

**OPINION 6**  
RESTORE THEIR DIGNITY

**WORLD 8**  
UK PARK STABBINGS THAT KILLED 3 DECLARED TERRORIST ATTACK

**SPORT 12**  
ATLETICO REACH THIRD IN LA LIGA

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ALWAYS IN AWE OF SINGERS:  
RASIKA  
10 VIVACITY

## Now, Army can open fire at LAC

### New rules of engagement at LAC, Indian soldiers given free hand in extreme provocation, India informs China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signalling a major change in the rules of engagement, the Government has now allowed Indian forces to open fire "under extreme provocation" at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The existing agreements between India and China will not be binding in such situations. China has been informed about the Government's decision.

In the aftermath of the killing of 20 Indian soldiers on June 15 in Ladakh, the local commanders have also been given "complete freedom of action" to handle situation at the tactical level.

These significant changes in the Indian policy were discussed extensively during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's review meeting of the Ladakh situation with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and the three Services Chiefs here on Sunday.

Giving details of the stock taking with the LAC continuing to be tense especially in Eastern Ladakh where the skirmish took place, sources said here the commanders were also given a free hand to assess the situation on the ground along the LAC and take appropriate action as required in case of any escalation from the other side.



- The existing agreements between India and China will not be binding in such situations
- The local commanders have also been given "complete freedom of action" to handle situation at the tactical level
- Till now, though they carried weapons but did not open fire as per an agreement with China in 1996
- India also conveyed that it will counter forcefully any kind of misstep or violence by China

"While we don't want escalation but if it happens by the other side, appropriate action will be taken. Clear cut instructions to this effect were given," sources said.

On change of rules of engagement and standard operating procedure during patrolling at the LAC, they said now the troops can use firearms under extreme provocation. Till now, though they carried weapons but did not open fire as per an agreement with China in 1996. It stipulates that "neither side shall open fire or conduct blast operations within two km of the LAC."

Besides informing the Chinese about this change in the rules of engagement, sources said India also conveyed that it will counter forcefully any kind of misstep or violence by China.

The Indian Army patrols

were now equipped with anti-riot gear including body armour, shields and fibre lathis. The Army commanders will have the full freedom to use any instrument under his command for operations at the LAC, officials said.

Meanwhile, Rajnath is also likely to take up this brutal assault issue and the situation on the LAC with his Russian counterpart during his visit to

Moscow on June 24. The Indian Defence Minister will attend the Victory Parade there to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.

The Parade is organised to honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other friendly people. Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu had invited Raksha Mantri to the Victory Parade,

which was originally scheduled on May 9, 2020 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Separately, a Tri-Service 75-Member Indian Military Contingent has already reached Moscow to participate in the Victory Parade along with Russian contingent and other invited contingents. The marching contingent taking part in the Victory Day Parade is led by a major rank officer of the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment.

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Govt seeks product-wise details to curb cheap, low quality imports from China

New Delhi: The Government has sought product-wise details of cheap imports, comparison with domestic prices and tax disadvantage, if any, from industry to curb low quality inbound shipments especially from China and boost domestic manufacturing, sources said.

They said a high level meeting to discuss ways to promote Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India), including cut in import dependence from China, also took place recently in the Prime Minister's office.

Detailed report on P9

## Sino-India border situation 'very tough', says Trump

US Prez talking to India, China to help them out

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Amidst the "very tough" standoff at the China-India border, US President Donald Trump has said his administration is talking to both countries to "help them" resolve their ongoing tensions.

Trump's comments came in the backdrop of the violent face-off between the Indian and Chinese Armies in the Galwan Valley in eastern

Ladakh on June 15 in which 20 Indian military personnel were killed, significantly escalating the already volatile situation in the region.

According to US Intelligence sources, more than 35 Chinese soldiers were also killed during the skirmish.

"It's a very tough situation. We're talking to India. We're talking to China. They've got a big problem there," Trump told reporters at the White House on Saturday before boarding Marine 1 on his way to his first post-Covid-19 election rally in Oklahoma.

Continued on Page 2

## Delhi, Mumbai exacerbate Covid situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra on Sunday clocked 3,870 new cases of Covid-19 and 101 deaths, taking the tally of infected people in the State to 1,32,075 and the total death count to 6,170. While Delhi and Tamil Nadu

continued to see huge spike, Telangana recorded biggest single day rise of 730 cases as coronavirus now began to rapidly spread beyond the border of TN in Southern India.

With this total cases in the country stood at 4,26,473 with 14,721 testing positive on Sunday. Delhi added 3,000 new Covid-19 positive cases to take the tally of infected persons in the national Capital to 59,746. As many as 63 deaths were reported during the last 24 hours, taking the tally of fatalities to 2,175. Tamil Nadu tested 2,532

positive cases during the last 24 hours, taking the tally of infected persons to 59,377. As many as 53 deaths were reported during the day due to coronavirus infection in the State where the death count now stands at 757.

