cancel all its political programmes and virtual rallies for two days", BJP president JP Nadda said in a tweet.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra described as "irrespon-

sible" Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tweet asking why Indian soldiers at the Galwan valley in Ladakh were unarmed, and accused him of questioning Indian Army and its professionalism.

"You are the most irresponsible politician India has ever seen," Patra said adding "impatient" Rahul should have waited for the all-party meeting which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called to brief the Opposition about the situation on India-China border on Friday.

Patra said that Rahul should not use words like "PM dara hua hai" (PM Modi is scared) as he is the Constitutional head of the Government and the Prime Minister of everyone including Rahul and Sonia Gandhi".

He said Rahul should be aware of the treaties and agreements made during the Congress regime. "You should know about 1993, 1996, 2003

and 2013 agreements with China and you should have read that."

"Today, I will read out these agreements and will make you realise about your responsibilities. In 1996, this agreement was signed when Deve Gowda Ji was the Prime Minister. I won't read out the whole document and I want you to read it at home as your homework. The agreement, in brief, says, "Neither side shall open fire, cause biodegradation, use hazardous chemicals, conduct blast operations or guns or explosives within two kilometres from the Line of Actual Control".

For his part, asserting that India should reduce imports, specifically from China, BJP leader Ram Madhav emphasised that India has the potential to manufacture chemicals, mobile phone parts and buttons.

"We import chemicals, mobile phone parts and but-

Film stars, cricketers urged to join drive to boycott Chinese goods

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Thursday urged Bollywood actors Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Deepika Padukone, Katrina Kaif, Akshay Kumar, Shilpa Shetty and Madhuri Dixit, as well as cricketers Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar to join the campaign to boycott Chinese products.

After India-China LAC clash leading to martyrdom of

20 soldiers and anti Chinese sentiments across India, the CAIT has launched a nationwide campaign called 'Bharatiya Saaman-Hamara Abhiman' to boycott Chinese products, in which it has asked celebrities from Bollywood and sporting fraternities to also join.

In an open letter addressed to Indian celebrities released on Thursday, CAIT has appealed to Bollywood and sports stars endorsing Chinese brands such as Aamir Khan, Deepika Padukone,

Katrina Kaif, Virat Kohli & others to stop endorsing Chinese products.

The open letter of CAIT further states that from the information available in public domain, traders of the country particularly request Aamir Khan, Sara Ali Khan, Virat Kohli, Deepika Padukone, Katrina Kaif, Badshah, Sidharth Malhotra, Ranbir Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Salman Khan, Ayushman Khurana, Shradha Kapoor and all others who are endorsing any Chinese prod-

uct to stop endorsing these brands as a mark of respect for Indian soldiers, and at the same time invited them to join the campaign of CAIT.

"We appeal Indian celebrities to shake hands with CAIT and exert their influence on citizens to support the government and Indian forces at this crucial juncture with a motto of 'nation before self' and to propagate the feeling of buying Indian goods. The nation will always remember their services rendered at this point

when the entire nation is committed to give a strong lesson to China," said CAIT national president BC Bhartia and secretary general Praveen Khandelwal in an open letter.

The CAIT has set a target of reducing imports from China by a value of 13 billion dollars i.e. approximately ₹1 lakh crore by December 2021 with the cooperation of traders & citizens of India. Currently, the annual import from China in India stands for 70 billion dollars or 5.25 lakh crore of rupees.

tons. Are they so essential to be imported? They can be manufactured in India. We should reduce imports from other countries but specifically from China," said Mr Madhav while speaking to

news agency ANI.

The BJP leader further said that if people want to "boycott Chinese products" then their sentiments are to be respected.

His response comes in

the backdrop of the Galwan valley clash in Ladakh which claimed lives of at least 20 Indian Army personnel, including a Colonel rank officer.

Commenting on the cur-

rent situation, Mr Madhav said that the Government's first priority is to guard the frontiers with utmost alertness and strength to ensure no further violence and loss of life takes place on the border.

"Our first priority is to guard our border with utmost alertness and strength and to make sure that there is no further violence and loss of life on the border. We will also use diplomatic channels", he said.

Auction process of 41 coal blocks launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Initiating a major reform in the coal sector, which will also give boost to many sectors including power and steel and usher in development in eastern and Central India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched the auction process of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining.

Termining this move as a way to become a self-reliant country, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Modi said that the Government has set a target to gasify around 100-million-ton coal by 2030 and four projects have been identified for this purpose with around ₹20,000 crore of investment.

The auctioning of 41 coal mines is expected to garner ₹33,000 crore of capital investment in the country over the next five to seven years. The process is likely to contribute ₹20,000 crore in revenues annually to State Governments.

The Prime Minister said that these coal sector reforms will make our eastern and central India tribal belt pillars of development. He added that



○ The Prime Minister said that these coal sector reforms will make our eastern and central India tribal belt pillars of development. He added that these areas have a big number of "aspirational districts" and have not been able to reach the desired level of progress and prosperity. He said that 16 aspirational districts in the country have a huge stock of coal but people of these areas have not got adequate benefit of this. People from these places have to migrate to far-flung cities for employment

○ Government has taken a decision to spend ₹50,000 crore on creating infrastructure for coal extraction and transportation

these areas have a big number of "aspirational districts" and have not been able to reach the desired level of progress and prosperity. He said that 16 aspirational districts in the country have a huge stock of coal but people of these areas have not got adequate benefit of this. People from these places have to migrate to far-flung cities for employment.

The Prime Minister said that the steps taken towards commercial mining will be very helpful to eastern and central India by providing the local population with employ-

ment near their homes.

He said that the Government has taken a decision to spend ₹50,000 crore on creating infrastructure for coal extraction and transportation, which will also create employment opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion through video conferencing, Modi said that India will overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and the nation will turn this crisis into an opportunity.

PM said, these reforms will not only benefit the coal sector but other sectors such as Steel, Aluminium, Fertilizers and Cement as well. It will also help in increasing the power generation.

and this auction process, 41 coal mines are on offer which includes fully explored and partially explored mines. These include 4 coking coal mines which are fully explored mines. These coal mines are located in states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. The auction process will be a two-stage tender process with technical and financial bidding.

Release salary of doctors, health workers doing Covid duty on time, States, UTs told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 After much dilly-dallying and following the Supreme Court order, the Union Health Ministry on Thursday directed the States and the Union Territories to ensure that the salary of doctors and health workers doing Covid-19 duty is released on time.

The Ministry in its order warned of strict action against the defaulting hospitals and authorities under the Disaster Management Act read with the Indian Penal Code if payment is not made as directed.

"A violation of this directive will be treated as an offence under the Disaster Management Act 2005 read with the Indian Penal Code," said the order which comes a day after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the Supreme Court that an appropriate order in this regard shall be issued by the Centre.

A three-judge SC bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, Sanjay Kishan Kaul



and MR Shah passed an order on Wednesday on Dr. Arushi Jain's petition challenging the Centre's new SOP for frontline COVID-19 workers.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel submitted that doctors and health workers are not receiving their salary regularly.

He argued that a direction to the concerned authorities is necessary so that frontline workers are paid on time.

The Apex court agreed with this contention and listed the matter for hearing after 4 weeks.

"Hopefully, now the

salaries will be released in time. In Delhi, resident doctors as well as senior doctors of two MCD Hospitals have not got their salaries for the past three months.

The issue was taken up in the Delhi High Court. It is a very sad affair that frontline healthcare workers are being made to suffer for issues like salary which is their rights," said Shivaji Dev Barman, President of Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) which had been taking up the issue of non-payment of salary of doctors on various platforms.

Observe 'Intn'l Day of Yoga' indoors, PM urges people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged people to observe the 6th International Day of Yoga on June 21 from the confines of their homes due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Noting that this year's theme is "Yoga at home" and "Yoga with family", he said due to the pandemic, it has to be observed indoors.

"I'm happy to note the growing popularity of yoga in the last few years, especially among the youth. We are marking 6th Yoga Day in extraordinary times," he said in a video message.

Though yoga day celebrations are an occasion of mass gatherings, due to extraordinary times, this year people should observe the day at their homes, he said adding the pandemic could have affected the mobility, but not enthusiasm.

In the post Covid-19 era, the focus on preventive healthcare will get stronger and that is why I am confident that yoga will become even more popular, he maintained.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT
 B-88
 Tender call Notice
 E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. SE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-03/2020-21 Memo No - Dt. 12.06.2020

The Superintending Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Road work as detailed in the table below:

- Nature of Work : Road Work
- No of Work : 1 No
- Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
- Class of Contractor : 'Special' Class , & , A Class
- Available of Bid document in : From Dt. 01.07.2020 10.00 AM to Dt. 14.07.2020 05.00 PM the Website
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 15.07.2020 at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in> . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Superintending Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
 OIPR-34127/11/0005/2021

Government of Odisha E-mail:ID-sectrcb_2006@yahoo.co.in
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
 B-77
 ('e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
 Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751

Bid Identification No.S.E.Ctc.(R&B) 3/2020-21.

- The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B)Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below.
- No. of work :- 2 Nos.
- Nature of work :- Road work.
- Class of contractor :- 'A', & Special Class
- Tender paper cost :- Rs.10000/- (online)
- Available of bid documents :- From 20.06.2020 to 16.00 Hours of 06.07.2020 in the web site.
- Date of opening of bid :- Dt. 07.07.2020 at 11.00 Hours.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/-T.P.Mishra
Superintending Engineer Cuttack(R&B)Circle
 OIPR-34012/11/0003/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-mail : rwd_malkangiri@yahoo.co.in
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-1 MALKANGIRI
 O-120
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
 Identification No. Online Tender 03/MKG/2020-21

- Name of the work : Roadworks (Detailed in Annexure)
- Total Number of Works : 08 (Eight) Number
- Tender Cost : Rs. 164.73 Lakhs to 358.35 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'B', 'A' & "Special" Class contractors
- Period of Completion : (As Per Detailed in Annexure)
- Other Details:-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No of Works	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of tender	
			From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Malkangiri	Online Tender /03 /RWD-I, MKG/ 2020-21	08(Eight) Nos of Roadworks	18.06.2020 from 11.00 AM	25.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM	24.06.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.	26.06.2020 at 11.30 AM	29.06.2020 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tenderorissa.gov.in
Executive Engineer R.W. Division-I, Malkangiri
 OIPR-25058/11/0003/2021

Online programmes to celebrate astronomical event coming Sunday



PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Owing to current travel restrictions in the times of Covid-19, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune is organising a series of online programmes to celebrate the major astronomical event, annular solar eclipse (ASE) on coming Sunday.

"The ASE which is going to be seen in some regions of Northern India on June 21 is a spectacle that everyone should witness. At places other than in the "annularity belt" we can see a nice Partial Solar Eclipse all over the country.

"However, the current travel restrictions due to COVID-19 combined with various misconceptions and pseudo-scientific rumours, may make most people, even enthusiasts, miss this event. It is also possible that despite their interest people may be disappointed by cloudy skies," said Samir Dhurve, Scientific Officer (Outreach), IUCAA a statement from the IUCAA.

To reachout to such astronomy buff, the IUCAA's scientific public outreach programme (SciPOP) will host these events on their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/IUCAASciPOP>

In Pune, the eclipse will begin at 10:02 am and is expected to reach its maximum phase around 11:40 am. It will end around 1:30 pm here. Across India however, different phases of it should be visible anytime between 10 am and 2 pm depending on your longitude.

To pass on such information, to discuss the real facts behind eclipses as well as to inform people how to see the eclipse safely IUCAA SciPOP will host two-day two sessions from June 18, said Dhurve.

On Sunday, the 21st June, the live online session will combine feeds from all over the country and will host an array of experts from IUCAA and the scientific community on the subject of Eclipses, Astronomy and related careers etc, said the IUCAA.

This major event is being undertaken in collaboration with The Public Outreach & Education Committee of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI-POEC).

The combined efforts will draw in experts from the Indian Astronomy community and may include Prof. Somak Raychaudhury (IUCAA), Prof. Dipankar Bannerjee (ARIES), Dr. Durgesh Tripathi (IUCAA) etc, said the IUCAA.

Govt mulls proposal to increase MSP of sugar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 The Centre is considering a proposal to increase the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar from ₹31 per kg in order to help millers clear cane dues of about ₹2,000 crore to farmers.

The increase is also likely because the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has recommended raising the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane by ₹10 a quintal to ₹285 for 2020-21. A task force constituted by Niti Aayog on sugarcane and sugar industry has recommended a one-time increase of ₹2 per kg.

Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Thursday that the measures being taken by the Government will ensure early clearance of substantial cane arrears to farmers. "We have received views from State Governments on the matter. Even Niti Aayog has recommended a hike. We are looking into the matter. We will take a balanced approach in the interest of both farmers and consumers," Pandey told reporters. But the official

did not say by how much the MSP will be increased.

Last year, the Government increased the price at which mills sell sugar to bulk buyers by ₹2/kg to ₹31/kg.

The minimum selling price of sugar is fixed taking into account the components of FRP and minimum conversion cost of the most efficient mills.

As per the official data, mills have to pay total ₹72,000 crore for sugarcane purchased from farmers during the 2019-20 season (October-September). Maximum has been paid and the arrears left are about ₹22,000 crore.

Arrears comprise payments to be made on the basis of FRP fixed by the Centre, and State Advisory Price (SAP) determined by States.

Of the ₹22,000 crore arrears, about ₹17,683 crore is based on the FRP rate, while the rest is based on SAP rates. Mills have produced 27 million tonnes of sugar so far in the ongoing 2019-20 season, lower than 33.1 million tonnes achieved last year, as per the official data.

One Nation, One Ration Card faces internet hurdle

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 As the Centre works on the implementation of its ambitious 'One Nation, One Ration Card', several States and Union Territories like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Andaman and Nicobar on Thursday complained that they are facing slow internet connection and poor mobile data for use of biometric system-based point of sales (POS) machines in all ration shops as the main hurdle for implementation of the scheme.

Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, who chaired the review meeting, said that network connectivity related challenges would be taken up with Department of Telecommunications to resolve the matter at the earliest.

Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and West Bengal indicated a tentative timeline for complete implementation before December 2020 while most of the remaining states/UTs shared their action plans and strategy to complete this activity by the end of September 2020.

So far, 20 States have joined the Centre's 'One Nation One Ration Card' initiative, under which eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any fair price shop in the country using the same ration card. Three more States are expected to come on board by August 1.

Meghalaya said the slow Internet connectivity issue is a major problem in implementation of ration card portability in the State. Nagaland, which is providing portability service in 75 ration shops at present, expressed similar concern. Chhattisgarh said it would be difficult to cover 3,000 ration shops located in Naxal-hit areas in the State.



Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurating and flagging off India's first I-Lab (Infectious disease diagnostic lab) for Covid-19 testing in rural and inaccessible areas of India, here on Thursday. Developed by the DBT-AMTZ COVID Command Consortia (COVID Medtech Manufacturing Development Consortium) the I-lab is a BSL-2 facility with on-site ELISA, RT-PCR, Bio chemistry analysers. It can run 50 RT-PCR reactions and about 200 ELISA in a day
 Pioneer photo

J&K DGP: Pak terrorists may hit security assets

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the wake of heightened tensions between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh sector, the Director General of Jammu & Kashmir police Dilbagh Singh has warned against fresh strikes by Pakistan based terror outfits on vital security installations in the region.

DGP also claimed Pakistan will try to infiltrate more terrorists inside the Indian territory and also give impetus to violence in Kashmir Valley and elsewhere. He said, "a large number of terrorists are waiting across the different launch pads for an opportunity to infiltrate inside the Indian territory".

DGP shared these observations while chairing a high level security review meeting with senior officers of the Indian Army, BSF, paramilitary force and police officers from border districts here in Jammu on Thursday.

IGP BSF Jammu frontier, N.S Jamwal gave a powerpoint presentation with regard to strengthening of border grid and briefed about

the security plans being made on LoC and International border.

In his opening remarks DGP stressed, border areas alongside Pakistan need extra attention in view of the Ladakh developments. He said, "there are reports that Pakistan based terrorist outfits Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) etc are joining hands to create mischief in our Union Territory".

He also said that there are greater challenges for which we have to be prepared in the changed environment. He directed the officers to take care of the vital installations and also review security of the minority population.

Referring to the importance of highway security in the region, DGP said we have beefed up highway security by deploying in service mobile patrols and increasing the security checkpoints.

He said that our officers and jawans of Police, CAPFs, Army are continuing with successful operations in counter insurgency grid and on borders.

TN bids tearful adieu to martyred soldier Palani

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Kadukkaloor village in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district on Thursday bade farewell to its son K Palani, a soldier of the Indian Army who laid his life at the altar of duty at Ladakh's Galwan area. Palani, a hawaldar, was among the 20 Indian soldiers who were martyred in an ambush by the Peoples Liberation Army of China.

The mortal remains of Palani(40) was flown into Madurai by a special Indian Army aircraft accompanied by officers and jawans of the Army. The cavalcade of cars drove straight to Kadukkaloor village carrying the mortal remains of Hawaldar Palani in a flower bedecked vehicle. Officials from the armed forces, the district

Collector, police personnel and elected representatives paid tributes and placed wreaths before the casket carrying the mortal remains of Palani.

The entire village turned up in front of the residence of Hawaldar Palani to have a last glimpse of the martyr as the parents, wife and children of the soldier were uncontrollable in their grief. The martyr was accorded full military honours with service personnel playing Last Post as the casket containing the mortal remains was buried in his family compound. Palani's son performed the last rites.

The story of Palani has become a local folklore and he was an inspiration to the villagers, mainly small time farmers and casual labourers. "It was poverty and hunger at home that made Palani join the armed

forces while he was just 18," said Kannan Karthikeyan, a local youth. Karthikeyan said Palani was the lone breadwinner of the family and saw to it that his sister was married off, younger brother educated and he built a house of his own, brick by brick. "Even as he was working in the Army, he graduated through distance education. He encouraged his wife Vanathi to continue her education and she too graduated," he said.

But what upset the villagers was Palani could not spend even one night in his newly built home, the house warming of which was completed some months ago. "For him duty was top priority. He had told us that he would be retiring from Army in another two years and would come back to settle down in the village," said a close relation.

Ram Temple's bhumi puja postponed amid China border tension

Ayodhya: The proposed 'Bhumi Pujan' programme of Ram temple, scheduled to be held on July 2, has been put off in view of the escalation of tension between India and China.



In a statement issued by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Secretary Champat Rai, said that the security of the nation was supreme and the proposed 'bhumi puja' was being put off in view of the prevailing situation.

He said that a fresh date would be announced after keeping all aspects in mind.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also cancelled his scheduled visit to Ayodhya on Thursday. His office had earlier tweeted that the Chief Minister would visit Ayodhya

on Thursday to oversee the arrangements for the 'Bhumi Pujan' programme.

The trust, meanwhile, offered tributes to the army personnel who had laid down their lives in the Galwan Valley and asked everyone to pray for the martyrs from their homes.

The temple trust has also launched its website - <https://srjbtkskhetra.org/> - without any fanfare. The website will give updates on temple construction and related news.

West Bengal people hit streets in protest against Chinese products

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

People of Bengal too descended on the streets — alongside political parties competing hard to claim nationalistic credentials a year ahead of the State polls — protesting in large numbers against the Chinese aggression in Ladakh where the People's Liberation Army butchered 20 brave Indian soldiers with medieval brutality before being paid back with interest on June 15.

In capital Kolkata people came down on the roads smashing Chinese products and shouting slogans to boycott that came from the dragon country. At Manicktalla in north Kolkata a spontaneous crowd tended to surpass a political gathering nearby raising slogans against President Shi Jin Ping.

A furlong away two groups of BJP and TMC supporters too raised slogans against China but in that bid desperately tried to shout the other party down.

The group of people at Manicktalla even drafted a letter appealing to the Tollywood artists not to endorse Chinese products besides asking them to pass a similar message to their Bollywood counterparts.

At the colonial Territa Bazar a hub of electronic goods however the protesting merchants were more realistic even as they demanded immediate replacement of the Chinese goods with the ones of the Indian make.

"We also want to sell India items even for less profit. But you have to replace the Chinese goods in the first place. At present there is no alternative for the cheap Chinese electronic

items from chandeliers to a stand lamp to a torch ... so what do we do now? We want to stand by the nation but how? We know that selling Indian products will help India grow. But where is the replacement? At present we have no other alternative. We too have to take care of our families' financial needs," said a trader who sold his items wearing a black badge.

Away at Chinsurah in Hooghly district a local TMC MLA organized a gathering of protesters who destroyed a number of mobile phones and appealed to the people not to buy Chinese products.

Her party supremo and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to join the virtual all-party meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday evening.

TN: Covid claims 49 lives

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Situation in Tamil Nadu continued to be critical even on Thursday as 2,141 persons tested positive for coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and 49 patients breathed their last taking the death toll till date to 625.

A medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu said the total number of coronavirus cases in the State has reached 52,334 while there were 23,065 active cases as on date.

As four districts including capital Chennai were on a lockdown mode (four districts are being shut down from midnight of Friday till June 30) under the Disaster Management Act, the State has made the testing of samples aggressive. On Thursday, 26,736 samples were tested in 81 laboratories across Tamil Nadu, said the bulletin.

The number of persons tested on Thursday were 25,719 while the number of persons tested till date reached 7.63 lakh. On Thursday, a total of 1,017 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State and this made the number of patients who have been cured

to 28,641.

Out of the 49 persons who succumbed to the pandemic on Thursday, 42 had co-morbidities while seven had no comorbid history. Six patients among the dead were in the 30-49 age group, three persons were in their 50s and the rest belonged to the 60 to 90 age group.

Chennai remained in the top of the league with highest number of covid-19 cases, 1,373. An interesting point to note is that districts like Pudukottai, Dharmapuri, Erode, Karur succeeded in keeping the coronavirus at bay by traditional preventive measures.

"I am not in the field and I do not know what the ground reality is. But the medical bulletin confirms what The Pioneer has reported earlier. Districts like Pudukottai, Dharmapuri have been consistently following methods advised by our traditional physicians and native techniques. And this has been found to be quite successful. It is time we thought of returning to traditional measures," said Dr C V Krishnaswamy, octogenarian diabetologist and physician who is a strong proponent of the Indian system of medicine.

Kerala CM blames people, Centre for rising Covid case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

As 97 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Kerala on Thursday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan blamed the people and the Central Government for the resurgence of the pandemic in the State.

He said out of the 97 persons tested positive on Thursday, 65 were expatriates who returned to the State and 29 were people from other places in the country. Three persons got the infection through contacts.

Addressing reporters as part of his daily media briefing, the Chief Minister said a young person breathed his last on Thursday and it took the fatalities till date to 21. He also said that the number of hotspots in the State stood at 108.

Vijayan blamed some of the West Asian countries for the arrival of Covid-19 patients to Kerala. "Most of the West Asian countries do not have proper testing facilities and that's the reason why the covid infected persons

reach Keraala. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman etc do not have coronavirus testing facilities," said the Chief Minister. He said the State was not getting any help from the Centre.

He offered to make Tuenat Beta Cov Test system available to these countries in consultation with the Indian embassies in the respective countries so that expatriate Keralites could get the tests held free of cost before emplaning to Kerala.

Taking strong objection to the attitude of the people in the State for their scant disregard to norms prescribed by the Government, Vijayan said it has come to his notice that many persons are blatantly violating orders to wear face masks and maintain social distancing. "They think that Covid -19 has nothing to do with them. This is a serious offence and I am certain that a sense of complacency has set in the State. I have been observing that the use of soap and sanitizers to wash the hands have come down," said Vijayan.

Simple 10-day Ganesh fest in Maha this year

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With the gloom unleashed by coronavirus looming large over Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday appealed to various Ganesh Mandals in Mumbai and other parts of the State to organise the 10-day-long festivities in a simple and cautious manner with people-friendly programmes.

Addressing the representatives of various Ganesh Mandals in the metropolis and other parts of the state through video-conferencing, the Chief Minister said: "Like every year, we cannot celebrate the festival this year, with pomp and gaiety. The threat posed by Covid-19 is not over. We can ill-afford to have crowds. We cannot take out processions. In the backdrop of the coronavirus crisis, we will have to take all kinds of precautions".

"We should know our limits when we celebrate the festival this year. We have

to keep in mind that under any circumstance, we will not give a go-by to our rich traditions. At the same time, we should be acutely conscious about the coronavirus-unleashed situation we are living in. Hence, I request you to organise the Ganesh festival this year in a simple manner with people friendly programmes," Uddhav said.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, Ministers of State for Home Satey Patil and Shamburaj Desai, Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar were present at the meeting held through video-conference.

Top bureaucrats, including State Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta, Director-General of Police Subodh Jaiswal, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I. S. Chahal, Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board representative E. Ravindran were among those present at the meeting.

J&K: 2 ultras killed in different encounters

PNS ■ JAMMU

Two terrorists were eliminated in two different encounters in Pampore and Shopian by the joint teams of security forces on Thursday.

Till the time of filing the report, the operations were still going on in the area.

According to Col Rajesh Kalia, Defence PRO in Srinagar, one terrorist was eliminated by the joint teams of security forces in Meej area near Pampore in Awantipora while another terrorist entered a nearby mosque to take refuge.

Intermittent firing in the area went on during the



day. The security forces had cordoned off the entire area to prevent terrorists hiding in the area from fleeing.

The security forces were taking all precautions to prevent any collateral damage in the area.

In another operation, one more terrorist was neutralised by the security forces in Munand-Bandpava area of South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Covid victim's 2 relatives die during cremation

District admin ordered a magisterial inquiry

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In a shocking incident, two close relatives of a Covid-19 patient, who died late Wednesday night, died under mysterious circumstances while they were attending cremation ceremony in Jammu on Thursday.

The district administration has ordered a magisterial inquiry to ascertain the circumstances leading to the deaths of two persons.

According to the order issued by the District Magistrate, Jammu, "during the cremation of a dead body (on account of Covid related death) two persons accompanying the body for last rites, became unconscious and subsequently

passed away in mysterious circumstances on Thursday. Therefore, it is ordered that the Additional District Magistrate (Law and order), Jammu shall conduct a detailed inquiry to ascertain the circumstances leading to the deaths of two persons".

"A special board of doctors is constituted to conduct Autopsy of the dead bodies. Covid test shall also be conducted of both the bodies", the District Magistrate order stated.

According to a close relative of a Covid-19 patient, "four family members along with the driver of an ambulance were provided with PPE kits before shifting the dead body of a Covid 19 patient for performing the last rites on Thursday morning from the mortuary of Government Medical college

hospital, Jammu".

He said, the district administration officers along with policemen shifted the body on the outskirts of Jammu near Sidhra. "On reaching there, we were told by the officers to shift the body on the other side of the Tawi river bed where they had made arrangements to perform the last rites of the Covid 19 patient". Due to sultry weather conditions, three out of four members fell unconscious.

"The family member claimed, the team of officers and policemen were standing more than 200 metres away from us. I raised hue and cry and requested for help but no one came forward. They didn't even offered water to these people". He said, I lifted one of the relatives and shifted him to GMC hospital in my personal car.

Another person was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance while the third person was lying there in the Tawi river bed for about seven hours. When the news went viral on social media platforms, police teams were rushed to the spot to shift him to the hospital. However, he too was declared brought dead in the GMC hospital.

Meanwhile, a total number of seven deaths were reported in Jammu & Kashmir and 149 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected. According to the media bulletin, 2 patients died in Jammu and five in Kashmir while 49 cases were detected in Jammu and 100 in Kashmir. The total tally of coronavirus cases Thursday touched 5,555 with 2,340 active positive cases.

100 die, 3,752 +ve in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

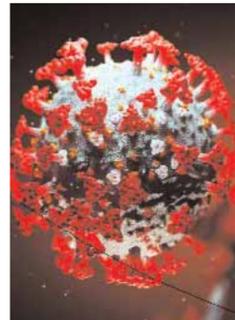
In a small drop in fatalities but a rise in positive cases, as many as 100 people succumbed to Covid-19 and 3,752 others tested positive in various parts of Maharashtra on Thursday.

With fresh deaths and new positive cases, the total number of deaths mounted to 5,751, while the total infected cases jumped to 1,20,504 in the State.

After taking into account total 5,751 deaths reported so far and 60,838 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 53,901.

Of the 100 deaths, Mumbai accounted for 67 deaths, while there were 27 deaths in Bhiwandi, four deaths in Thane and one death in Vasai-Virar and Nagpur.

Out of the 100 dead, 66 were men while 34 were women. Forty five of them aged over 60 years, 46 were from the age group 40 to 59 years and 9 were aged below 40 years. "Eighty four out of 114 patients (73.7%) had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease," a state health bulletin said.



With fresh deaths and new positive cases, the total number of deaths mounted to 5,751, while the total infected cases jumped to 1,20,504 in the State

As many as 101 laboratories --58 government-run and 43 private ones --are functioning for Covid-19 diagnosis in the state currently. Out of 7,17,683 samples sent to laboratories, 1,20,504 have tested positive (16.93%) for Covid-19 until Thursday.

With 67 fresh deaths and 1298 new positive cases, the total number of deaths in Mumbai has gone up to 3311 while the total infected cases have jumped to 62,875. The authorities said that there were 27,700 "active cases" in the city.

While the recovery rate in the state is 50.49 per cent, the case fatality rate in the state: 4.77 per cent. Currently, 5,81,650 people are in home quarantine. There are 92,141 beds available in 2,203 quarantine institutions, while 26,740 people are in institutional quarantine currently.

On the growth rate of cases and doubling time, the state health bulletin said: "The first patient of Covid-19 was found in the state on 9th March 2020. In the period of about last 3 months, it is seen that the growth rate of cases (weekly average) is reducing and the doubling time of patients is increasing.

As statistics collated by the State Health department, the weekly average growth of the pandemic spread stood on March 31 at 12 per cent while doubling time was 3.5. On April 30, weekly average growth of the pandemic spread stood at 7 per cent while doubling time was 10.2.

Similarly, the weekly average growth of the pandemic spread stood on May 31 at 4 per cent while doubling time was 20.1. On June 16, the weekly average growth of the pandemic spread stood at 3 per cent while doubling time was 25.9.

Mumbai cop saves life of 14-day-old baby

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai Police Constable S Kolkar became the toast of the town on Thursday, as people across Mumbai heaped praise on him for saving the life of a 14-day baby that had accidentally swallowed a safety pin.

A tweet put out by the Mumbai police describing Kolkar's feat went viral, with twitter users re-tweeting the tweet many hundred times over and going gaga over the police constable's circumspect deed that saved the life of a 14-day old infant.

"When in doubt, find your nearest cop! A 14 day old baby was choking on a safety pin he had accidentally swallowed. PC S.Kolkar spotted the worried parents on the road & rushed the kid to KEM using his own vehicle, where the child received timely treatment," read the tweet put out by the Mumbai police.

The drama unfolded as Kolkar - attached to the Wadala Truck Terminal police station -- noticed that the infant was choking after swallowing a safety pin.

The infant was with the parents who did not know

what to do at that juncture.

Acting swiftly, the constable took the infant to the King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital in his motorcycle. Kolkar's act helped save the infant.

Within eleven hours after the Mumbai police put out the tweet in English and Marathi, more than 900 people re-tweeted the tweet and nearly 7000 people liked the tweet.

The tweet elicited scores of comments. "A big thank you to this braveheart Policeman. I salute him from my heart. We are indeed proud of you Maharashtra Police," wrote one twitter user.

"No doubt Mumbai police is best...I take my pride to say I live in a country and in a city where we are protected by Mumbai police...." another person wrote.

"You guys are a team of Gods...your service in all areas cannot be done by any simple person!!," yet another Mumbaiaiker tweeted.

"Great, Salute to Police. Superb example of humanity," a twitter user said. Another Mumbaiaiker wrote: "We proud of you @MumbaiPolice".

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"TENDER NOTICE"

S. No.	Name of Department	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date	Closing Date	Amount (Approx. In Lac.)	E. Money (in Lac.)	Website of the Department
		The Panipat Co-Op. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat	19.06.2020 at 10:00 AM	29.06.2020 at 05:00 PM			https://tenders.hry.nic.in
Purchase Item for Sugar Mill							
1.		Nickle Screen			09.50	--	
2.		CS Trash Plate Scrappor			03.20	--	
3.		Spares of Bellis make mill Turbine SS-26			02.50	--	
4.		Inner Casing of NHEC Machine 02 Nos			04.10	0.10	
5.		Rate Contract for V-Belt			03.00	0.50	
6.		MS Pipe Line & Fitting			10.00	0.10	
7.		Pumps and Pumps Spares			12.50	0.20	
Purchase of Distillery Unit							
8.		Gum Paste			2.80	0.10	
9.		Steam Flow Meter			3.50	0.07	
Job Works for Sugar Mills							
10.		Deshelling, Reshelling and Grooving of Mill Roller			12.00	0.20	
11.		Rewinding and Re-Installation of 3125 KVA Jyoti Make Alternator Rotor			07.00	--	
12.		Internal and External Cleaning of 4No.s Boilers			4.00	0.05	
13.		Dismantling, Fabrication and Erection Work			50.00	01.00	
14.		Cleaning, Painting and White washing of Boiling House Equipments			2.50	0.05	
Job Works of Distillery Unit							
15.		Dismantling, Fabrication, Erection of Fermentation Vats			06.00	0.12	
16.		Dismantling, Fabrication and Erection works			10.00	0.25	
17.		AMC & Operation of RO & Nano Plant of ETP			18.00	0.25	
18.		Stacking and Loading of Country Liquor			6.20	0.20	
19.		Transportation of Ethanol			15.75	0.50	

The Detailed tender have already been uploaded on the website <https://tenders.hry.nic.in>. The tender should be filled on the above website on or before 29.06.2020 upto 05:00 PM. The "TECHNICAL BID" will be opened on 30.06.2020 at 09:30AM. If a tenderer qualifies in "TECHNICAL BID" then only "FINANCIAL BID" will be opened 01.07.2020 at 09:30AM. The Negotiation, if necessary will be held in the Presence of lowest tenderer or his representative who may be present at that time on 03.07.2020 at 11:00AM.