Gujarat reported 580 cases if infection during the day, stretching the tally of positive cases to 27,317. The State reported 25 deaths due to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours, taking the tally of deceased to 1,664.

Uttar Pradesh tested 596 new cases of infection, jacking

up the total count of infected persons to 17,731. Twenty one deaths on Sunday led the tally of death count to 550.

Rajasthan reported 393 new cases of Covid-19 infection where those hit by the pandemic stand at 14,930. Twelve deaths on Sunday led the tally of deceased to 349.

West Bengal counted 414 new cases of infection, stretching the tally of coronavirus-hit patients to 13,945. Fifteen deaths were reported during the last 24 hours in the State that has total death count of 555.

Continued on Page 2

## Ultras behind May 20 attack on BSF jawans killed in Op All Out



Security personnel leave after the encounter with terrorists ended at Zoonimar area of Srinagar on Sunday PTI

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Four more terrorists, including those responsible for targeting BSF soldiers on the outskirts of Srinagar on May 20, were among those neutralised by the joint teams of security forces in two separate encounters in the last 24 hours in Kashmir Valley.

With this operation, the total tally of killed terrorists in the ongoing operation "All Out" has gone up to 114 since January 2020. In both encounters, security forces suffered no collateral

damage. The operation which was carried out in Zadibal area of Srinagar was conducted very professionally by the security forces in order to ensure zero collateral damage in the densely populated area.

According to police, three local terrorists were gunned down by the security forces in the Zadibal area of Srinagar while one more terrorist was shot during the ongoing operations in the Likhdipora area of Kulgam.

Continued on Page 2

## UP, Haryana, U'khand suspend Kanwar yatra amid Covid scare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The annual Kanwar yatra will not take place this year. The Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Uttarakhand have decided to suspend the annual yatra due to spread of coronavirus pandemic. The yatra takes place during the auspicious month of "Shravan" and it was scheduled to begin from July 6.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a virtual meeting with his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar and Uttarakhand counterpart Trivendra Singh Rawat on Saturday night to call off this year's yatra as the public health crisis continues to mount alarmingly across the



country.

Uttarakhand CM Rawat had also spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah who advised him to take a decision after thinking over it. Rawat will soon talk to the chief

ministers of Punjab, Delhi, and Rajasthan over the issue.

According to the UP Government officials, the three Chief Ministers agreed to establish dialogue with the "dharma gurus" (religious leaders) of their respective States to inform the people of the decision to suspend the Kanwar Yatra this year in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following the meeting with the Chief Ministers of Uttarakhand and Haryana, Adityanath had a virtual meeting with all police heads across Uttar Pradesh in which he asked them to meet the religious leaders, Kanwar Sanghs and Peace Committees in their respective areas.

Continued on Page 2

**Covid-19 IN INDIA**

**TOTAL CASES: 4,26,473**

**DEATHS: 13,695**

**RECOVERED: 2,37,050**

**ACTIVE: 1,75,677**

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,32,075	6,170	65,744
Delhi	59,746	2,175	33,013
Tamil Nadu	59,377	757	32,754
Gujarat	27,317	1,664	19,357
Uttar Pradesh	17,731	550	10,995
Rajasthan	14,691	341	11,395
West Bengal	13,945	555	8,297
Madhya Pradesh	11,903	515	9,015
Haryana	10,635	160	5,557
Karnataka	9,150	137	5,618
Andhra Pradesh	8,929	106	4,307
Telangana	7,802	210	3,731
Bihar	7,665	51	5,631
Jammu & Kashmir	5,956	82	3,382
Assam	5,388	9	3,361
Odisha	5,160	19	3,720

## CAPSULE

**SATYENDAR JAIN'S CONDITION IMPROVES**  
New Delhi: The condition of Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain has improved and fever subsided, officials said on Sunday, a day after he was administered plasma therapy at a private Covid-19 facility here. Also, a team of senior doctors from a few Government and private hospitals has been kept on standby to ensure the best medical care for Jain who is admitted in ICU of Max hospital, Saket, according to sources. P3

**CHINA MAY ENACT HK LAW BY JUNE END**  
Beijing: China's top lawmaking body has announced a three-day session for the end of this month, a move that raises the possibility of the enactment of a national security law for Hong Kong that has stirred debate and fears in the semi-autonomous territory. P8

## Yoga helps your body fight off debilitating virus: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Deadly coronavirus which has gripped the globe in its tentacles failed to dampen the spirit of the people in India and across the world as they celebrated International Day of Yoga on Sunday while observing social distancing norms.