Managing Director

Economic hitback

Ladakh is forcing India to reduce dependencies. Rly, BSNL scrap projects despite asymmetric trade ties with China



The masks are off and the Wuhan spirit has all but evaporated. For China, at the receiving end of adverse world opinion in the pandemic era, doesn't bother about good optics anymore. If the surprise medieval and almost bestial ambush by Chinese troops in Ladakh, risking the lives of their own men, and their stubborn refusal to restore status quo at Galwan Valley are any indication, then China is determined to push the salami-slicing of Indian territories on its terms, given the fluid nature of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the ground, something it has steadfastly refused to codify for long. It shows that it will never renege on its border claims. And it has chosen India's most vulnerable moment, when the pandemic is distressing our whole nation, to hold us down. Being the only nation that will ride out the pandemic without sliding to negative growth, with a high capacity war machinery and a desperate ambition to retain its supremacy in a post-pandemic world, it has allowed the escalation and may even prolong it within its affordable range. And Chinese President Xi Jinping, having lost the global perception of greatness by mishandling the Wuhan contagion, isn't too concerned about another misstep at the moment, within controllable limits. So long as he can be a threatening big brother in the neighbourhood. He knows very well that despite India's pro-US tilt of late, the Western superpower can hardly intervene on the ground except making grandiose statements and internationalising the context. Hong Kong is proof of such a propaganda war where rights protesters are facing the heat on the ground despite a global noise. So for all Western sympathies towards India post-pandemic, Xi wants to show that he can have the second biggest Asian power in his stranglehold and rob it of its comparative asset value. He can regain strategic edge along the Himalayan border that had been blunted by India's rapid road-building and opening up of more Army conduits. China's latest ingress means that it can monitor the road in the Galwan Valley that connects to Daulat Beg Oldi air base and keep a watch on Indian troops that are now favourably placed in many positions. China's official English mouthpiece, *The Global Times*, warned that India could have to deal with multi-pronged border flashpoints from Pakistan and Nepal, too, if it stuck to its territorial claims.

But given the body bags that came back after the violent face-off, India has to stand up for its territorial integrity but do that smartly enough, graduating the incident to the highest level of diplomatic intervention. And encashing on the world's favourable opinion towards it, the Government must publicise its reasonable rapprochement efforts globally to show why it is in the right and expose China's naked territorial ambitions. Given the asymmetric nature of military and economic strengths between the two nations, India cannot afford an all-out conflagration at this juncture. Except for ground troop positions in the Himalayas, there is no parity in defence funding or resources. Economically, we are dependent on China for bulk supplies of pharmaceuticals, auto parts and electronics and while it may take long to build our manufacturing self-sufficiencies, fact is China, too, wouldn't want to ignore our market potential. With a total trade of \$85 billion, China is one of our largest trading partners. FDI from China was \$1.8 billion between 2015 and 2019, some of them fuelling our start-up sector. Yet economic hitback could still be a deterrent. What began with the Government preventing opportunistic Chinese takeovers via FDIs in a pandemic-hit economy, continued with the Railways scrapping a dedicated freight corridor project with Chinese firms. The Department of Telecommunications has asked companies to consider reviewing future partnership with Huawei & ZTE. The state-run BSNL will no longer be using Chinese equipment for upgrading its 4G network. And while existing deals will continue and there's no immediate danger of snapping economic relations that matter to both countries, future projects and 5G trial partnerships could be impacted. There would also be a progressive shrinkage of Chinese markets in India if the "boycott China" becomes an emotive surge among the masses, upset by the loss of soldiers at the front. Of course, going by China's latest manoeuvres — increased patrolling in the Taiwan Straits, clampdown in Hong Kong — the latest offensive at LAC could be a short-term tactic to extract territorial concessions and tilting the balance of power in its favour while staying just beneath the escalation threshold. This will be Xi's strategy, create a modern Warring States period where to his demoralised people, he can be a hero fighting the enemy.

Much ado about whisky

The Government's 'vocal for local' call is fine to make India self-reliant but why take it out on alcohol?



There has been a lot of debate surrounding that golden elixir that we call whisky. Some of it relates to the way the Americans spell the word — with an "e" — others wonder whether whisky should be made with malted barley or with grain or even molasses, the last being the way it is made in India. But one thing is certain: Scotch whisky is produced north of Hadrian's wall in the country of Scotland. As any whisky connoisseur will tell you, while some others get it right occasionally, the Scots do it right almost all the time. Scotch whisky is, therefore, a go-to drink. Certain brands like Chivas Regal and Johnnie Walker have become popular not just because of the massive marketing campaign but also due to their consistent high quality. Little wonder then that Scotch Whisky has a "geographic indicator" tag. However, it's not just about Scotch whisky but more about how the Central Defence Stores (CDS) are gradually withdrawing orders from some larger brands. Is it because Indian brands have to be promoted at these stores where serving and retired military and defence personnel buy everything, from household goods to motorcars? Some suspect this to be the case. However, it is also likely that this is being done to prevent the inevitable leakage of a certain amount of such top-end spirits into a lucrative black market. Prices at CDS canteens attract less excise. They can often be considerably lower than market prices with some States offering an arbitrage opportunity to some individuals. One is not saying that there are many rotten apples but the easy availability of spirits and wines from CDS canteens has been an open secret for some time in certain cities. To be fair, the authorities have cracked down even on the eligibilities of those who can access the CDS. It could also be that an argument was made against subsidising luxury spirits from such stores. Such an argument will be a lot more palatable than the "vocal for local" argument as frankly, most Indian whiskies are bottom shelf, with some notable exceptions of late. If one can afford to buy luxury whiskies, they can afford to pay the full price, including the duties on those products.

Failing the people

Developments along the LAC are deeply concerning and must be met with stern action. But for that the Government has to act responsibly and honestly



AJOY KUMAR

Over the past few weeks, some very disturbing reports have been coming in from the India-China border in Ladakh where the tension between the nuclear-armed neighbours has consistently been on the rise. Clashes have been ratcheting up in the region ever since the Chinese were reported to have moved into the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Even though the LAC in the Galwan Valley was never disputed by the two sides, the Chinese made an aggressive move this time around. The disengagement process has been underway since June 6 but on Wednesday, in what can be called the worst ever violent face-off at the LAC in over 45 years, at least 19 Indian jawans and one commanding officer were killed. Thankfully, a mutual agreement between the two countries prevented the use of firearms and bullets. Yet, the fracas was brutal with Indian soldiers beaten to death. As per reports, the Chinese side used sticks, clubs, bats, bamboos and nails during the fight and the Indian side, too, retaliated.

There have been no details regarding the exact loss of life on the Chinese side from either India or China but some sources have predicted the number, one that's obtained from "sources." The Chinese assault on the Indian Army and its advances towards the Indian territory are deeply concerning and must be met with stern action. The Government must make the best use of all avenues at its disposal — be it diplomatic or military. I speak for everyone when I say that the Indian Government has our complete support to tackle the Chinese threat. However, what this must not be taken to mean is blindly cheering an approach that has not reaped any benefits for India until now. The current threat to our country stems not just from the Chinese but must be seen in varying degrees, from other neighbours as well. In these columns, I would like to put forth some points of observation for the Government, the media and us (the Indian citizens) that can (personally) strengthen India's position. Though this may not be favourable for the BJP. I have little regard for "sensitivity" of any political party to handle criticism when it comes to the integrity of our borders. As it is, we have suffered repeated attacks from our neighbours both militarily (the case of China) and diplomatically (the case of Nepal). Nepal has passed a Constitution Amendment Bill to update a map incorporating Indian territories. India, after all, is not Modi and Modi is not India.

So as to be better prepared to tackle recent threats to our borders, we cannot do without an effective Government. One of the basic tenets of an effective Government is one that unites its people in cause and fortifies its approach by considering all



voices. On both counts, the ruling Government has been found wanting. India won't be able to fight its enemies if it keeps making enemies its own people.

Even as the country has been fighting a pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives, the Indian Government has only doubled down on its approach by arresting dissenters under sedition charges or under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. These dissenters are often human rights activists such as Sudha Bharadwaj, who may have a view of India that is different from one as perceived by the BJP. But since when has it become anti-national to have different views from the Government in power?

The BJP itself was a strong Opposition party leading up to 2014, raising important questions. Did that make it anti-national? Today, our country is more divided and polarised than ever. The BJP must realise that an India divided is an India weakened. The buck for any failure on this count can only lie with the Government that has arrested journalists and politicians, transferred bureaucrats and criticised the judiciary when any of these stakeholders do not toe its position.

Listening to differing voices in Parliament has not been a strong suit of the Government either. Parliamentarians, who represent the people of their constituencies, are treated as enemies of the State when questions are raised on behalf of the very Indians they represent. Take the example of the horrific attacks in Pulwama last year. Can such a huge failure of intelligence and that of the Government remain unexamined? How weak our country would be if we do not rectify the failures that led to previous assaults on our sovereignty? However, the BJP Government did not even discuss the shortcomings that led to the death of our soldiers. At the same time, it did not hesitate to ask for votes on this bloodshed.

India needs to take on China at the global level as well as fight it out along the borders. This is possible only when the Government is respected. How a country treats its dissenters is the clearest barometer of the respect the Government commands. If the BJP Government has any doubts, it can just look at China and Pakistan to see how the international community views our neighbours.

The Press has been especially disappointing. In no small measure, it, too, has con-

tributed to this unfortunate position. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may be the only head of a Government in any democracy who has been so afraid of giving a Press conference and has failed to engage himself during briefings. At a time when we are faced with a pandemic and there have been serious assaults on our sovereignty, we have not seen the Prime Minister taking questions in any Press conference or briefing.

Certain segments of the media will have to take a bulk of the blame. There has been no concerted demand for this minimum amount of accountability. The Prime Minister is only guilty of taking advantage of the wide berth the media has afforded him. Even in the China crisis, where it was reported that Indian soldiers have been clubbed to death, certain news anchors were all too hesitant. One said that the Chinese attack has seen many "Cassandras" stand up and speak in glee. An ill-advised reference as Cassandra (a fictional character) was a prophetic whose warnings went unheeded.

Another said that the attack was not the Prime Minister's fault but that of the Army. The same anchor, however, was in wholesome praise

of the Prime Minister when the surgical strikes took place even though it was the Army which was at the forefront. However, if suddenly growing a spine is too much to ask for, maybe certain news channels can benefit from not relying on WhatsApp messages while reporting the news. This seems like journalism 101.

Finally, we must examine ourselves. While the BJP will happily talk about banning Chinese goods and food (read: Ramdas Athawale, Union Minister) and we will have presidents of Resident Welfare Associations speak in similarly aggressive rhetoric, please realise that the greatest service we can do to our Government is to make it one that we can respect.

Respect is earned by Governments by being honest and holding themselves accountable. If they refuse to hold themselves accountable, then it is the citizen's responsibility to do so. If we manage to achieve this much, we can have as much Chinese food as we want and save our televisions and phones because we will then have something the Chinese do not: A responsible democratic Government.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of the AAP)

SOUNDBITE

Both sides (India and China) agreed to deal with the serious matter in a just manner, jointly observe commander level talks consensus and de-escalate tension.



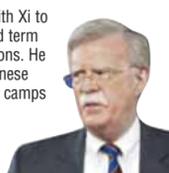
Chinese official — Zhao Lijian

Having personally been through many incidents of trolling and workplace bullying, I wish to spread the word about this. Speak up if someone is making you feel less, small or worthless



Actor — Ayesha Takia

Trump had pleaded with Xi to help him win a second term during trade negotiations. He also endorsed the Chinese leader's concentration camps for Uyghur Muslims.



Former US NSA — John Bolton

They (Chinese) took Buddha from us, once entire China was Buddhist. Currently, they have turned communist. We don't want yuddha (war) with them. We want peace with China.



Union Minister — Ramdas Athawale

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Take a firm approach

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "China provokes, again" (June 17). By now it is clear that India's foreign policy is in need of a complete overhaul. The Prime Minister's policy of hugs and hand-holding has failed to create any impact. Instead of the predictable response of de-escalation, diplomacy and secret compromise, this time, New Delhi must take a firm stand and demonstrate that it is prepared for long-drawn military tensions along the border. The reason why China has had an upper hand is not just to do with the military power. Economically, too, India is largely interdependent on it.

Post the tensions at the border, there has been a rising chorus to invigorate domestic production so as to end our dependence on Chinese products. This is doable provided local manufacturing is beefed up. India needs to be self-reliant. Localisation will also help generate more jobs and increase foreign exchange savings, too. High time the Modi Government undertakes structural reforms.
Yugal Kishore Sharma
 Faridabad

Tread cautiously with China

This refers to the editorial, "China provokes, again" (June 17). The death of 20 Indian soldiers along the Line of Control is ominous as any further escalation between the two nuclear powers will be catastrophic and destabilise the entire region. Effectively, China's eastern Ladakh intrusion killed the Wuhan-Mamallapuram bonhomie between Presidents Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi. The stand-off at Ladakh's Galwan Valley escalated due to the infrastructure projects that India has undertaken in recent years. Though on the Indian side of the LAC, yet China believes that these pose a serious threat to the Aksai Chin plateau that connects the restless Chinese provinces of Tibet and Xinjiang.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that Aksai Chin is Indian territory and shall be reclaimed made China jittery. The Galwan Valley region is strategically precious to India, too, and China's claims there cannot be entertained. Another objective may be to arm-twist India into staying away from the global consortium of countries opposing its naked expansionism para-



phrased by Xi as the "Chinese Dream." Though India must defuse the crisis diplomatically, it should be ready for a wider conflict, too. China also realises that 1962 is long gone and that India has the largest number of battle-ready mountain and plateau troops skilled in mountain warfare. We must keep our cool and not fall prey to provocations from the other side.

SK Prabhakar
 Gurugram

Time to stand up

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "China provokes, again" (June 17). The way things were building up since May 5, when a violent face-off happened at Pangong Tso, an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation in the Galwan Valley was almost on the cards. Now we

have lost 20 of our soldiers in the worst clash with China since 1967. This physical skirmish with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) — in which the Chinese outnumbered us — led to initial casualties for us. Though we also took revenge and Chinese soldiers died, it is indeed a grave situation. Arms can also come into the picture later. Now we all would

expect retaliation on both economic and diplomatic fronts but before that, our Government will have to take ownership as to why we have been indulgent to many Chinese intrusions in recent years and why we did not take tough measures earlier and allowed things come to this.

Bal Govind
 Noida

Gone too soon

Sir — Sushant Singh Rajput was one of the most promising actors of his generation. It is difficult to accept that he will no longer grace the silver screen. He stood apart from his contemporaries with his cheerful personality and infectious smile. In spite of achieving success, he remained humble and true to his roots. Whatever may have been the reason for his suicide, authorities must conduct a thorough investigation.

Tushar Anand
 Patna

Film industry woes

Sir — Many people working in the entertainment industry suffer from immense stress and anxiety; yet when they appear on our screens, they do so with a smile. People suffering from depression must confide in a loved one or consult a doctor which might help ease their pain.

Shivangi
 Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Let the tiger burn bright

Hunting has brought the big cat population down to 2,500. Any further depletion of numbers and the NTCA will have no tigers to conserve



KOTA SRIRAJ

The extraordinarily difficult time currently being experienced by the world on account of COVID-19 has caused humanity untold misery. The last few months have put to test the endurance of mankind as suffering has increased exponentially and casualties have spiked sharply in a small period of time. Even as humans struggle to stay alive and stay out of the clutches of the disease, this kind of torment, fear and pursuit is not new for wildlife in India.

Many threatened and endangered species of animals have been suffering miseries inflicted by humans on them for decades. Some of the unfortunate incidents pertaining to animals that have come to light this year have clearly underscored this fact. The recent blinding of a puppy by a watchman, the dragging of a dog behind a scooter by two miscreants, the death of a bull after being attacked by three drunks, the painful incident of a cow being fed dough filled with explosives causing serious injuries and the most painful starvation deaths of two female elephants, who suffered broken jaws after being fed pineapples filled with explosives, are just some of the cases that have surfaced in the last one month.

COVID-19 may have brought grief hitherto unknown to mankind, yet human compassion has not been awakened as is evident by the lack of the same towards the environment and animals. This lack of empathy is made worse by the fact the human memory of incidents of cruelty to animals is very short. The news stays in public domain for a week at the most and then gets relegated to the archives.

Incidents involving fatal injuries to animals are an unfortunate but common occurrence as villagers and farmers exceedingly take the law into their own hands and snare these animals in crude traps killing them slowly. They later profit from the kill by selling the claws, skin, teeth and tusks to poachers. This rampant killing of animals is especially telling on the tiger population, which has fallen sharply due to human intervention in the last eight years.

According to the recent data made available by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the last eight years have been harrowing for the national animal as a whopping 750 tigers have died due to poaching and other causes. According to official data, with a toll of 173, Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of tiger deaths as compared to other parts of India. The Government and State authorities could not really stem the number of deaths occurring due to poaching and traps laid by the local population living on the periphery of the forests. India lost 119 tigers in 2019 alone and a third of the loss was due to rampant poaching. Leopards have not been faring well either as 2019 saw 491 deaths.

Man-animal conflict has had a serious and irreversible impact on biodiversity in India and things do not seem to be getting better. The remaining population of tigers in the country is getting crowded into roughly 50 sanctuaries where these majestic animals are chased and displayed before tourists in bustling safari vehicles. This kind of intrusion and commercialisation of a tiger habitat has resulted in the tigers moving to newer and more-importantly calmer and quieter environs which are sometimes closer to human habitats. This results in disastrous consequences for both, animals and humans.

The very concept of sanctuaries also seems illogical for tiger conservation as the average size of a sanctuary in India is a paltry 1,500 sq km. India's protected areas have not expanded at the same rate as the tiger population, forcing some big cats to turn to human-dominated landscapes for survival. Livestock are killed and sometimes so are people. To put things in perspective, a male Bengal tiger needs a home range of 60-150 sq km whereas a tigress uses 60 sq km. Tigers are extremely territorial and they do not share easily. Which means when the reserve becomes full of males, females and cubs besides ageing tigers, it becomes too overbearing for them to co-exist. This causes them to seek newer territories outside the sanctuary, leading to man-animal conflict and in some circumstances the development of man-eating traits. However, attacks are relatively rare, with around 40 to 50 people killed annually by tigers.

Deaths caused by tigers tap into a primordial fear that, if left unresolved, can drive communities to extremes. Local people often eventually enact their own solution, poaching not just the tiger in question, but targeting all the tigers in their area. They begin to view India's forest department as the enemy — and conservation as something opposed to their best interests. Over 200 years ago India had 58,000 tigers in forests across the country. Indiscriminate hunting and poaching have brought India's tiger population down to just over 2,500. Any further depletion of the population and the NTCA will soon have no tigers to conserve. That will be a sad and ignominious end to the national animal.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

MAKING EXAGGERATED AND UNTENABLE CLAIMS (ON SOVEREIGNTY OF GALWAN VALLEY) IS CONTRARY TO THIS (INDO-CHINA) UNDERSTANDING, —EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON ANURAG SRIVASTAVA



INDIA MUST NOT MISJUDGE THE CURRENT SITUATION OR UNDERESTIMATE CHINA'S FIRM WILL TO SAFEGUARD ITS TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY. —CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON HUA CHUNYING

Himalayan problem

With the Nepalese Parliament approving a new map to legalise Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as part of Nepal, the Oli Govt has struck a severe blow to ties with India



VIVEK MISHRA

RAKESH KUMAR MEENA

With the Nepalese Parliament approving a new map through a constitutional amendment to legalise Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as part of Nepal, the Oli Government in Kathmandu has struck a severe blow to India-Nepal ties. With the President's assent as the next step in the line, Indo-Nepal ties are headed south. KP Sharma Oli's claim that Nepal would "get back the land occupied by India" is inflammatory to say the least. At best, the decision to change the map is only nominal, bringing no geographic or sovereignty gains for Nepal on the ground. At its worst, it could prove to be an irreversible downward spiral for Indo-Nepal ties.

Although the immediate trigger for this latest irritant in ties has been a road that India inaugurated connecting the Lipulekh Pass, which Nepal claims as its territory, there has been a series of incidents affecting the relationship between the two neighbours. On May 13, Nepal deployed its Armed Police Force (APF) near Kalapani at Chhangu, on the Nepalese side of the border. Most recently, Nepali police opened indiscriminate fire on Indians at the India-Nepal border in Sitamarhi district in Bihar, killing a farmer and injuring four others.

The ongoing Lipulekh issue between India and Nepal has created yet another imbroglio that risks derailing bilateral relations. Only this time the steps taken by Kathmandu seem irreversibly definitive.

Nepal's new-found desire for assertion of its sovereignty has to be seen in three broad contexts. First, the Oli Government's domestic political agenda thrives on an anti-India discourse. As such, the constitutional amendment is a tool being used by the Prime Minister to consolidate his position within the Nepal Communist Party. In this regard, a domestically unifying narrative built on an external "national security" threat is all he needs.

Kathmandu's growing confidence in China to fill the strategic void, should ties with India derail completely, is all too clear with Chinese investment patterns in Nepal and its leadership's growing proximity with Beijing. Plus, Nepal's steps psychologically signal a strategic version of the Napoleon Complex where a much smaller nation seeks parity with a big power next door through overly-aggressive political steps, notwithstanding the deficit in its capabilities.

An international confrontation purposefully stoked to fuel a domestic constituency seldom pays dividends in inter-State relations. Such steps may result in domestic political gains but these do not last for more than one electoral cycle. More importantly, the international ramifications of such a step may be as unavoidably lasting in character. While the domestic consternation is built up for a long-term gain, the international fallout is almost immediate. In Nepal, a domestically-charged politics focussed on an external aggressor may incite domestic adrenaline and translate into political consolidation but its impact on inter-State relations could be irreparable.

Anti-Indianism has proved beneficial to the Nepali leadership in domestic elections but the strategic gain that the current dispensation led by Oli has sought to extract by criticising India is more than any time in the past. With Nepal's assertions through a redrawn map and parliamentary approval on the same, India's counter-assertions on the sovereignty issue and its "snub-

“ KATHMANDU'S GROWING CONFIDENCE IN CHINA TO FILL THE STRATEGIC VOID, SHOULD TIES WITH INDIA DERAIL COMPLETELY, IS ALL TOO CLEAR WITH CHINESE INVESTMENT PATTERNS IN NEPAL AND ITS LEADERSHIP'S GROWING PROXIMITY WITH BEIJING. PLUS, NEPAL'S STEPS PSYCHOLOGICALLY SIGNAL A STRATEGIC VERSION OF THE NAPOLEON COMPLEX WHERE A MUCH SMALLER NATION SEEKS PARITY WITH A BIG POWER NEXT DOOR THROUGH OVERLY-AGGRESSIVE POLITICAL STEPS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE DEFICIT IN ITS CAPABILITIES ”



bing" of repeated requests for talks by Kathmandu since the Kalapani issue, both sides seem to have hardened their positions. What is concerning is that the bilateral relationship may be gradually sliding into an irreversible downgrade.

Beside the aforementioned specifically-pertinent contexts for Nepal's brinkmanship, there are two broader contexts that find parallels elsewhere in recent global events. On one hand, hardening sovereignty for States — from big to small — has become almost in vogue. US President Donald Trump's "Mexican Wall", China's renewed push around the "Nine-Dash-Line" along with the ongoing assertions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Turkey's reinforced position on parts of Cyprus and so on have all shown a similar trend in State-sovereignty relations.

However, in most cases this reinforcement flows from a more powerful country to the lesser one. Nepal seems to have reversed that trend by eschewing the diplomatic route to resolve a border dispute with India.

On the other hand, there are States, particularly the US, led by Trump, which have prioritised domestic needs by pandering to the domestic electoral constituency at the cost of external relations, even well-established ones like trans-Atlantic ties or its non-NATO allies like Japan and South Korea.

Oli seems to have taken a leaf out of Trump's playbook. He has agreed to risk years of a "special relationship" riding on an open border, free movement of people, the Nepalese people's right to work, well-respected Gorkha Regiments in the Indian Army and inter-State marriages establishing the much-revered "roti-beti (livelihood-daughter)" relationship for domestic

political gains and perhaps an incitement from China. The question that emerges is whether Kathmandu's steps against Indo-Nepal relations are worth the risk?

It is a different matter that to India, which is the largest and most benign neighbour sitting at the altar of great power capabilities. Even a small reciprocal step in response to the decisions of its smaller neighbours would seem seeped in heavy-handedness. This could very well be a miscalculation in the Indian response to its neighbourhood policy. The sense of parity in relationship that smaller States of South Asia today desire with their big neighbour India has a calculated difference *vis-a-vis* the uplift that they seek with regard to China.

This has to do with three critical factors: Smaller States' relative assessment of India's capabilities *vis-a-vis* China; India's non-muscular foreign policy orientation which has its policy of non-intervention and zero-threat writ large on it; and most importantly — as in the case of Nepal — China's ability to provide credible alternatives to India in these States.

Both India and Nepal seem to have hardened their stance on the issue of claimed sovereignty. At such a juncture, bilateral relationship, especially given its inflexible traits, should be treated pragmatically. Nostalgia in inter-State relations is both good and bad.

At a time when South Asian States, from the Maldives and Sri Lanka to Nepal and some would say even Bhutan, have hardened their sovereignty *vis-a-vis* India, New Delhi, should not count on nostalgia to deal with steps that have marked decisions from its neighbours entrenched in realpolitik. And, that might not be a bad idea. Nostalgia in India-Nepal relations is

good but it has perhaps served its purpose. Dragging it beyond its shelf-life may produce results contrary to expectations.

Perhaps, India is thinking of a reset in its ties with Nepal too. India's criticism of Nepal's move to bring out a new map as "artificial enlargement of claims" sets a clear path of a non-negotiable bilateral relationship forward. It is possible that New Delhi goes ahead normally with its relationship with Nepal and ignores Kathmandu's decision.

For India, this could require strategic reconciling of its *amour-propre* as the larger power of the two. This could in turn depend on the next steps by the Oli Government, especially on matters that impinge on its relations with India.

Kathmandu's tighter embrace of Beijing could mean a further constricted road for Delhi-Kathmandu relations — more so, if Nepal decides to involve China in building border infrastructure of any kind. A more directly confrontational way for Nepal could be the internationalisation of the dispute by dragging India to the International Court of Justice.

New Delhi should consider all options going forward, as it is not without precedent that India has been dragged in a dispute by a smaller neighbour to international arbitration. India should watch out for any display of the Napoleon Complex in Nepal's State behaviour, especially with China lurking in the background. Kathmandu's domestic pandering could very well be complemented by an international grandstanding backed by victimhood.

(Mishra is deputy director, KIIPS, Bhubaneswar and research fellow, ICWA while Meena is Assistant Professor of Political Science, PG DAV, BHU)

The challenges of a post-lockdown economy

If these conditions of job uncertainty and low demand sustain, the economy could enter a recessionary cycle. People might defer non-essential buys thus killing recovery



ABHISHEK RAJA

The impact of the pandemic on the economy has been acute and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, recently said it was important to take into account the weak growth momentum. It pointed to the need for prioritising growth in view of the less-risky inflation outlook, while also ensuring that financial conditions remain benign when a recovery takes place, in order to sustain confidence.

refrained from providing any forecast on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, members said they expect the economy to contract in the current fiscal year and noted that agriculture and allied activities have provided the only silver lining till now.

Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian also spoke about the downside risk to the economy and GDP contraction in the first quarter (Q1) of the Financial Year (FY) 21. He further said that this would lead to a fiscal deficit of over five per cent of the GDP in FY21. For FY20, the fiscal deficit came in at 4.6 per cent of the GDP, compared with the revised estimate of 3.8 per cent and the Budget estimate of 3.3 per cent. It had breached the 0.5 per cent escape clause, which the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 (FRBM Act) allows.

A complex economy: Now, as India begins to open up after a pro-

longed lockdown, hotels, restaurants and other hospitality services and shopping malls have been permitted to open. The lockdown, however, will continue in containment zones till June 30. High-frequency data is already showing a pick-up in activity in the Indian economy and the easing of the lockdown is a clear positive. But actual recovery depends on the positive mindset of the people and their purchasing power. India's growth story is basically a consumption-based one. India has a multi-layered economy with the rural-urban economy on one hand and the organised-unorganised one on the other. This makes the situation challenging for anyone to come up with one simple solution which would work. Hence, solutions should also be multi-layered and ones that can be woven into another solution best suit the need of the Indian economy.

The ground reality: Many peo-

ple have lost their jobs due to the lockdown and many have experienced salary cuts. This might lead to a structural change in business because we might encounter a situation where consumers start spending on essential items only. Plus, even though malls have opened, it will be a while before people start thronging them because of the need for social distancing. In such a situation, the big gainers will be the e-commerce firms.

The guidelines for the much-hyped collateral-free and automatic loans, too, are yet to reach bank branches and MSMEs are literally struggling to get their share. In this situation, interest and capital subsidy to such loans could be provided by States, too. We have seen all support to businesses coming from the Central Government but nothing from States. When taxes are collected by States, it is disheartening to see them shying away from their responsibility to sup-

port regional businesses during a crisis. If these conditions of job uncertainty and low demand sustain, the economy could enter a recessionary cycle and people might end up deferring all non-essential expenditure, which would kill short to medium-term recovery.

The way forward: The Government should provide relief on interest, late fee and penalty on both Direct Taxes and Indirect Taxes. The Goods and Services Tax Council should waive any sort of late fee and penalty and make provisions for refunding the same. Waiver of interest for the moratorium period will also help the cash-starved middle class.

The Government should understand that recovery will not come in the short term and, therefore, to speed up the process, it should hike capital expenditure and announce some big projects.

Government can see that demand has collapsed and growth in FY21 is headed towards negative territory, then instead of infusing more liquidity by reducing repo rates, loans and so on, the Government should start taking fiscal measures. All the measures the Government has taken till date are mostly on the supply side and not the demand side.

Before the pandemic struck the world, India was facing an economic slowdown and last year, too, the actions taken by the Centre to remedy the situation were on the supply side, like reduction in corporate tax rates, hoping for some investments from positive cash flows and saving from tax outlays.

The Government should also concentrate and channelise its efforts in welcoming companies moving out of China as India still continues to enjoy the trust of foreign investors and its banking system remains healthy.

But that might not be sufficient to make the proposal lucrative. The Government has announced the setting up of a high-level Empowered Group of Secretaries, to be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and a Project Development Cell (PDC) in ministries/departments with a view to attracting investments to the country. This is the right way forward but work should be done at a faster pace.

To deal with the current economic crisis, India must find the right balance between leaning towards a high fiscal deficit and ensuring financial stability. In all likelihood, the Government would come up with a fresh round of stimulus package in the short to medium-term. Only time will tell how deeply negative the growth will be. The economic situation is bleak but there is a silver lining in every crisis. We just need to find ours.

(The writer is an author and GST and economics specialist)

GLOBE TROTTER

Trump asked China to help him get reelected: Bolton

White House makes last gasp bid to stop book's release

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump "pleaded" with China's Xi Jinping during a 2019 summit to help his reelection prospects, according to a scathing new book by former Trump adviser John Bolton that accuses the president of being driven by political calculations when making national security decisions.

The White House worked furiously to block the book, asking a federal court for an emergency temporary restraining order on Wednesday against its release.

Bolton's allegations that Trump solicited Chinese help for his reelection effort carried echoes of Trump's attempt to get political help from Ukraine, which led to his impeachment.

"I am hard-pressed to identify any significant Trump decision during my tenure that wasn't driven by re-election calculations," Bolton wrote.

The 577-page book paints an unvarnished portrait of Trump and his administration, amounting to the most vivid, first-person account yet of how Trump conducts himself in office. Several other former officials have written books, but most have been flat-

length than the briefers, often on matters completely unrelated to the subjects at hand."

Trump was asked about the book Wednesday on Fox News Channel's "Hannity." He turned to personal insults, calling Bolton a "washed-up guy. I gave him a chance."

He also took issue with copies of the book being released. "He broke the law. Very simple. I mean, as much as it's going to be broken," Trump said. "It's highly classified information and he did not have approval."

The book also includes embarrassing claims that Trump thought Finland was part of Russia, didn't know that the United Kingdom was a nuclear power and called reporters "scumbags" who should be "executed."

As for the meeting with the Chinese president in Osaka, Japan, Bolton wrote that Trump told Xi that Democrats were hostile to China.

"He then, stunningly, turned the conversation to the coming U.S. presidential election, alluding to China's economic capability to affect the ongoing campaigns, pleading with Xi to ensure he'd win," Bolton said. "He stressed the importance of farmers, and increased Chinese purchases of soybeans and wheat in the electoral outcome."

Bolton wrote that he would print Trump's exact words, "but the government's pre-publication review process has decided otherwise."

The book, titled "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir," is set to be released Tuesday by Simon & Schuster. It has been the subject of a lengthy battle between Bolton and the White House.

The Justice Department filed suit Tuesday in an effort to delay publication of the book, claiming it still contained highly classified information and that a required review by the National Security Council had not been concluded. According to the filing, a career official determined no classified material remained in April, but national security adviser Robert O'Brien initiated a secondary review that deemed additional information to be classified.

The White House's contention that so much of the book was classified appeared to be a tacit admission that many of Bolton's allegations were accurate — as inaccurate information could not be classified.

Bolton wrote that, due to the review process, he made "numerous changes to the manuscript in order to obtain clearance to publish, the vast bulk of which, in my view, did not change the facts set forth."

He said in some cases he was asked to add phrases like, "in my view," to make it clear he was expressing his opinion instead of relying on sensitive information. In others, he was asked to describe things more generally. He was asked to remove quotation marks nearly every time he recounts conversation between Trump and foreign leaders and himself and foreign leaders.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said Wednesday that he attended a meeting between Trump and Xi at the Group of 20 nations in Osaka, but he never heard Trump pleading with Xi to buy more agriculture products to ensure he would win reelection. Lighthizer spoke at a Senate hearing on trade issues and was asked about Bolton's recollection of events.

"Absolutely untrue. Never happened. I was there. I have no recollection of that ever happening. I don't believe it's true. I don't believe it ever happened," Lighthizer said. "Would I recollect something as crazy as that? Of course, I would recollect it."

Bolton wrote that he raised some of his concerns about Trump's conversations with Attorney General William Barr, and flagged similar worries with White House attorneys and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"The pattern looked like

obstruction of justice as a way of life, which we couldn't accept," he wrote.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec denied in a statement that Barr had ever expressed that Trump's conversations with foreign leaders were improper.

Trump continually pandered to Xi, Bolton wrote. At a White House Christmas dinner in 2018, Bolton said Trump asked why the U.S. was sanctioning China over its treatment of Uighurs. China suspects Uighurs, who are predominantly Muslim and culturally and ethnically distinct from the majority Han Chinese population, of harboring separatist tendencies. In recent years, China has dramatically escalated its campaign against them by detaining more than 1 million people in internment camps and prisons, which it calls vocational training centers.

"At the opening dinner of the Osaka G-20 meeting, with only interpreters present, Xi explained to Trump why he was basically building concentration camps in Xinjiang," Bolton wrote. "According to our interpreter, Trump said that Xi should go ahead with building the camps, which he thought was exactly the right thing to do."

Bolton's claim that Trump was appealing to China to

assist his reelection effort comes as the president's rhetoric toward the U.S. geopolitical rival has grown more acerbic in response to the coronavirus pandemic. But it may undercut the Trump reelection campaign's efforts, evidenced in recent television ads and public statements to paint presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden as soft on China.

In the book, Bolton describes every Trump decision as being guided by concerns for his own reelection, a claim that evokes the scandal that sparked Trump's impeachment last year.

The book alleges that Trump directly tied providing military aid to Ukraine to the country's willingness to conduct investigations into the Bidens. In one conversation, Trump said "he wasn't in favor of sending them anything until all the Russia-investigation materials related to Clinton and Biden had been turned over," Bolton writes.