In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation by exhorting the people to performing Asanas and Pranayam that may prove to be a key in helping the body fight off the virus threat. "Coronavirus attacks our respiratory system. A breathing exercise called 'Pranayam' is something that helps us the most in making our respiratory system strong," said Prime Minister Modi.

Similarly, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said yoga can be an effective solution for the high level of stress that the

pandemic has created in our lives. The theme of IDY this year was "yoga from home, yoga with family".

"Yoga is a relatively low-risk, high-yield approach to improving overall health and its full potential must be harnessed," he said addressing an event to mark the D-Day while Union Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Naik said, "Now every country of the world celebrates IDY and the public has embraced this event and adopting it as a celebration of India's culture and tradition", he stated.

The Minister said this year the D-day comes in the middle of a health emergency so the AYUSH Ministry has been fostering and facilitating the trend of practicing Yoga at home through various online and hybrid-online initiatives since the last three months.

Continued on Page 2



ITBP personnel practise Yoga on the International Yoga Day at 16,000 ft in Himachal Pradesh PTI

## SC to hear today pleas seeking recall of its order staying Rath Yatra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the pleas seeking recall of its order staying this year's historic Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra, attended by lakhs of people from across the world, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The apex court had on June 18 said in the interest of public health and safety of citizens, this year's Rath Yatra, which was scheduled for June 23, at Puri in Odisha cannot be allowed and "Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow" it.

A day after the order was passed, some applications were filed in the top court seeking recall and modification of its order.

Continued on Page 2

# Well-orchestrated plan to stall Rath Yatra: Puri seer

**Bhubaneswar:** Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati on Sunday alleged that there was a "well-orchestrated plan" to stall the Rath Yatra in Puri this year in view of COVID-19.

The statement of the Puri Shankaracharya came after several petitions were filed in the Supreme Court seeking modification in its earlier order to allow the Rath Yatra only in Puri.



Shankaracharya said in a statement.

"A number of people and organisations promptly moved the Supreme Court and filed applications seeking reconsideration of the order. If the court had wanted, it could have taken up for hearing the petitions on June 20," he said.

He said the courts do remain open even on holidays during special circumstances.

"Now with only one day left for Rath Yatra, it seems a well-orchestrated plan was hatched to stop Rath Yatra," the

Shankaracharya said in a statement.

Notably, the apex court had on June 18 stayed holding of Rath Yatra across Odisha in view of COVID-19 situation.

Puri Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb, in a letter on Saturday, requested Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take appropriate steps for approaching the Supreme Court for partial modification of its order so as to permit performance of Ratha Yatra only

at Puri. Puri BJP MLA Jayant Sarangi has also written a letter to the Chief Minister for holding of the annual festival in the pilgrim town.

Meanwhile, both Congress and BJP asked the state government to ensure that the traditional practices of Jagannath temple are upheld at any cost.

BJP's state unit president Samir Mohanty said the state government should pay importance to the suggestions of Puri Gajapati and hold talks with Shankaracharya.

Odisha Congress Committee president Niranjan Patnaik said the state government wakes up only when the crisis hits a peak.

"Unfortunately, the Odisha government wakes up only when the crisis hits a peak. It must initiate a discussion with stakeholders and find a way to preserve our ancient traditions. Otherwise, history will not forgive them," he added. **PTI**

# Centre praises BMC for virus growth-rate dip in Dharavi

**New Delhi:** The Centre praised the Mumbai civic body on Sunday for "actively" chasing the novel coronavirus in Dharavi, saying proactive measures reduced the growth rate of the infection in Asia's largest slum to 1.02 per cent in June from 12 per cent in April.

The Union Health Ministry also lauded the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for ensuring a steep decline of daily COVID-19 cases in Dharavi from an average of 43 in May to 19 in the third week of June. Through a pre-emptive, proactive and graded response policy, the Centre is taking several steps along with the states and Union territories for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19, the ministry said in a statement.

In this effort, various guidelines, advisories and treatment protocols have been developed

and shared with the states to strengthen the collective response toward combating COVID-19, the statement said.

Noting that several states have implemented these containment strategies and produced effective outcomes, the Centre said the efforts of the Maharashtra government and the BMC had shown encouraging results.

"As part of these efforts, they have actively chased the virus and aggressively conducted targeted tracing of COVID suspects," the ministry said.

"Being densely populated (2,27,136 persons/sqkm), Dharavi had 491 cases in April 2020 with a 12% growth rate and a case doubling period of 18 days," it said. "The proactive measures adopted by BMC reduced the COVID-19 growth rate to 4.3% in May 2020 and further to 1.02% in June." **PTI**

# Blockades lifted, operations resume at OIL's Baghjan wells

**Guwahati:** Oil India Limited on Sunday said most of its wells in Assam's Baghjan, which were shut due to protests by locals over a fire at a gas well after a days-long blowout, have resumed operations following a meeting with a representative body of residents mediated by the Tinsukia district administration.