Trump's decision to withhold military assistance to Ukraine until it agreed to investigate Biden led the House to charge Trump was abusing his power. The aid was ultimately released once the hold-up became public. The GOP-controlled Senate ultimately acquitted the president on that count and a count of obstructing Congress' investigation of the incident.

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POMPEO MEETS TOP CHINESE ENVOY IN HAWAII
Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has met top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi to exchange views on the bilateral relations and on the coronavirus pandemic, the State Department said, amidst major differences between the two nations on a range of issues.

CHINA PASSES DRAFT OF HK SECURITY LAW
Hong Kong: China's ceremonial legislature on Thursday passed a draft of a national security bill for Hong Kong that has been strongly criticised as undermining faith in the semi-autonomous Chinese region's legal and political institutions. The National People's Congress Standing Committee reviewed the bill that covers four categories of crimes: secession; subversion of state power; local terrorist activities, and collaborating with foreign or external foreign forces to endanger national security.

MORTAR BLAST AT AF SCHOOL KILLS 9 KIDS
Kunduz: A mortar bomb blast inside a religious school in northern Afghanistan on Thursday killed at least nine students, police said. "As per initial investigation, the explosion was caused by a mortar that had somehow been carried inside the madrasa," police spokesman Khalil Asir told AFP, adding many of the dead were aged under 18. Six students were wounded in the explosion in the Ishkamish district of Takhar province.

DUTCH ARMY, COPS TO SHOWCASE YOGA ONLINE
The Hague: The Dutch Army and police personnel will showcase yoga asanas during the International Yoga Day to be commemorated virtually in the Netherlands on Sunday in view of the COVID-19 restrictions. This will be the second time the Dutch Armed Forces will participate in the International Yoga Day celebrations organised by the Embassy of India in The Hague, according to an official statement.

S KOREAN PREZ TO HOLD VIRTUAL SUMMIT WITH EU
Seoul: South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold a virtual summit with European Union (EU) leaders on June 30 mainly on the novel coronavirus and the Korean Peninsula issue, his office announced on Thursday. Moon is scheduled to hold the session with EU Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Yonhap News Agency quoted government spokesman Kang Min-seok as saying. It would be Moon's first bilateral summit talks of the year.

Iran test fires cruise missiles in naval drill: State media

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran test fired cruise missiles in a naval exercise in the Gulf of Oman and northern Indian Ocean, state media reported on Thursday.

The report by the official IRNA news agency said the missiles destroyed targets at a distance of 280 kilometers (170 miles). It said the tests took place during a naval drill by Iran's navy in the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean.

IRNA said the missiles' range can be extended but gave no details.

The news agency said two kinds of missiles were fired, without elaborating, and broadcast images of projectiles being launched from both a truck and a ship, hitting a buoyant target in the sea.

South Korea: No suspicious activities by North Korea yet

SEOUL: South Korea said on Thursday it hasn't detected any suspicious activities by North Korea, a day after it threatened with provocative acts at the border in violation of a 2018 agreement to reduce tensions.

North Korea said it would send troops to mothballed inter-Korean cooperation sites on its territory, rebuild guard posts and restart military drills at the northern side of the border with South Korea. Those steps would nullify the 2018 deals that ban both Koreas from taking any hostile acts against each other.

Kim Jun-rak, a spokesman at Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that there have been no signs indicating North Korea had started to carry out its threats. He said South Korea will maintain a firm military readiness to deal with any situations. On Wednesday, South Korea's military warned North Korea will face unspecified consequences if it violates the agreements. AP

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Europe hit by local infection spikes

China's outbreak wanes

AP ■ ATHENS

Europe grappled on Thursday with local spikes in coronavirus infections as the continent's lockdown restrictions eased, after hundreds of cases were found at one meat-packing plant in Germany and Greece had to impose a total seven-day lockdown on one village.

The developments came even as a new outbreak in Beijing saw a decline in daily cases and Hong Kong Disneyland reopened after a major drop in infections in the Chinese territory.

In western Germany, health officials in Guetersloh on Wednesday said the number of new Covid-19 cases linked to the Toennies slaughterhouse in Rheda-Wiedenbruck had risen to 657, a significant regional spike for a country that has recorded daily nationwide infections in the low hundreds lately.

Covid-19 TRACKER
TOTAL CASES: 8,512,180
DEATHS: 4,53,430
RECOVERED: 4,455,639

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	2,246,676	1,20,230
Brazil	9,65,512	46,842
Russia	5,61,091	7,660
UK	3,00,469	42,288
Spain	2,92,348	27,136
Peru	2,40,908	7,257
Italy	238,159	34,514
Chile	2,25,103	3,841

Xanthi, after a spike in cases and deaths, while the small Balkan nation of Montenegro reported new infections after weeks of having no positive cases.

All residents of Echinus were under curfew, allowed to leave their homes only to buy food or medication and only while wearing masks, after 73 new coronavirus cases and four deaths were registered in the last week.

Greece has been widely praised for managing to contain its outbreak, with only 187 virus-related deaths and just over 3,200 confirmed cases.

In neighbouring Turkey, authorities made wearing masks mandatory in three major cities, including the financial hub of Istanbul and the capital of Ankara, following an increase in confirmed cases since many businesses were allowed to reopen.

In China, an outbreak detected in a wholesale market in the capital last week has infected at least 158 people in the country's largest resurgence since the initial out-

break was brought under control in March. The city reported 21 new cases of Covid-19 on Thursday, down from 31 on Wednesday.

City officials said close contacts of market workers, visitors and other connections were being traced to locate all further cases as quickly as possible.

The United States, meanwhile, has been increasing pressure on China's leaders to reveal what they know about the pandemic. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "stressed the need for full transparency and information sharing to combat the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and prevent future outbreaks," the US State Department said about his meeting with the Communist Party's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi.

Pompeo has joined President Donald Trump in criticising China's response to the outbreak, including claiming that the virus may have emerged from a Chinese laboratory in Wuhan.

China is also being called

on to relieve the virus' financial consequences in Africa.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed Chinese leader Xi Jinping during an online China-Africa summit and reminded China that African nations are seeking significant debt relief as they battle the pandemic.

African nations are holding a high-level conference next week on coronavirus vaccines to "position ourselves to not be left behind" in access to the drugs, John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, said Thursday.

He said the WHO chief would attend the talks that would also focus on "how we can manufacture a vaccine ourselves," noting that several countries, including Senegal, Egypt and South Africa, already have vaccine manufacturing capabilities.

Africa's 54 nations have been deeply concerned about getting access to testing and medical supplies amid intense global competition.

Race for virus vaccine could leave some countries behind

AP ■ LONDON

As the race intensifies for a vaccine against the new coronavirus, rich countries are rushing to place advance orders for the inevitably limited supply to guarantee their citizens get immunised first — leaving significant questions about whether developing countries will get any vaccines in time to save lives before the pandemic ends.

Earlier this month, the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, and others said it was a "moral imperative" that everyone have access to a "people's vaccine." But such grand declarations are unenforceable, and without a detailed strategy, the allocation of vaccines could be inequitable and extremely messy, said health experts.

"We have this beautiful picture of everyone getting the vaccine, but there is no road map on how to do it," said Yuan Qiong Hu, a senior legal and policy adviser at Doctors Without Borders in Geneva. Few measures have been taken to resolve numerous problems for achieving fair distribution, she said. In the past, Hu said, companies have often applied for patents for nearly every step of a vaccine's development and production: from the biological material like cell lines used, to the preservative needed to stretch vaccine doses and even how the shots are administered.

"We can't afford to face these multiple layers of private rights to create a 'people's vaccine,'" she said.

Speaking at a vaccine summit earlier this month that addressed the thorny issue of equitable distribution, Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo agreed.

"Only a people's vaccine with equality and solidarity at its core can protect all of humanity from the virus," he said.

At a summit with African leaders on Wednesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping said countries in Africa would be "among

the first to benefit" once a COVID-19 vaccine is developed and deployed in China, but no deals were announced to back up his promise.

Worldwide, about a dozen potential COVID-19 vaccines are in early stages of testing. While some could move into late-stage testing later this year if all goes well, it's unlikely any would be licensed before early next year at the earliest. Still, numerous rich countries have already ordered some of these experimental shots and expect delivery even before they are granted marketing approval.

Britain and the U.S. have spent millions of dollars on various vaccine candidates, including one being developed by Oxford University and manufactured by AstraZeneca. In return, both countries are expected to get priority treatment; the British government declared that if the vaccine proves effective, the first 30 million doses would be earmarked for Britons. Separately AstraZeneca signed an agreement to make at least 300 million doses available for the U.S., with the first batches delivered as early as October. In a briefing Tuesday, senior Trump administration officials said there will be a tiered system to determine who in America is offered the first vaccine doses. Tiers likely would include groups most at risk of severe disease and workers performing essential services.

Last week, the European Union moved to ensure its own supply. On Saturday, AstraZeneca struck a deal with a vaccines group forged by Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands to secure 400 million doses by the end of the year. Among several global efforts underway to try to ensure developing countries don't get left behind is an "advance market commitment" from the vaccines alliance GAVI, whose CEO has warned countries about the dangers of vaccines not being available globally.

Around the Globe

○ A genetic analysis of COVID-19 patients suggests that blood type might influence whether someone develops severe disease. Scientists who compared the genes of thousands of patients in Europe found that those who had Type A blood were more likely to have severe disease while those with Type O were less likely. Wednesday's report in the New England Journal of Medicine does not prove a blood type connection, but it does confirm a previous report from China of such a link.

○ Bangladesh's coronavirus cases on Thursday crossed 100,000-mark after 3,803 new COVID-19 infections were reported in the last 24 hours, the health authorities said. The death toll due to the COVID-19 rose to 1,343 after 38 people died, according to the health directorate. The total number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Bangladesh are 102,292. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Additional Director General Nasima Sultana was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune on Thursday.

○ A "smart lockdown" has been imposed in Lahore and several other cities in Pakistan's Punjab province, an area home to more than 100 million people, following a spike in the number of new COVID-19 cases, it was reported on Thursday. As of Thursday, Punjab province remains the worst-affected with 60,138 confirmed cases out of Pakistan's total 160,116 infections. The "smart lockdown" came into force on Wednesday across the province, the BBC reported.

○ Kazakhstan's first President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has tested positive for COVID-19 and has gone into self-isolation, his office announced on Thursday. "Unfortunately, the latest coronavirus test carried out on 'Elbasi' (leader of the nation) returned a positive result. There is no reason for concern. Nursultan Nazarbayev continues to work remotely," the office said in a communique.

○ Greek civil protection authorities have imposed a seven-day complete lockdown on a community in northeastern Greece, after a spike in coronavirus cases there over the past week. Residents of the Echinus community in the province of Xanthi are forbidden from leaving the area, and are under a 24-hour curfew. They can leave their homes only to buy food or medication, and must wear a mask.

○ Hong Kong Disneyland reopened on Thursday after being closed for six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and became the world's second Disney park to resume activities following Shanghai.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Roshni D/o Bijender R/o Kale Ka Mekan, Near Radha Krishan Mandir, Pooth Khurd, Delhi Age : 13 years, Height : 5', Face : Round, Complexion : Fair, Build : Strong, wearing yellow colour suit, blue colour salwar and hawai chappale in feet, has been missing since 04.06.2020 at about 12:00 P.M. from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 352/20 dated 04.06.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in
Website: http://cbl.nic.in
Fax: 24368639
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO : P.S. Bawana, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27752534
27751949

CENTRE TELLS SUPREME COURT Will withdraw 96% of ₹4L cr AGR demand dues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has decided to withdraw 96 per cent of the ₹4 lakh crore demand for AGR related dues raised against non-telecom PSUs like GAIL.

The top court also said that private telecom companies including Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea must come out with a "reasonable payment plan" and asked them to file their books of accounts for the last 10 years.

It then fixed the AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues case for further consideration in the third week of July. Telecom firms have to pay AGR related dues along with interest and penalty - an estimated to be around ₹ 1.6 lakh crore.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and M R Shah was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the DoT has filed an affidavit explaining the reasons for having raised the demand against the PSUs.

He said the decision to now withdraw 96 per cent of the

demand is taken keeping in mind that these firms are not on the business of providing telecom services.

The top court had on June 11 slammed the DoT for raising the AGR related huge demand from non-telecom PSUs and had asked it to reconsider the move, saying that using its earlier verdict on the issue to do so was "totally impermissible".

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Vodafone Idea, said that it has already paid Rs 7,000 crore to the DoT, but presently keeping in mind the "precarious" finan-

cial condition, it was not in a position to furnish any bank guarantee.

The "ship was barely afloat" and the telecom firm was not making profits for several quarters, Rohatgi said, adding that it already has ₹15,000 crore in guarantees for spectrum licence with the Government.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Bharti Airtel, said that the company and the DoT will have to decide on calculation of dues.

DoT sought time from the bench, hearing the matter through video-conferencing,

to respond to the affidavits filed by private telecom companies, including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd, on payment of their dues based on the AGR.

During the hearing, the bench asked about the security and guarantees which can be sought from telecom companies to ensure payment of the dues. The bench observed that during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, telecom is the sector which is making money and they should deposit some money to the Government needs it to deal with the situation.

Besides asking the DoT to reconsider the demands raised against PSUs, the top court had earlier also asked telecom firms to file affidavit explaining the time needed by them to clear the remaining statutory dues that arose from the court's verdict, which included non-telecom revenues in the definition of AGR for calculating the amount due to the Government. The bench had also asked the Government about the guarantees that can be sought to ensure telecom companies abide by a time frame and payment schedule.

Gadkari: India to be global manufacturing hub for electric vehicles in 5 yrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday asked Indian companies to boost their electric vehicle technology and find alternatives to lithium-ion batteries to make India the largest manufacturing hub in the world for electric vehicles. He said the world is now no more interested in doing business with China.

"I am confident that in five years Indian will become the number one hub for manufacturing electric buses, cars and two-wheelers. There is also a blessing in disguise that majority of countries are not interested in dealing with China anymore. So, now there is a huge potential for India," Gadkari said.

He was talking at a webinar, titled 'India's electric vehicle roadmap post COVID-19'. Gadkari's push for making India self-reliant in EV production comes amid heightening tensions between India and China following the border clash on the intervening night of June 15-16 that left 20 Indian Army soldiers dead.

Gadkari said, with petroleum fuel being available in limited quantity, the world has to look for alternate and cheap sources of power. He said, electric and bio fuels stand a good chance for adoption. He also indicated towards the ensuing vehicle scrapping policy, and commented that it will give a fillip to auto manufacturing sector. The Minister recalled the London model of public transport, where private and public investment is working well. He said, adopting similar approach will be beneficial for both the poor commuters and the civic administration. He indicated towards working on a pilot project for developing an electric highway on the upcoming Delhi-Mumbai Green Corridor.

Gadkari expressed full confidence in the capabilities of the auto sector, and said, with consistency and self confidence in this economic crisis, it can gather good market opportunities. He also called upon the industry to go in for indigenisation and support Prime Minister's 'AtmNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

More than 80 per cent of all EVs produced globally comes from China. The country also has the largest reserves of lithium in the world, thereby helping it establish a near monopoly in the lithium ion cell market. Lithium ion is the heart of a modern-day EV, which stores electricity that is used as fuel to power vehicles.

Only in recent years did India give up older generation lead acid type batteries to shift to lithium ion. Even though most components going into an EV are manufactured in India, battery cells have to be imported from China.

Leading electric vehicle models such as Bajaj Chetak, Mahindra Treo and Ather 450, in addition to almost half a dozen electric bus making companies, rely on battery cells imported from China. Mahesh Babu, MD and CEO, Mahindra Electric Mobility, said, "We import only the battery cells and everything else is made in India by us."

"It is time for Indian scientists, innovators and startups to find out Indian alternatives to everything. We should not be dependent on anybody. Any scheme which will help us become self-dependent, government can think about extending support to them. I am aware that there are issues about lithium ion batteries and other components, but today startups are working on different technologies. We have to look for imports substitution, particularly for batteries," Gadkari stated.

Gadkari also mentioned about a possibility of offering income tax benefits for research undertaken in this field. "For the purpose of research, every industry should have a research wing. If you can give me a proposal and if there is any need for income tax concession, we can work on it. Every manufacturer should do his own research," he said.

Sensex soars 700 points as HDFC twins, RIL sparkle

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks notched up robust gains on Thursday as investors piled into banking and finance stocks despite weak global cues and geopolitical volatility.

After starting on a tepid note, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum in late-afternoon trade to close at 34,208.05, up 700.13 points, or 2.09 per cent.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 210.50 points, or 2.13 per cent, to 10,091.65.

HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC accounted for over half of the Sensex's gains.

In absolute terms, Bajaj Finance was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 5.46 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, SBI and PowerGrid.

On the other hand, ONGC, HUL, TCS, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma and Maruti were among the laggards, shedding up to 0.71 per cent. Traders said banking shares witnessed a relief rally after the Centre informed the Supreme Court that the Department of

Telecommunications (DoT) has decided to withdraw 96 per cent of the ₹4 lakh crore demand for AGR related dues raised against non-telecom PSUs like GAIL.

However, DoT sought time from the bench to respond to the affidavits filed by private telecom companies, including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, on payment of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues.

Meanwhile, Indian and Chinese militaries held Major General-level dialogue on Thursday for the third consecutive day on disengagement of troops as well as restoration of normalcy in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh.

"In spite of negative global cues, Indian indices ended the day positive with steady gains. With the Supreme court AGR ruling providing a respite to the exposed banks, the relief was visible in the banking stocks especially those which had exposure to the telecom companies.