The operations started between 7 pm and 8 pm on Saturday after the locals lifted their blockades of most of the oil and gas wells, it said.

A meeting was held between Tinsukia district administration, OIL representatives and Baghjan Gaon Milanijyoti Yuva Sangha, a local organisation, on Saturday to sort out the issues related to the blockade of the oil and gas wells across the district, the state-owned OIL said in a statement.

However, drilling and associated operations in five more areas, outside Baghjan, are still disrupted due to the

agitation, it said.

With gas flowing uncontrollably and the blaze raging at the PSU major's gas well in Tinsukia for the last 26 days, the company said it had lost 8,013 metric tonnes (MT) of crude oil and 10.24 million metric standard cubic metres (MMSCM) of natural gas output due to bandhs and blockades.

OIL said there was a production loss of 386 MT of crude oil and 0.37 MMSCM of natural gas on Saturday due to disruptions in 30 oil wells and three gas wells.

Well no. 5 at Baghjan has been spewing gas uncontrollably since May 27 and it caught fire on June 9, killing two of OIL's firefighters at the site.

Talking about the ongoing process to control the situation, OIL said, it has placed a second air compressor unit at the site to start the pump engine, while transportation of tested equip-

ment and machinery from the company's yard is underway.

The PSU said 90 per cent construction of a Bailey bridge by the Army over a water body abutting the well has been completed.

Various assessments and impact studies of the blowout and the blaze in villages and nearby forest areas are being conducted by multiple agencies such as TERI, CSIR-NEIST and Assam Agricultural University.

The blaze at the well is so massive that it can be seen from a distance of more than 30 kms with thick black smoke going up several metres high, endangering the local biodiversity in the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

Though there is no fire in the periphery of the site at present, OIL has declared an area up to 1.5 km of radius as "red zone" to avoid any untoward incident and damage to the people. **PTI**

# Power abuse in Manipur: Cong seeks legal remedy

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Opposition alliance, led by Congress, will now seek legal help on alleged abuse of power by the ruling BJP in Manipur. According to an AICC leader, former Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh has conveyed to the party high command that the Congress-led Secular Progressive Front (SPF) alliance has no option left but to approach the court.

A day before the Rajya Sabha election in the State which elected a BJP candidate, the SPF had submitted a joint memorandum to the State Government seeking a special Assembly session to adopt a resolution against the coalition Government led by N Biren

Singh.

The Front also moved for a no-confidence motion against Manipur Speaker Y Khemchand Singh for alleged abuse of power with regards to the disqualification cases of seven Congress turncoats.

SPF is a newly formed alliance comprising Congress, National People's Party (NPP) and a few MLAs of other parties, including three MLAs of the BJP who have defected to Congress.

A senior party leader questioned the ulterior motive of the BJP leadership as why the no-confidence motion against the government has been rejected twice even as the plea for the motion for floor test has not materialised. "As per the law, if a major ally of a coalition gov-

ernment withdraws its support, the government becomes a minority. But allowing the present government to continue is illegal. The Governor should conduct a floor test without much delay so that the party that can prove majority claims stake to forming a new government," said the party leader.

Former Congress CM Ibobi Singh had led a SPF delegation to meet the Governor on Friday evening after the Rajya Sabha polls were conducted and discussed the issue at length. Amid the political turmoil, BJP won the seat with 28 votes.

The opposition had resented during the process as three of the seven MLAs facing disqualification were allowed to vote while the remaining, including another MLA from

TMC, were disqualified. Apart from barring the seven MLAs from entering the Assembly, the High Court has also directed the Speaker not to pronounce the judgment of the disqualification.

Ibobi Singh expressed his discontentment over the alleged partiality and undermining of the law by the Speaker with regards to the judgment of the disqualification case.

"When all the MLAs are in the same case for the same reason, how could the Speaker disqualify only four? It is a very shameful act," Singh had said on the day at Imphal.

The former CM maintained that Congress could have easily won the RS seat had the Speaker not allowed the three defected MLAs.

# Serial killer 'Cyanide' Mohan convicted in 20th murder case

**Mangaluru:** A local court has convicted serial killer 'Cyanide' Mohan, holding him guilty in the rape and murder of a young woman from Kasaragod in Kerala in 2009.

This is the 20th and last of the murder cases registered against the criminal, who has killed several women using cyanide after befriending and raping them.

The quantum of punishment is expected to be pronounced on June 24.

Earlier, he had been awarded death sentence in five cases and life imprisonment in three cases. Two of the death penalties were later commuted to life imprisonment.

The prosecution case was that the 25-year-old victim, who was working as a cook in a ladies hostel in Kasaragod, got acquainted with Mohan in 2009.

He visited her house thrice and promised to marry her.

On July 8, 2009, the woman had left her house, saying she was going to a temple at Sullia. Mohan took her to Bengaluru and when the family members called him about her, informed them that they had got married and would return home soon.

He had taken the woman to a lodge near the bus stand.

She had a physical relationship with him and before leaving the next day, was asked

to leave her jewellery in the room.

They went to the bus stand where he gave her a cyanide laced tablet, making her believe that it is a contraceptive pill and left the place, the prosecution said. The woman consumed the tablet and collapsed near the toilet of the bus stand.

She was rushed to a hospital by a constable, but was declared dead on arrival. A case of unnatural death was then registered. After Mohan was arrested in October 2009, the victim's sister, seeing his pictures, identified him and filed a complaint, following which the criminal investigation department took up the probe. **PTI**

# Now, Army can...

**From Page 1**

During the review meeting, Rajnath was also apprised of the operational readiness of the Armed forces all along the LAC since the stand-offs last month. The armed forces have gone on full alert along the LAC following the Galwan clash. The IAF has forward deployed its frontline fighters including Su-30MKIs, Mig-29UPG and its latest acquisition the AH-64E Apache heavy attack helicopter, meant to neutralise armoured formations, has been deployed in Leh. The CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters too have been deployed in this region. China has deployed artillery, armoured vehicles and tanks close to the LAC on its side. The Army has moved additional divisions from the plains and other forward areas to Ladakh and other high altitude areas for acclimatisation. In fact, this move came after the standoffs began on May 05, sources said.

# SC to hear today pleas seeking...

**From Page 1**

A single judge bench of Justice S Ravindra Bhat is scheduled to hear on Monday these applications, including the one filed by Jagannath Sanskruti Jana Jagarana Manch, which has urged the court to allow the Rath Yatra.

While the Rath Yatra festival, held over 10-12 days with lakhs of people participating, was scheduled for June 23, the 'Bahuda Jatra' (return car festival) was fixed for July 1.

Three heavily-built wooden chariots of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are traditionally pulled by thousands of devotees over a distance of three kilometres twice during the nine-day festival of the Trinity at Puri.

The application filed by 'Jagannath Sanskruti Jana Jagarana Manch' has sought recall and modification of the June 18 order, saying the festival is deeply associated to the religious beliefs of millions of devotees of Lord Jagannath and it is "not impossible and impracticable" for the state and district administration to conduct the Rath Yatra by maintaining social distancing and following the Centre's guidelines.

Besides this, a separate application seeking modification of the

June 18 order has been filed by one Aftab Hossen, who has said that "as per the ritual of Lord Jagannath, the Rath Yatra is performed in every year and if one year it is not performed, same cannot be performed for the next 12 years".

Hossen, while urging the apex court to modify its order and allow the Rath Yatra, has said in his application that restraining the Rath Yatra this year would practically mean restraining it for the next 12 years and this could create "great repercussion and chaos" in the Lord Jagannath culture and rituals.

In its separate application, the 'Jagannath Sanskruti Jana Jagarana Manch' has said that as per the earlier direction of the Orissa High Court as well as decision of the state government, 372 people were engaged in the construction of three raths/chariots for more than one-and-half months and all were isolated, tested and found COVID-19 negative.

"Under the above facts and circumstances the applicant most humbly prayed that the order dated June 18, 2020 as passed by this court may be recalled and modified to the extent that the Rath Yatra ritual may be performed with the help of 500-600 servitors by following the guidelines, maintaining social distancing and with certain impositions and conditions," said the application, filed through advocate Hitendra Nath Rath.

The application has further said that Puri municipality is categorised as a 'green zone' and these facts were not placed before the apex court during the hearing on June 18. "Under the above facts and circumstances, it is not possible and impracticable for the state government and the district administration to conduct the Rath Yatra by maintaining social distancing and following the guidelines of the central government and the state government," it said.

"The Rath Yatra can be performed with the help of 500-600 servitors by maintaining social distance on the road of three km stretch and by imposing the restrictions as well as imposing section 144 of the CrPC," it said.

The top court's June 18 order had come on a PIL filed by an Odisha-based NGO seeking cancellation or postponement of this year's Rath Yatra. Two pleas were filed in the apex court seeking cancellation or postponement of the historic 'Rath Yatra'.

Besides the PIL filed by NGO 'Odisha Vikas Parishad', seeking stay on holding of the annual festival, an appeal has been filed by one Surendra Panigrahi of 'Bhartiya Bikash Parishad' against the Orissa High Court order of June 9, which had asked the state government to decide on holding the 'Rath Yatra' festival in line with the COVID-19 guidelines.