The banking index contributed the most to the positivity and almost all components of the index ended the day positive.

Saudi wealth fund PIF buys 2.32% stake in Jio Platforms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd on Thursday said it has sold a 2.32% stake in its digital unit to Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund for ₹11,367 crore, taking the cumulative fund raising to about ₹1.16 lakh crore in two months. Starting with Facebook Inc on April 22, Reliance has sold almost 25% of equity in Jio Platforms - the max reports suggest the company intends to dilute to financial investors. Investment by Saudi sovereign wealth fund is "at an equity value of ₹4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of ₹5.16 lakh crore", the company said in a statement. With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised ₹115,693.95 crore from some of the leading global investment powerhouses at a time when the world is deeply impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, resulting in a recession kind of environment for the global economy.

"With the addition of PIF's investment, Jio Platforms has established partnerships with a marquee set of global financial investors, who will contribute to establishing the Digital Society vision for India," the statement said.

India should not depend on China now: Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said India should no longer depend on China and instead focus on research and innovation to ramp up domestic manufacturing. The Minister also said the Government is working on formulating a new policy for import substitution.

The remarks come in the wake of border clashes between the two nations in Ladakh.

Addressing a webinar on India's electric vehicle roadmap post COVID-19, the Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSME said, "I

feel that it is time, which I directly want to tell you because I was not using those words, we should not depend upon China now." He said even though presently the prices of Chinese goods are attractive and Indian electric vehicle companies are earning good profits by importing parts, in the long-term, the country should produce everything locally.

"Without that, we don't have a good future. Otherwise the Chinese, somewhere they can give a reasonable concessional rate at the starting point, and when your industry will achieve good production they will charge more.

1.5 million more laid-off workers seek unemployment benefits in US

AP ■ WASHINGTON

About 1.5 million laid-off workers applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, a historically high number, even as the economy increasingly reopens and employers bring some people back to work.

The latest figure from the Labor Department marked the 11th straight weekly decline in applications since they peaked at nearly 7 million in March as the coronavirus shut down much of the economy and caused tens of millions of layoffs.

The decline was much smaller, though, than in recent weeks, falling just 58,000.

In situ retting tank-based farming system model in jute

New Delhi: Jute is the important cash crop in eastern India which supports livelihood of about 5 million people of the country and earn foreign exchange of ₹2,500 crores annually through export of diversified jute products.

During the jute growing season (Mar-Apr to May-June), the crop faces weather hazards like drought, waterlogging, cyclone that had adverse effect on yield and quality of jute.

To overcome problems of retting, the ICAR-Central

Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF), Barrackpore has developed an "in-situ retting tank based farming system model" to produce better quality fibre, said Dr Gouranga Kar, the Director of the institute.

Public Notice
General public is hereby informed that our client Mr. Vikram Sharma & Mrs. Poonam Sharma r/o 92 Duplex Flats, Gurmandi, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007 have severed all their relations with their son Rahul Devgan, his wife Jayanthi Devi Kommalapati and their future kids (if any) will not be out of their wedlock as they are not obedient to our client and their other family members and thus our client hereby debars their aforesaid son and his aforesaid family from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with at his/her own risk and consequences and neither our client nor any of their family members shall be responsible for any of his/her acts, deeds & things in any manner.
MOHAN S. (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that the Environment Clearance for Affordable Plotted Colony Project (under Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna) Situated at Village Hariyehara, Sector-36, Sohna, Gurugram, Haryana (area 15 Acres) to be developed by M/s Signatireglobal Homes Private Limited, has been granted by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Haryana vide memo No. SEIAA/HR/2020/236 on 03rd June, 2020 and the copy of the Environment Clearance is available with State Pollution Control Board and on the website of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority i.e. <http://enviroclearance.nic.in/>
Sd/-
Director
For Signatireglobal Homes Private Limited
CIN: U71000DL2008PT176441
Address: 1309, 13th Floor, Dr. Sogal Des Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001

Rajiv Ranjan appointed Principal Controller of Accounts (Factories)

Kolkata: He has vast experience in the areas of financial policy, accounting, audit, budget and procurement matters. He has held previous assignments ranging from Regional Army Controller's Offices, Defence Pension Functions, Pay and Allowances functions of Other Ranks of Army.



Before joining this office, he was serving as Controller of Finance at Ordnance Factory Board, Kolkata.

United Textiles Limited
Regd. Office 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana)
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092
Notice
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, 26th June, 2020 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/Year ended 31st March, 2020. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 31.03.2020 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com.
For United Textiles Limited (Amit Kumar Aggarwal) Director
Dated 05.06.2020 (DIN 07079171)

Appeal For Identification
General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 35 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 7 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Long, Built : Normal, Wearing : Shirt and Pant, he was found in unconscious condition on 10.06.2020 at Mandoli Jail, In Front of Gate No. 2, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 96-A Dated 10.06.2020 has been lodged at PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.
SHO PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi Ph.: 011-22585985, 8750870733
DP/163/NE/2020.

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "Ujjwal", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248001
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
(Tel.: 0135-2763508, Fax: 0135-2763507)

Corrigendum-01/Time Extension Notice
In reference to NIT No. 01/EE(E&M)/ICHARI/TN/2020-21 for the work of Annual cleaning of trash rack and NIT No. 02/EE(E&M)/ICHARI/TN/2020-21 for the work of Maintenance of LT panels, DG set and lighting systems of Ichari Dam in District Dehradun, it is to inform that the amount of EMD should be read as Rs. 36,830/- and Rs. 32,850/- in place of Rs. 24,560/- and 21,900/-.
All other terms & conditions of tender shall remain unchanged. Due to above reasons, dates of the aforesaid tender are extended as below:
Last Date/Time of downloading the tender: 26-06-2020 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last date of submission of tender: 27-06-2020 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Date of opening the tender: 29-06-2020 at 11:00 Hrs.
Executive Engineer (E&M) Ichari Dam, Ichari
पत्रांक: 374 दिनांक: 18.06.2020
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER FOR VARIOUS WORKS
No. W.118/9/IREPS/BCT(WA), Date: 18-06-2020. Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. Invites E-tender as per details given as follows. Sr. No.: 1. Executive: DEN(CENTRAL)BCT, Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/20-21/139 dtd. 18.06.2020. Work and location: Joravasan- Surat Sec. Deep Screening of track by BCM/Manual in yards/block section under DEN/Central in connection of (i) TBR= 65.587km, FTFR = 18km & TFR= 24.537km. Approx. cost of work in Rs.: ₹2,83,000.00. Date & Time of submission: on 14-07-2020 at 15:00 hrs., Date & Time of opening: on 14-07-2020 at 15:30 hrs., Sr. No.: 2. Executive: DEN(CENTRAL)BCT, Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/20-21/140 dtd. 18.06.2020. Work and location: Joravasan- Surat Sec. Deep Screening of track by BCM/Manual in yards/block section under DEN/Central in connection of (i) TBR= 65.587km, FTFR = 18km & TFR= 24.537km. Approx. cost of work in Rs.: ₹2,83,000.00. Date & Time of submission: on 14-07-2020 at 15:00 hrs., Date & Time of opening: on 14-07-2020 at 15:30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

WESTERN RAILWAY
INSTALLATION OF ATMS ON MUMBAI DIVISION
Tender No. C4/151/ATM-20 Date: 17/06/2020. Name of work: E-tenders are invited from reputed banks (Public Sector Bank/ Scheduled Commercial Indian Bank) for installation of ATMs on the 15 locations on Western Railway, Mumbai Division. The required documents are available on the website www.ireps.gov.in. Since it is an e-tender it is to be submitted on-line.

Sr. No.	e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Work & Location	First Reserve Price	EMD (In Rs.)
1.	C4-151-ATM-20-GTR-Vol-II dtd. 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of India, On the existing flower bed area.	1774782	216800
2.	C4-151-ATM-20-BCT-W8-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of India, Mumbai Central West, near PFNo. 1, below northwest booking office.	3127610	381900
3.	C4-151-ATM-20-BCT-MAIN-II dtd. 17/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of India, on east circulating area, outside PF No.5, Opp. Pay and Park.	3124389	381500
4.	C4-151-ATM-20-DDR-Vol-II dtd. 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of India, Dadar (W/3), Outside PF No.5 circulating area.	2741088	334700
5.	C4-151-ATM-20-MRU-Vol-II dtd. 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of India, Matunga Road(w), near landing of southwest FOB.	1130578	138100
6.	C4-151-ATM-20-BDTS1-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of Baroda, Near wall boundary road towards bandra station circulating area.	887069	108400
7.	C4-151-ATM-20-BDTS2-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of India near wall boundary opposite parking circulating area.	969527	118400
8.	C4-151-ATM-20-VLP-Vol-II 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of India, Vile Parle Rly Station, at landing of southwest FOB circulating area.	2257935	275700
9.	C4-151-ATM-20-KHAR-Vol-II dtd. 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of India near PF no. 01 behind northwest booking office.	1613731	197100
10.	C4-151-ATM-20-STC-Vol-II dtd. 17/06/2020.	At Existing site of Bank of India, Santacruz (East), near southeast BMC's bridge, Western Railway Parking circulating area.	1806992	220700
11.	C4-151-ATM-20-ADH-E1-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of India, At northeast side near RPF Office.	2773298	338700
12.	C4-151-ATM-20-ADH-E4-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of India, At existing site of IOB, Opp. East booking office(old), near landing of north side FOB.	3159821	385900
13.	C4-151-ATM-20-BVI-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of Baroda near platform number 06, landing of BMC's bridge at southeast side.	1754473	214300
14.	C4-151-ATM-20-BV2-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of India, West side of Borivali Rly Sln., Near SSE(W)'s Office, Opp. Petrol pump at west north side.	1484890	181400
15.	C4-151-ATM-20-DIC-V-II dtd. 17/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of India, behind southeast entry/exit from subway near east booking office.	808476	98800

Deptt.: Commercial Executive: Sr. DCM Tender Form Cost (In Rs.): Sr.No.1 to 14: 5,000 and Sr.No.15: 3,000. Website where Tender Form is available: www.ireps.gov.in. Period: 5 Yrs. Date & Time of closing of Submission: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13.07.2020 Date & Time of opening of e-tender: At 15:30 Hrs. on 13.07.2020 Date of uploading tender:- 17.06.2020 Tender Closing Date & Time:- 13.07.2020 at 15:00 hrs. NOTE:-1. Reserve Price is stipulated for this tender. 13

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. II, JAMMU EXTENSION - III
Name of work: (i) Providing and laying Wet Mix Macadam and 30mm semi dense bituminous concrete on various link roads at Wailabad, Ragoora and Sidhra area. (under CITY TOWN Programme) (ii) Providing and laying Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick Bitumen Macadam and 25mm SDBC on Jagti Bamyal road and Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick Bitumen Macadam and 30mm SDBC on roads at Khanpur and Nagrota. (under CITY TOWN Programme)
Reference: Short-e-NIT No. 10 of 2020-21/Div-2 dated 18-05-2020 Due to Nil / Poor response, the following changes to the critical dates of works invited vide above referred. NIT are hereby made with immediate effect:-

Please read	Instead of
Bid submission end date 22-06-2020 (1800 hours)	Bid submission end date 15-06-2020 (1800 hours)
Bid opening date 23-06-2020 (1400 hours)	Bid opening date 16-06-2020 (1400 hours)

All other terms and conditions remains same.
No. DIP/J-1478/20 Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu
Dated: 17.06.2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Priyanka, D/o Jhamika Shah, R/o E-40, Indira Enclave Phase-II, Delhi, Age: 23 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black, Wearing Yellow Suit and Black Salwar, has been missing from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, since 17.03.2020. In this regard a DD No. 05A, Dated 18.03.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her, please inform undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25489080
DP/111/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a lady namely Bobby, W/o Rajender, R/o H.No. 134, Kumara wali gali, Ibrahimpur, Delhi has been missing her 2 children namely Kirti, 6 years of age and Dewanshi, 5 years of age since 11.03.2020 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 10A dated 12.03.2020 has been registered at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing lady and her children but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing lady is as under:
Name: Bobby, Gender: Female, Age: 27 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black colour suit-salwar.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady, kindly inform SHO/Swaroop Nagar.
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
SHO P.S. Swaroop Nagar Ph. No. 011-27811415, 7065036327
DP/273/ON/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that this person Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 30-35 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Brownish Trousers only, was found Dead at Pul Mithai, Near Entry Gate DRP Line, Lahori Gate, Delhi-06 in the Area of P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi on 16.06.2020.
In this regard a DD No. 31A, U/s 174 Cr. P.C. dated 16.06.2020 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 Ph.: 011-23953776, 8750870122
DP/291/N/2020(UIDB)

Trend Glazer

'Constantly evolving to connect with audience'

Actor **ABHISHEK BACHCHAN** says the realisation that his digital debut is actually happening has kicked in with the release date announcement of his web series, *Breathe: Into The Shadows*.

"The thrill of making my digital on-screen debut with 'Breathe: Into The Shadows' has finally kicked in with the recent announcement that was made last Friday," Abhishek said. He added: "The love I have received since we announced the launch date of the show has reinstated my belief of constantly evolving in order to connect with newer audiences."



This Father's Day may not be the same as every other year but who said that you cannot honour one of the most unconditional relationships there is? Since stepping out and celebrating the day at his favourite restaurant or pampering him with special gifts might not seem to be a viable option, why not gift him an indoor experience that he would remember for all time?

GIFT HIM AN EXPERIENCE

Make Father's Day memorable at home with innovative ideas and some good, old world indoor activities. **AYUSHI SHARMA** asks experts about a special day in the pandemic era

A VIRTUAL TOUR
While travelling — one of the best ways to bond with the family — is on the backburner due to the pandemic, technology brings at your doorstep the tools to explore, dream and plan the next, much-awaited vacation. "Visit favourite galleries worldwide as they now allow you access virtually and for free. With hundreds to choose from, the full list of the attractions can be viewed. Locate your father's favourite city and explore," shares Ashish Jain, CEO and director, Von Wellx Germany.

Let him hop on to the "armchair travel" wagon, grab a comfortable spot, a cup of coffee and have the screen transport him across continents in a mere matter of minutes. South Africa tourism is offering the Mzansi experience. It lets travel aficionados explore some of South Africa's top natural attractions with 360-degree imagery from the comfort of their homes. The Street View allows you to watch the waves break at Sandy Bay, contemplate nature's wonder and complexity as you watch the clear blue sky reflect in the water at Clifton Beach. You can go parasailing at the Sunset Beach or just take a leisurely walk along Durban's Golden Mile. Those hoping to explore South African wildlife can simply click on Kruger National Park, one of Africa's largest game reserves, and catch a glimpse of rhinoceros grazing the plains, zebras frolicking around, giraffes sticking their necks out to reach higher branches or a herd of buffaloes charging against the wind. While giving you

a taste of these vast plains, the Mzansi experience will leave you with a deeper admiration for South Africa and the continent and will inspire you to travel sustainably and in harmony with nature in the days to come.

A GIFT OF HEALTH
In their enthusiasm to provide us with the best, fathers often neglect their own health. Since both Father's Day and International Yoga Day are coinciding this time, what better than the gift of health? "As the global health crisis has welcomed the new normal, virtual celebrations have become the norm. So gift your father a virtual yoga session. Celebrate the day by doing partner yoga together. If you are keen to go outdoors for yoga, ensure that you take all the necessary precautions," shares Dr Prabha Ranjan Sinha, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aakash Healthcare and Super Speciality Hospital.

Dr Babina NM, Joint Chief Medical Officer, Jindal Naturecure Institute, says, "Celebrations this year will be home-bound. One can kick start the day

with some basic yoga *asanas* with daddy dearest. Roll out a mat and try *asanas* such as *Tadasana* (Mountain Pose), *Uttanasana* (Standing Forward Bend), *Vrikshasana* (Tree Pose), *Veerbhadrāsana* (Warrior Pose) and *Utkatasana* (Chair Pose). They are easy to perform and strengthen your mind and body."

A father's hard work, selflessness and perseverance certainly deserve a thoughtful gift. "Why not insure his health with a comprehensive health insurance plan so that he always has worry-free access to quality healthcare?" asks Ashutosh Shrotriya, Head-Product and Business Process, Religare Health Insurance. "Select a plan that offers a wide-range of benefits from in-patient hospitalisation to pre and post-hospitalisation. Some plans also offer coverage for alternative treatments and annual health check-up with the option of unlimited automatic recharge of sum insured. Not just this, buying a health insurance policy in the present situation is convenient since some insurers do not make it mandatory to undergo a pre-



policy medical check-up and offers coverage via telephonic underwriting process," he adds.

A TASTE FROM THE PAST
Does your dad remember a favourite childhood restaurant or meal? Well, why not recreate it? Sharing this sentimental meal will be a special way for him to share his stories from his past with you. Get some tips from your grandmother about his favourite childhood dishes. Put on your chef's hat and surprise him with breakfast in bed or a special candle-lit dinner. "Plan a barbecue with him. Helping your father with the barbecue is sure to bring a smile on his face," shares Tabby Bhatia, Director, Voganow.