# Ultras behind May 20 attack on...

**From Page 1**

According to police, the killed terrorist was identified as Tayab Waleed aka Imran Bhai aka Gazi Baba, a Pakistani national affiliated with proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

He was operational commander of JeM and was an expert in making IEDs besides being a sharpshooter, said police records. Arms and ammunition including one AK rifle, one M-4 carbine, a pistol and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter.

In Srinagar, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar said terrorists killed in Zaidibal were involved in the killing of two personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) near Pandach Chowk on May 20 during Ramzan.

This is the second encounter which took place in Srinagar in the last one month. Earlier on May 19, Junaid Sehrai, a top Hizbul Mujahideen commander and son of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Chairman Mohd Ashraf Sehrai was eliminated by the security forces in the downtown area of Nawakadal.

According to a police

# Delhi...

**From Page 1**

Madhya Pradesh reported 179 new cases, taking the tally of infected persons to 11,903. Fourteen persons succumbed to the infection in the State that has a total death count of 515.

Haryana recorded 412 positive cases on Sunday where the number of infected persons has reached 10,635. Eleven deaths during the day contributed to the total tally of deceased to 160.

Karnataka added 453 new cases to perk up the tally of infected persons to 9,150. The total death count in the State stands at 137 including five casualties on Sunday.

Andhra Pradesh also added 477 new cases of infection and the tally of those hit by the pandemic is now 8,929. The death count in the State is now 106 including five fatalities during the last 24 hours.

Bihar added 162 new cases where the tally of infected persons as reached 7,665. Two deaths were reported during the day in the State that has a total death count of 51.

Telangana on Sunday reported 730 new cases and seven deaths, taking the total number of infected persons in the State to 7,802 and the toll to 210. Jammu and Kashmir reported 122 positive cases, taking the tally of infected persons to 5,956. The Union Territory has a death count of 82 including one casualty on Sunday. Assam added 133 patients to stretch the tally to 5,388 positive cases. The State has a death count of just nine and no casualty was reported during the day. Odisha reported 304 new cases where a total of 5,160 people have been hit by the pandemic. Four deaths were reported during the day in the State that has total death count of 19 till so far.

# UP, Haryana, U'khand suspend...

**From Page 1**

In UP, the CM has also directed them to ensure compliance of Covid-19 protocol and ensure that no more than 5 people go for 'Jal Abhishek' at the local temples and make all arrangements for the safety and security of the devotees.

On the other hand, the State Government has also asked Muslim clerics to celebrate the coming festival Eid-ul-Zuha in the first week of August following the norms of Covid restrictions.

The Kanwar Yatra is an annual pilgrimage of Shiv's devotees, known as Kanwaris, to places like Haridwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri in Uttarakhand and Sultapur in

# Yoga helps...

**From Page 1**

Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said that in the new scenario, the aim of IDY is to focus on its health-rewards and to do Yoga at home on Yoga Day.

The day was observed across the countries, though it was a low-key affair in view of Covid-19. A digital projection and a series of webinars and live online yoga sessions marked the Day in the UK where the Indian High Commission in London organised a digital projection reflecting the ancient Indian practice and its many benefits at the Westfield Stratford City shopping centre in east London.

Indian Embassies in countries like Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, China too observed the day with low-key events due to Covid-19. In China, the main event was held at the India House where Indian Ambassador Vikram Misri led the celebration, with the participation of Indian, foreign diplomats and their families.

In India, Chief Ministers from all the States performed yoga asnas at their homes with their family members and supporters following social distancing norms.

# Bihar to fetch holy waters of river Ganga, which they then carry back to temples near their homes.

Millions travel by foot in groups of hundreds of kilometers chanting 'bol bom, singing bhajans and dancing to bring back holy water from Ganga for Lord Shiva established in their respective Shiva shrines.

In 2019, over four crore devotees visited Haridwar along during the auspicious month of Shravana.

Until the late 1980s, the yatra used to be a small affair undertaken by only a few devotees. However, the yatra also gained popularity among the young in a development that coincided with the mandir movement in the early 90s.

Earlier in April, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) had announced the cancellation of the Amarnath Yatra due to coronavirus pandemic.

# Sino-India border situation 'very tough', says Trump

**From page 1**

"They've come to blows, and we'll see what happens. We'll try and help them out," Trump said when asked about his assessment of the situation between India and China.

Over the past few days, the entire Trump Administration has rallied behind India against the illegitimate incursions of the Chinese Army into the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.

Trump last month offered to "mediate or arbitrate" the raging border dispute between India and China, saying he was "ready, willing and able" to ease

the tensions.

India virtually rejected his offer to mediate, saying it was engaged with China to peacefully resolve the ongoing border row.

China also said both the countries have proper mechanisms and communication channels to resolve their issues through dialogue and consultations.

The United States has accused China of escalating border tension with India and other neighbours by trying to take benefit of these countries busy fighting coronavirus pandemic.

"The PLA (People's Liberation Army) has escalated border tensions with India, the world's most populous democracy. It's militarizing the South China Sea and illegally claiming more territory there, threatening vital sea lanes," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, in a major speech on China a day earlier.

In his virtual address on 'Europe and the China Challenge' during the 2020 Copenhagen Democracy Summit on Friday, Pompeo described the ruling Chinese Communist Party as a 'rogue actor'.

Early this week, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said the president is aware of the situation and the US is monitoring the situation between Indian and Chinese forces along the line of actual control in Eastern Ladakh.

"During a phone call on June 2 that Trump had with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they did discuss the situation on the Indo-China border," McEnany said.

"Trump and Modi have a terrific relationship and trust between them," Al Mason, co-chair of the Trump Victory Indian American Finance Committee, said, adding that the statements coming from the White House, the State

Department and the US Embassy in New Delhi is reflective of this.

Coming out in support of India, Texas Congressman Lance Gooden said that China cannot be trusted.

"As more news comes out about the deadly conflict between China and India, once again CHINA appears to be an aggressive bad actor," the Republican Congressman said.

"The CCP (Chinese Communist Party) cannot be taken at their word, EVER," Gooden said in a tweet.

On the Senate floor, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that "on land, for the sake of grabbing territory, the PLA appears to have instigated the most violent clash between China and India since those nations went to war in 1962." "Needless to say, the rest of the world has watched with grave concern this violent exchange between two nuclear states. We are encouraging de-

escalation and hoping for peace," McConnell said.

Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Stillwell earlier said that this Chinese activity is similar to activity the world has seen in the past on border disputes with the People's Republic of China.

"I would point you to those, I think it was 2015 when Xi Jinping travelled to India the first time," he said.

"The PLA (People's Liberation Army) invaded this contested area deeper and longer, with more people, than ever before historically. Whether that was a negotiating tactic or just a punch in the nose to demonstrate their superiority, I don't know," he told reporters early this week.

"But then we saw the Doklam issue down near Bhutan, where we saw similar concerns. I wish I knew. Again, we don't have a lot of visibility and we don't have a lot of open

dialogue with our Chinese counterparts, and honestly I'd like to see more of that if we can," Stillwell said.

US experts feel that the latest Chinese behaviour will swing India towards China.

"Even before the latest flareup, a majority of Indian strategists saw Chinese assertiveness as India's biggest foreign-policy challenge. This has resulted in an unspoken but unmistakable swing toward the US," Jeff Smith from The Heritage Foundation think tank said.

"The bullying of US partners and allies needs to come at a cost," Smith said in a tweet. The US is currently involved in a tense showdown with China on the issue of trade, the origins of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Beijing's new security crackdown in Hong Kong and the communist giant's aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea.

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

# Jain's health improves after plasma therapy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The health condition of Delhi Health Minister Satendar Jain has improved after being administered plasma therapy. According to Government officials, State (Delhi) Health Department, his fever has subsided, oxygen level has improved. Doctors said that he can be shifted to the general ward by Monday.

According to senior officials, a team of doctors from Government and private hospitals has been kept on standby to ensure the best medical care to 55-year-old Health Minister Jain, admitted in ICU of a private Covid-19 facility here.

His condition is improving



and he is being monitored by doctors, an official said. The additional team includes doctors from Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH), Maulana Azad Medical College, and another leading private hospital, official added. He was shifted to the ICU

of the Max Hospital from the RGSSH, a city government facility, after his condition had deteriorated.

Earlier, Doctors at the RGSSH on Thursday had said the minister had been diagnosed with pneumonia and his oxygen saturation level had also dipped, prompting hospital authorities to shift him to an intensive care unit.

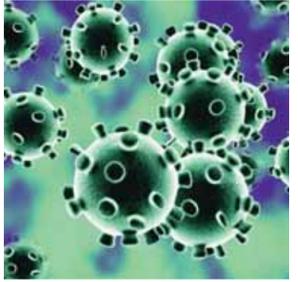
He had tested positive for Covid-19 on June 17, a day after he was admitted to RGSSH, after running high-grade fever and suffering sudden drop in oxygen levels.

# Civic bodies, DCPs, hospitals to work under DMs: DDMA

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

In order to ensure better management to deal with Covid-19 pandemic, Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has issued an order directing all the Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs), Deputy Commissioners of Municipal Corporations, district heads of other departments and heads of all Government hospitals to report to the respective District Magistrate and shall function under their command, control and supervision.

In compliance with the decision taken in the meeting held in the Ministry of Home Affairs, on 14th June, the direction was issued in exercise of powers conferred under section 22 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005,



DDMA said in a statement. An order in this regard has been issued by the Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev.