Try whipping up a *gulkand* ice-cream. *Gulkand*, made up of roses, acts as a coolant, which when mixed with the vanilla ice-cream, not only changes the taste but the texture of the dessert and is a perfect surprise for summers. Executive Corporate Chef Arvind Rai at The Ashok, New Delhi, shares his recipe:
Ingredients
Vanilla ice-cream: 55 ml
Gulkand: 15 gm
Roohafza: 5 ml
Method

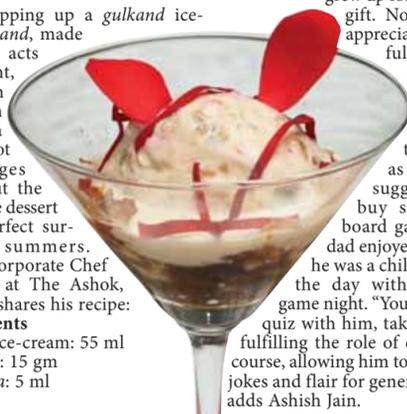
Mix all the ingredients together and keep in refrigerator for five to six hours. When set, scoop out and serve well garnished.

SCAVENGER HUNT
Create a treasure hunt and give him clues to help find his special Father's Day gift or which leads to the decorated and candle-lit dinner table, which you had set for him.

RAISE A TOAST
The occasion definitely calls for raising a toast to your best man. As a good whisky is a fixture on every dad's bar, make sure the one you gift him counts. If he relishes luxury, then your best bet would be the uniquely rich and multi-layered blend of Chivas 18YO. If he enjoys his whisky smooth like the Irish, then the triple distilled Jameson Caskmates would instantly light up his eyes.

STILL A KID AT HEART? PLAY INDOOR GAMES

Make a puzzle of a childhood photo or a map of the town where your father grew up for a personalised gift. Not only will he appreciate the thoughtful gift but also cherish the time spent completing the puzzle. At the same time, as Tabby Bhatia suggests, you can buy several classic board games that your dad enjoyed playing when he was a child and celebrate the day with a throwback game night. "You can hold a pub quiz with him, taking charge and fulfilling the role of quiz master, of course, allowing him to reel off his dad jokes and flair for general knowledge," adds Ashish Jain.



'Issues related to mental health have been happening to a lot of people from all walks of life.'

When I started the YouTube channel, one of the comments that kept coming repeatedly — and it was very spooky — was to speak about mental health. This is before Sushant's news. And I kept on thinking that I will do something.'

—Sushmita Sen

Actor and former beauty queen **URVASHI RAUTELA** made her Bollywood debut in 2013 with the Sunny Deol-starrer, *Singh Saab The Great* and says it has been a "very welcoming experience" for her so far.

The death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput has raised a heated debate on how certain camps in Bollywood make it difficult for outsiders to survive in the industry. Urvashi, whose comes from the small town of Kotdwar in Uttarakhand, shared that she got equal respect and dignity.

She said, "I debuted opposite Sunny Deol and the film was made by the Deols."

Michael ready for web debut

Actor **MICHAEL KEATON** will make his web debut with the opioid crisis drama *Dopesick*.

The *Birdman* star will also executive produce *Dopesick*, which is an eight-episode limited series exploring the opioid crisis. It is based on the best-selling book by Beth Macy, *Empire*, co-creator Danny Strong is on board to pen the scripts and serve as showrunner, with Barry Levinson attached to the project as a director.



'Too early to draw conclusions about future demand'



SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA, Executive Director, Sales and Marketing, Maruti-Suzuki India Limited, explains how the country's largest carmaker is gradually getting back up to speed

Nobody could have ever predicted that such a month of April would exist in our lifetime because life itself came to a shuddering halt. Travelling on the roads of India's major urban metropolises seemed like driving through the sets of a zombie film. At one time, while driving on the India Gate C-Hexagon, mine was the only car on the road. A fact that might seem incredible even if it was in the wee hours of the morning, felt much more so during the middle of an ostensibly working day. Things have improved since then, for the overall economy and the automotive industry, in the month of May, as dealerships and workshops started opening. First in upcountry areas and later on in major urban areas as well, sales of new vehicles have restarted. After the historic zero sales figure of April for the entire industry, retail sales in May touched 59,000 vehicles, approximately a tenth of normal.

We spoke with Shashank Srivastava of Maruti-Suzuki to gain some insights into the opening up.

How is the country's largest carmaker, Maruti-Suzuki coping with the lockdown, the reduced sales and its aftermath?



The process of opening up began on May 5, and out of our 3087 outlets across India over 2,800 are operating now. In May, we sold over 30,000 vehicles and had a marketshare above half the market. We have seen similar trends in bookings as well. But that said, I would be hesitant to read too much into the current situation. It will still take a few months to assess realistic demand as well as for all manufacturers to ramp up production in a post-Covid environment.

Why is it too early to read into trends?

There are lots of uncertain factors, much like the virus itself was at the outset. If tomorrow we discover a miracle vaccine for COVID-19, things could change dramatically. Keep in mind that the discretionary purchases of customers will be impacted by the lockdown and a vehicle is for a majority of customers, a discretionary purchase. April and May were washouts and right now there are varying projections in the market looking forward, so I would adopt a wait and watch viewpoint.

So there are no trends as such

we can see in Mid-June?

No, there are some behavioural trends, some of which we have learnt from experience of other economic slowdowns. The first is that customers tend to gravitate towards major brands, they will buy products that they know will work, they become very conservative. In this respect, Maruti-Suzuki does gain. The other trend, again from experience, is that when income levels are stressed, people tend to downgrade the type of car they buy, instead of a compact-sedan they could look at a hatchback. Another trend that I expect to see is an increase of first-time buyers because of the issues with public transportation across the country. However, at the same time, as I indicated earlier, discretionary purchases will get impacted which means that car replacement purchases will come down this year. This is despite there being a strong demand for second-hand cars.

What about institutional and commercial sales?

I would presume that government purchases will be down in the coming months but for many corporate purchases there are prescribed cycles of vehicle replacement which I believe will continue.

Of course, in such times, Maruti-Suzuki will also cut back spends, marketing usually is the first department to be hit. Will that be the case again?

Well, there will certainly be downward pressure on the marketing department, but do not assume that there is no need to spend on marketing. Of course, we would like to maximise our returns from those investments, be it brand activity or demand creation. But there will be spends both on digital media reaching out to particular individuals and in traditional media for reach and frequency.



Catch up later

Contactless film experience preferred option for entertainment post-COVID, finds BookMyShow's consumer survey report

How will the face of entertainment look like in the post-covid era? With masks, disinfectant tunnels, sanitised seats, F&B delivered to seats, intimate concerts of 50-100 music lovers and more.

But here's the good news, India is gearing up to step out and get back to its favourite entertainment experience once the lockdown lifts, reveals BookMyShow's Covid survey report titled *Back To Out-Of-Home Entertainment*.

It is the outcome of a survey conducted by an entertainment destination, of over 4000 respondents who are active BookMyShow transactors. The survey conducted in May 2020 spans respondents aged between 18-65 years from across 235 cities and towns in India. 70 per cent of the responses came from consumers in Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, NCR, Chennai, Pune, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Vijayawada and Kochi. 49 per cent consumers who responded were aged between 25-34 years. Respondents chose seat sanitisation and disinfectant tunnels as top two measures for a safe

entertainment experience. Some of its key findings show that 54 per cent of entertainment lovers are eager to get to theatres within 15-90 days of the lockdown lifting while the rest would prefer to step out after 90 days. 98 per cent Indians expect cinemas to implement strict safety and hygiene measures to ensure a safe film watching experience. South India misses its entertainment the most, with 56 per cent of respondents from the region eager to catch their favourite film and/or concert post the lockdown. For live entertainment experiences, 40 per cent Indians would prefer attending a music concert in smaller groups of 50-100. Drive-in concerts, intimate tables for two to four people are some of the factors that consumers would prefer the most, while attending their favourite events. A contactless entertainment experience is what Indians want all the way. 85 per cent of consumers surveyed prefer purchasing their tickets online with the M-ticket and e-ticket options for a contactless entertainment experience.



Osteoporosis and cardiovascular issues. Establishing good sleeping habits and getting plenty of rest are a must.

Experts highly suggest doing Kegel exercises to strengthen the pelvic floor. Another exercises include that of breathing and meditation, as they help to relax the body and mind.

Diet for bone health is equally important to help maintain bone strength and density. To prevent Osteoporosis, one should eat meals rich in Calcium, vitamin D and Magnesium. Here are some must to consume ingredients.

Calcium

- Dairy products, such as milk, yogurt or cheese (go for the lower fat options)
- Green leafy vegetables such as watercress and kale
- Sesame seeds
- Dried figs
- Fish (that is eaten with bones such as sardines)

Vitamin D

- Oily fish
- Eggs

Magnesium

- Green leafy vegetables such as spinach and kale
- Fruits such as figs, avocado, banana and raspberries are great sources of magnesium
- Nuts and seeds
- Legumes like black beans, chickpeas and kidney beans
- Vegetables like peas, broccoli, cabbage, green beans, artichokes, asparagus, Brussels, sprouts
- Seafood like salmon, mackerel, tuna are also good sources of Omega 3
- Wholegrains such as brown rice and oats
- Dark chocolate helps in combating stress and mood swings
- Berries. They are not only a great source of natural sweetness but they help fight fat, reduce inflammation and reduce heart disease risk.



A healthier twist

Here is a refreshing take on that immensely popular street food, momos

Momos. The very term might make your tastebuds water, remind you of a nook opposite your college or your residence street, where some good memories were made, with tears in eyes — nothing emotional here, just the red chilli hot peppers in the momo chutney!

While right now, heading out to grab a plate of momos might seem a little non-viable, maybe impossible, why not try making them at home? And since home means good health, why not give the otherwise 'unhealthy'-labelled snack a healthier twist? Also, looking at the current scenario, consciousness about hygiene has been growing and in these times of Coronavirus, ordering outside food could be sometimes, next to ordering trouble. So here are some tips as to how to go about it as well as some Himalayan delicacies for the food lovers with a range of momos and other traditional delicacies from Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal and Ladakh.

Vegan

- Nut-free
- Soy-free
- With exotic vegetables filling of beetroot, spinach, corn and mushrooms

Gluten-free

- Potato starch dumplings for guilt-free cravings
- In crystal chicken, spicy shrimp, vegetable and water chestnut

Whole wheat

- Cook 100 per cent *atta* momos
- Could be tried with fillings of Tibetan pork, Nepali chicken, and spinach, garlic and cheese for vegetarians



ians

Thupka

- Healthy and nutritious Tibetan soup with a twist of momos
- With exotic vegetables, Nepali chicken and spicy pork

Malaysian laksa

- Rich and spicy coconut curry broth with choice of momos immersed in it
- With exotic vegetables, chicken and pork

With these new variations, momos can certainly become appetizing with different choices such as veggies, lamb, pork and chicken.

Remember, a healthy momo does not only satisfy the cravings but also maintain a balanced diet!

(These dishes have been introduced and added to their new home-delivery menu by Shyam Thakur, Founder, Momo King.)

WATCH THE DIET

There could be several reasons why a woman feels constantly tired during her menopause. Here are some tips to eat healthy and avoid trouble. By ROHIT SHELATKAR

Menopause is when a woman stops menstruating or having her period. Periods usually start to become irregular or less frequent over a few months or years before they stop altogether. It usually happens between the age of 45 and 55 but it can also develop before or after this age range.

Some symptoms of menopause are hot flashes, night sweats, poor concentration, vaginal dryness, anxiety, mood swings, etc. It is a time for women, which can be extremely tiring, and cause major changes in her moods and overall health. The hormonal changes that cause symptoms like hot flashes and night sweats can also affect your mood and energy levels, leading to menopausal fatigue.

Maintaining a healthy diet and getting regular exercise can help women feel better and boost their health in the long term. There are short-term and long-term medical problems associated with the



menopause. Because let's admit, most of us have got a poor diet or hardly pay attention to the minor but important details. And this is a big one. And it might not necessarily be the fact that you're eating all the wrong things but we're busy people in this day and age. We can

be eating on the run. You might have to just grab a quick sandwich during the lunch time or evening. Many of us try to go on diets during the menopause period because we're putting weight on and if you don't eat enough in the menopause, that is going to make you tired and

give you fatigue. So here are some pointers to note:

SHORT-TERM

The first and foremost is to avoid smoking, drinking, consuming spicy foods, chocolates, and fizzy drinks as it may help with the menopausal symptoms. Consumption of soya can help with menopausal symptoms as soya contain Isoflavones, which mimic the action of oestrogen.

An important tip: Make sure you're eating enough but look at what you're eating. If you get those blood sugar spikes after eating things like high-sugar or high-salt foods or you're drinking a lot of caffeine, then that can cause fatigue as well. And remember, water!

LONG-TERM

In the long-term, recurring symptoms of menopause can cause

R E C I P E S



CALIFORNIA WALNUT PARMESAN CHICKEN

WHAT YOU NEED

- Buttermilk: 2 cups
- Beaten eggs: 2
- Whole grain, dijon mustard: 2 tbsp
- Kosher salt: 1 tsp
- Pepper: 1 tsp
- Smoked paprika: 1 tsp

- Boneless, skinless chicken breasts: 700 gm
- California walnuts (finely chopped): 1 1/2 cups
- Breadcrumbs: 1 1/2 cups
- Parmesan cheese (grated): 6 tbsp
- Italian herbs (dried): 2 1/4 tsp
- Olive oil
- Pasta sauce: 1 1/2 cups
- Hot cooked pasta, freshly grated parmesan cheese and snipped fresh basil (optional)

METHOD

- Whisk together buttermilk, eggs, mustard, salt, pepper and paprika in a large bowl.
- Cut chicken into small thin fillets and place in buttermilk mixture; refrigerate for at least an hour.
- Toss together walnuts, breadcrumbs, cheese, herbs, salt and pepper in a medium bowl.
- Preheat oven to 220 degree Celsius and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Remove chicken from buttermilk and scrape away excess by dragging against the side of the bowl.
- Place in walnut mixture, turning to coat well on both sides. Let it stand for 15 minutes.
- Place on baking sheet and drizzle lightly with olive oil or coat with olive oil cooking spray. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and crust is crisp and browned.
- Serve over hot cooked pasta topped with parmesan cheese and basil.

Courtesy: Chef Sabhyasachi Gorai, California Walnuts.

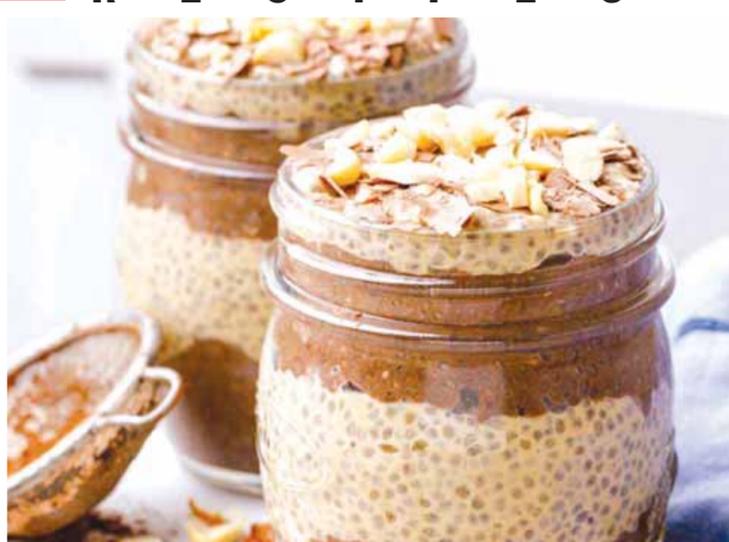
OATS AND CHIA PARFAIT

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fabelle dark chocolate shavings (67 per cent): 2 tbsp
- Oats: 2 tbsp
- Chia seeds: 2 tbsp
- Milk: 1 cup
- Saffron: 4 strands
- Honey: 2 tbsp
- Cinnamon powder: 1 pinch
- Chopped almond: 4
- Water: 8 tbsp

METHOD

- Soak the chia seeds in warm water for 20 minutes in a bowl.
- In a second bowl,



pour hot milk over oats and saffron and let it soak for 15 minutes.

- To arrange the parfait, take a glass or bowl and put half of the soaked oats at the bottom.
- Drizzle a little honey and add grated Fabelle chocolate shavings. Then layer it with soaked chia seeds.
- Again, place a layer of oats, drizzle honey and sprinkle cinnamon powder.
- Add soaked chia seeds and finally the Fabelle chocolate shavings layer.
- Garnish with chopped almonds.

Courtesy: Fabelle Chocolates.

RAM LADOO

WHAT YOU NEED

- Yellow *moong dal*: 150 gm
- Fresh coriander: 10 gm
- Green chilli: 3 gm
- Plain curd: 50 gm
- Ginger: 10 gm
- Asafoetida: 1 gm
- Onion: 10 gm
- Beetroot: 10 gm
- Carrot: 10 gm
- Sugar: 15 gm
- Oil: 200 ml
- Cumin: 2 gm
- Salt to taste

METHOD

- Soak yellow *moong dal* for about three to four hours. Then grind it in a mixture, make a course paste, add ginger, cumin and green chillies and coriander.
- Heat oil, make *wadas* and deep fry them until golden brown colour.
- Now cut them into half, arrange in plate and add mint *chutney*, sweet curd, and *saunth chutney* in it.
- Garnish it with chilli powder, onion rings, beetroot juliennes, radish juliennes and fresh coriander.

Courtesy: Executive Chef, Avinash Kumar, Novotel Imagicaa, Khopoli.



TROPICAL TRIFLE PUDDING

WHAT YOU NEED

- For vanilla sponge:**
- Refined flour: 260 gm
 - Sugar: 240 gm
 - Water: 180 gm
 - Milk: 90 gm
 - Oil: 100 ml
 - Baking soda: 2 gm
 - Vanilla essence: 5 gm

For berry compote:

- Frozen strawberries: 50 gm
- Frozen blueberries: 50 gm
- Frozen sour cherries: 50 gm
- Sugar: 80 gm
- Liquid glucose: 50 gm
- Water: 100 ml
- Cornstarch: 10 gm



METHOD

For Vanilla sponge:

- Mix flour, baking powder and baking soda.
- Mix water, milk and sugar and add oil.
- Fold in all the dry ingredients.
- Bake at 200 degree Celsius for seven to eight minutes.

For berry compote:

- Boil sugar, water and pour over berries.
- Let it cool down, strain the berries and add cornstarch to the liquid.
- Cook if further and add berries later and cool again.

Courtesy: Ramandeep Bagga, Pastry Chef, APCA Gurugram.



NEW YORK SOUR

WHAT YOU NEED

- Glenfiddich 12 year old: 50 ml
- Lemon juice: 22 ml
- Simple syrup/Honey water/Maple syrup: 15 ml
- Egg white (optional): 1
- Red wine infused with hibiscus leaves: 10 ml

METHOD

- Add all ingredients except the wine into a shaker with ice and shake.
- Strain into a rocks glass over fresh ice.
- Slowly pour the wine over the back of a bar spoon so that it floats on top of the drink.

Courtesy: Angad Singh Gandhi, Glenfiddich India Brand Ambassador.

Master beats apprentice

Man City ruins Arteta's Etihad return with 3-0 win

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City secured the first win of the Premier League's restart with a 3-0 victory over 10-man Arsenal at an empty Etihad on Wednesday as the English top flight's return was marked by protests against racial injustice.

Both sets of players came together before kick-off to take a knee, as had Aston Villa and Sheffield United players in the first match after a 100-day stoppage due to coronavirus.

City's victory closes the gap on Liverpool at the top to 22 points and means the Reds cannot secure the title when they face Everton in the Merseyside derby on Sunday.



Arsenal's David Luiz leaves the field after getting a red card during the Premier League match between Man City and Arsenal. AP

ARTETA'S PLAN UNDONE

There was little return to normality once the game did kick-off to the hollow ring of an empty stadium as a torrential downpour added to the difficult conditions for the players.

"We expected it to be weird," said City's Raheem Sterling. "The first 10 minutes it was getting used to the atmosphere and getting the cobwebs off."

However, City soon found their groove just as Arsenal were disrupted by two early injuries.

Gunnery boss Mikel Arteta had made a bold team selection on his return to the Etihad, where he spent three-and-a-half years as Guardiola's assistant.

The Spaniard led Alexandre Lacazette and club record signing

Nicolas Pepe alongside David Luiz on the bench, while Mesut Ozil did not even make the squad despite a temporary rule change to allow nine substitutes on the bench.

Guardiola had voiced his concerns for players' welfare over the lack of preparation time to get up to full fitness.

But it was Arteta's plan that was undone inside 20 minutes as Granit Xhaka and Pablo Mari hobbled off with Luiz replacing the latter.

"Everything went wrong from the first minute when Granit got injured," said Arteta, who was left in no doubt of the work he has ahead to close the gap between his

new employers and his old. As City began to turn the screw, only Bernd Leno in the Arsenal goal kept the score down before half-time.

However, Sterling made the breakthrough when Luiz failed to cut out Kevin De Bruyne's cross and the England international rifled home his first goal of 2020.

Five minutes into the second-half, Arsenal's tough task became an impossible one as Luiz pulled down Riyad Mahrez inside the box and was shown a red card.

"It was not the team's fault, it was my fault. The coach is amazing, all the players did amazing, it was just my fault," said Luiz,

whose contract is due to expire on June 30.

"I should have taken a different decision in the last two months to try and decide my future as early as possible but I didn't."

De Bruyne coolly sent Leno the wrong way from the penalty spot to end the game as a contest. There was one more serious-looking injury to come as City defender Eric Garcia was stretched from the field after being wiped out by his own goalkeeper Ederson leading to 11 minutes of added time.

"He is conscious, that is a good sign, but he is going to get an extra test," said Guardiola of Garcia's condition. City used the extra time to add

Chelsea complete deal to sign Werner

AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea announced the signing of German international forward Timo Werner from RB Leipzig on Thursday in the first major move of the summer transfer market.

Werner, 24, who has scored 32 goals in all competitions this season, had a 60 million euro (£53 million, \$67 million) release clause in his contract with the German club.

He will remain at Leipzig for the remaining two Bundesliga games of the season.

However, Werner will not be available for the end of Leipzig's 2019/20 Champions League campaign in August as he is set to join Chelsea in July.

"I am delighted to be signing for Chelsea, it is a very proud moment for me to be joining this great club," Werner said in a statement.

"I look forward to next season with my new team-mates, my new manager and of course the Chelsea fans. Together we have a very successful future

ahead of us."

The signing is a major coup for the Blues as they seek to close the gap on Liverpool and Manchester City at the top of the Premier League.

Werner was often linked with a move to Liverpool after he admitted to being flattered by Jurgen Klopp's interest.

However, concerned by the financial fallout from coronavirus, the European champions were not willing to pay Werner's release clause before it expired this month.

"We are very excited that Timo Werner has chosen to join Chelsea," said Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia.

"He is a player who was coveted all over Europe and it is no surprise, he has that rare mix of being young and exciting and yet established and proven."

Werner will not be available for the second leg of Chelsea's Champions League last 16 tie against Bayern Munich in August as he was not registered at the time the match was due to be played.

a third as substitute Phil Foden side-footed home after Sergio Agüero struck the post. Defeat is another blow for

Arsenal's hopes of a return to the Champions League next season as they remain in ninth, eight points off the top four.



Dortmund and Mainz player battle for ball possession. BVB/Twitter

No title, no points

BVB suffer shock defeat against Mainz; Leipzig play draw

AP ■ DORTMUND

Fortuna Düsseldorf stunned Leipzig with two late goals to draw 2-2 in the Bundesliga on Wednesday and boost its hopes of avoiding relegation.

Two goals in three minutes from Kevin Kampl and Timo Werner had Leipzig on course to consolidate third place and all but secure a place in the Champions League. But Steven Skrzybski netted in the 87th minute and Andre Hoffmann equalized in injury time to lift Düsseldorf out of an automatic relegation place with two rounds of the season remaining.

Leipzig would have been six points clear of fifth-place Borussia Mönchengladbach with a vastly superior goal difference, but now the gap is four points. The top four qualify for the Champions League.

Second-place Borussia Dortmund, which has already booked a place in Europe's premier competition, slumped to a 2-0 loss at home to Mainz.

That means Dortmund is just three points clear of Leipzig with its second place under threat ahead of a meeting between the two this weekend. Bayer Leverkusen moved fourth, three points behind Leipzig, with a 3-1 win over Rhine rival Cologne. Schalke lost 2-1 to Eintracht Frankfurt to stretch its club-record winless run to 14 games.

The latest loss was largely self-inflicted. Schalke midfielder Can Bozdogan was sent off in his second league start with his second yellow card in the 77th minute, just before Andre Silva missed a great chance to make it 3-1 to Frankfurt when he only had the goalkeeper to beat.

Also, Augsburg lost 3-1 at home to Hoffenheim.



Malinga not named in SL camp

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's T20 captain Lasith Malinga will not be part of team's second residential training camp, starting June 22 in Kandy, as a 24-member squad was announced on Thursday.

A six-member unit of coaches and other support staff will work with the players during the camp at the Pallekele stadium.

"The arrangements for the next camp is aimed at becoming the best prepared international team post-Covid-19 and to be ready to play at any given time," said Mickey Arthur, the head coach of the team.

The squad members will continue to follow the health procedures, followed during the first camp, conducted earlier this month in Colombo.

Sri Lanka's next scheduled international engagement, the tour by India later this month, has been canceled while the Bangladesh tour scheduled for late July is still doubtful.

High 5 for Atletico

AFP ■ PAMPLONA

Portugal youngster Joao Felix scored twice as Atletico Madrid moved into the Champions League places with a 5-0 La Liga thrashing of Osasuna on Wednesday.

Felix, 20, was making his first appearance since the Spanish top-flight returned from its coronavirus hiatus having been suspended for the weekend's draw at Athletic Bilbao and had been suffering from an ankle sprain since May.

"I felt good, coming back from injury after three months without playing and scoring two goals is very good for me," Felix told broadcaster Movistar.

The northerners remain in 11th after the defeat with an outside chance of making the Europa League but are also 10 points away from the relegation zone.

The hosts' coach Jagoba Arrasate was without captain Oier and Adrian Lopez who scored the equaliser at high-flying Real Sociedad, who can go back above Atletico



Yannick Carrasco and Marcos Llorente celebrates after win. ATM/Twitter

with a win at Alaves.

The visitors' coach Diego Simeone made four changes from Sunday's match in Bilbao including handing Felix, who joined the side from Benfica for 126 million euros (\$141 million) last summer, a start alongside Diego Costa in attack.

Felix opened the scoring 27 minutes when Lodi found space down the left flank and he

played the ball back to Saul Niguez in the box, his shot was deflected to Felix's path who smashed the ball to the top corner.

The hosts' best chance of an equaliser came six minutes before the break but David Garcia's long-range shot could only hit the advertising boards.

Felix doubled his account 10 minutes into the second half. Costa was fed the ball in the area and he squared it to Felix who side-footed home with ease for his eighth goal of the campaign in all competitions.

Felix was substituted on the 69-minute mark as Simeone sent on holding midfielder Thomas Parthey, who has been linked with a move to Arsenal.

Despite Felix leaving the field his side made sure of three points as Marcos Llorente, Alvaro Morata and Yannick Carrasco scored in the final 11 minutes.

The away side's Slovenia goalkeeper Jan Oblak became the first non-Spaniard to reach 100 La Liga clean sheets with his performance.

Juve pay price for penalties

AFP ■ ROME

Napoli beat Juventus 4-2 on penalties on Wednesday to lift the Italian Cup for the sixth time after the score was 0-0 after 90 minutes in an empty Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

Paulo Dybala and Danilo both missed their spot-kicks for the record 13-times Italian Cup champions Juventus with Arkadiusz Milik slotting in the winner for Napoli past veteran keeper Gianluigi Buffon.

It is the first trophy for the southerners since 2014, and also a maiden coaching trophy for Gattuso, who replaced Carlo Ancelotti in December, and claimed a crown he won as a player with AC Milan.

Organisers had scrapped extra-time to minimise injuries to players as football resumes in Italy after a three-month coronavirus shutdown.

'GOD OF FOOTBALL'
Gennaro Gattuso hailed the 'God of football' after he lifted his first coaching trophy



Napoli players celebrate after winning the Coppa Italia final. AP

For former Italy World Cup winner Gattuso his first coaching success comes after the death of his 37-year-old sister Francesca from a rare illness. "In life you cannot accept some things, but football has given me a lot and a great passion," said the 42-year-old former AC Milan great.

"I feel I have a great responsibility. I know I cannot give up and I have never done in my career. I saw a team tonight that

wanted to win, we deserved it. There's a God of football, who makes you reap all that you've sown."

"I am proud of what my lads have done. Now we must continue with this spirit also in the championship, to recover the disadvantage."

The defeat was a worrying sign for Maurizio Sarri's Juventus, who had failed to beat and score against AC Milan in the second leg of the semi-final.

The 61-year-old former Napoli coach had also been chasing his first coaching trophy in Italy, and second in his career after leading Chelsea to the Europa League last season.

"There is disappointment for the lads, for the club, for the fans," said Sarri.

"At this moment we lack brilliance to make the game dangerous, and without that brilliance, it becomes more difficult."

CR7 LACKS SHARPNESS

Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo missed a chance to break the deadlock after five minutes, having also missed a penalty in a goalless semi-final, second leg match against AC Milan last weekend.

Napoli had the best chances of the first half with Lorenzo Insigne's curling effort denied and Buffon clearing Diego Demme from close range.

Buffon pulled off a last-minute save on Nikola Maksimovic to send the game into penalties with extra-time scrapped.

Kerala ready to welcome Sree if he proves fitness

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tainted former India pacer Sreesanth will be considered for selection in the Kerala cricket team provided he proves fitness after his BCCI ban ends in September, state team coach Tinnu Yohannan said on Thursday.

Sreesanth, 37, was banned for life by the BCCI in August 2013 for his alleged involvement in the IPL spot-fixing scandal earlier that year. However, BCCI ombudsman D K Jain last year reduced the sentence to seven years.

"Sreesanth will be considered for this year's

Ranji Trophy. We are looking forward to having Sreesanth playing for Kerala again. Everyone in Kerala is also looking forward to that," Yohannan, also a former India pacer, said.

Yohannan said Sreesanth has enough time to work on his fitness.

"His (Sreesanth's) ban will lifted in September. The good thing is that there is time for him get ready. He is working hard on his game and his fitness..." the Kerala coach said.

"Then we will have to assess his physical fitness and game skills. Sree (Sreesanth) is

always in the scheme of things..." he added.

Yohannan also said Sreesanth is in touch with him constantly and has been working hard on his game.

"... Sreesanth has been in constant touch with me. He has been working hard on his bowling and fitness. However, he has not played competitive cricket for some seven years now, we have to evaluate fitness and skills."

"But we will be very happy to welcome him back into the Kerala side," Yohannan, who played three Tests and an equal number of ODIs, said.

Sreesanth has played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals.

Playing with Pink ball is different challenge: Pujara



MUMBAI: India's Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara on Thursday admitted that playing Day-Night Tests is an altogether different challenge for the batsman as the pace and visibility of the pink ball is very different from traditional red ball.

"First of all, to speak about the Day-Night Test or (to play) with the pink ball, I think it is different from what we are used to with the red ball," Pujara said on *Sony Ten Pit Stop* show.

"Although it is still the same format, but the (pink) ball's pace and visibility is very different. As a batsman you need to get used to it," he said.

Pujara, who has played 77 Tests, said that for a younger player, who is used to playing with the SG red ball, playing with the Pink Ball, would be a challenge.

"It won't be very easy, because you need to have such net sessions. To do that at the domestic level, it is not easy. If any upcoming player is coming, he is used to playing with the SG red ball

Our group is best pace unit India ever had: Shami

NEW DELHI: Senior India speedster Mohammed Shami rates the current pace attack as the best in country's Test cricket history.

India's pace quartet of Shami, Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav has been very consistent in the past two years.

"Even the world acknowledges that India never produced five genuine fast bowlers in a package at one go. Not in Indian cricket's history. We have bowlers in the reserves who can bowl 145 kms," Shami told Deep

Dasgupta in a chat for *ESPN Cricinfo*.

"This is the best attack as no one has any jealousy and everyone enjoys each other's success. It feels like a family," said Shami.

He then gave example of Ishant Sharma, the senior-most player in the Test line-up. "Look at Ishant Sharma. He is set to play 100 Tests.

"It's not a mean achievement but if you speak to him you will know what kind of a human being he is. He is so down to earth." **PTI**

Hope confident to repeat 2017 heroics

MANCHESTER: Windies batsman Shai Hope is confident of replicating his 2017 heroics against England in the upcoming series but admitted that his stats in the longest format haven't exactly been the best for a while.

Hope hasn't scored a ton since the 2017 Headingley Test heroics when he scored centuries in both the innings to lead his side to a much-cherished victory against England, chasing a daunting 322-run target.

"I just need to have the continued belief in myself, back my ability because I know I can get it done, it's not



like I haven't done it before," Hope told media via a video conference at Old Trafford ahead of the series starting July 8.

Hope says he has it in him to do well again when Windies take on England in a bio-secure environment.

"It's a case of making sure I make the most of these opportunities and do whatever I can to make the team win. Obviously, you're going to be hard on yourself, especially when you know you can get something done but it's not really portraying on the stats," he said.

The 26-year-old has an

impressive record in ODI cricket, where he has scored 3289 runs from 78 matches at an average of 52.20.

In the last three years, Hope has made eight centuries and 13 fifties in ODIs at an average of 57 — the best figures by a wicket-keeper in the West Indies cricket history.

Last year, he scored 1,345 runs at an average of 61.13 — including a memorable match-winning ton against India in Chennai but he has not enjoyed consistent success in Tests.

He wants to improve on that count.

"Red-ball batting is definitely my favourite part of the game but the runs and the stats aren't exactly where we want them to be, but I'm working towards that. I can't pinpoint anything (wrong) at this stage, because I wouldn't say my preparation has changed."

"I don't think it's anything major when it comes to my technical side of the game. There are certain things you can tweak, as you go along. I would probably say it's more of a mental thing. Hopefully, I can turn it around and move on from there," Hope said. **PTI**

in Ranji Trophy, so when you play him for India, he is ready for this format.

Pink ball needs adequate training.

"He is ready for a Test match. But when he comes to play with the Pink Ball, he will not have that much of an experience and that many net sessions also won't have happened, so I feel it will be a challenge for young player who is coming in and playing a pink ball test," added Pujara.

"But, yes guys (players) who have already played with pink ball in some domestic tournament and who have played one of the Pink Ball Test match, they will get used to it, but it is a different challenge altogether for a batsman," he added.

India are slated to tour Australia for a gruelling four Test match series, set to be begin at the Gabba in Brisbane from December 3.

The second Test will be a D-N affair, to be hosted by Adelaide Oval.

Pujara was then asked what advantages would the Australian speedsters like Starc and Cummins get while playing with the Pink Ball.

To which, he said, "I think they (Aus) bowlers will get more pace and bounce off the pitch, from what I have realised so far with the Pink Ball."

"Apart from this, the ball might swing more, but usually Kookaburra pink ball doesn't swing much, maybe the new ball gets old, it will be a good ball to bat against."

"Because be it the Kookaburra red ball or pink ball... And if you are playing in Australia, it is one of the best pitches to bat on," added Pujara, who had played a key role in India's win in Australia in 2018. **PTI**