The DDMA in its order said that there shall be unified command and control in the district and therefore all

the performance of all the district level officers including DCPs and DCs of MCD shall be assessed by the respective District Magistrate and accordingly conveyed to their reporting authorities.

"The District Magistrate is thus responsible for overall management of Covid-19 pandemic as head of DDMA and shall implement all the guidelines, 'Standard Operating Procedure', orders, directions of DDMA, Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI and National Disaster Management Authority," it said.

All the departments, autonomous bodies, public sector units, corporations, local bodies, Delhi Police shall ensure strict compliance of this order, it added.

DDMA in the order further said that "the authority is satisfied that Delhi is threatened with the spread of

Covid-19 epidemic, which has already been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, and has considered it necessary to take effective measures to prevent its spread in Delhi.

"DDMA has issued various orders, instructions from time to time to all authorities concerned to take all required measures to appropriately deal with the situation. And whereas, in Delhi other important departments like Police and Municipal Corporations have district territories which are not co-terminus with the revenue districts in Delhi," it said.

Delhi on Sunday witnessed the highest single-day spike of 3,000 Covid-19 cases. According to a health bulletin issued by the Delhi Government there are 59746 positive cases in the national capital including 24558 active cases.

# First inmate at Mandoli jail succumbs to Covid-19

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 62-year-old inmate died of Covid-19 inside Mandoli jail. It is the first casualty in Delhi's prisons. It prompted the authorities to test 28 other inmates who were sharing the barrack with the man.

The prison officials said that Kanwar Singh passed away on June 15 and his Covid-19 test report came out positive on Saturday.

Singh was serving life sentence in a 2016 murder case. He was lodged in Central Jail number -14, Mandoli and was asymptomatic, the officials said.

"On June 15, some members of his barrack tried to wake him up but he did not respond. Soon the jail staff took him to a doctor who then declared him dead," said the officials.

Sandeep Goel, the Director General, Delhi Prisons said that inquest proceedings were conducted by the metropolitan magistrate and a Covid-19 test was also done. "His test report came out positive on Saturday, Goel said. However, the source of infection was not known yet, according to the officials.

Twenty-eight other members of the barrack are being tested for the virus, said the officials.

Delhi Prison comprises Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli Jail. Till now, 23 inmates of Delhi Prison have been found positive for Covid-19, out of them 16 recovered from the disease and one died.

According to the officials, 45 prison staffers have tested positive for coronavirus so far. Of them, seven have recovered from the infection.

# 5 more Covid patients die in G'gram, 120 new cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Five more coronavirus patients died on Sunday in Gurugram, taking the district's total death toll to 64, the highest in any district in Haryana. Besides, 120 new cases were reported in the district.

Gurugram has registered 4,427 cases so far in areas falling under different police stations, including 36 who died due to comorbidities and remaining 28 without comorbidities, Gurugram Civil Surgeon Dr Virender Yadav said.

"In the district around 2,524 patients have been cured and discharged. Gurugram now has 1,839 active cases, including 1,239 in-home quarantine. Remaining 434 patients are admitted in private, government and Covid care centres in the district while 116

patients were recovered on Sunday," Yadav said.

Ashok Sangwan, Divisional Commissioner of Gurugram range, said: "We have adequate beds, ventilators, beds with oxygen facility, in hospitals and the recuperation rate is more than 50 per cent here. So, no need to worry. We have 4,500 beds and the hospitals have the capacity to further enhance the bed capacity."

"Our an initiative of developing isolation centres in residential complexes has also been fruitful as 10 residential societies have come forward and given space on their premises," the officer said.

"We are also in conversation with hotels and guest-houses to set up isolation centres. Such facilities will be ideal for patients with no separate space in their homes," Sangwan said.

# Launch WhatsApp number to tackle waterlogging: G'gram MLA

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Ahead of the approaching monsoon rain and to deal with waterlogging issues in the city this year Gurugram MLA Sudhir Singla has asked officials of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to launch a WhatsApp number and interconnect with multiple agencies like District Administration, Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), PWD and the police department to share waterlogging and other related issues on the group to resolve the problem.

The direction comes after Singla inspected several key locations in the district and on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway along with officials of the NHAI, MCG, PWD, GMDA and the fire department to see the preparations on the ground.

During the visit the MLA took stock of the city's drains are clean, pump-sets functional, and a list of emergency personnel is ready so that work takes place in a coordinated

manner when its downpour.

Last year, the city was plagued by massive traffic congestion due to lack of coordination between various departments. Now this year the various agencies have put their efforts to ensure that such situations do not arise during the rainy session.

"Mobile pump vans, Generator sets and additional water pumps have been installed along with operators at multiple underpasses and different stretches in the city and a special team of the district administration will be on patrol during the monsoon season to deal with the water logging problem across the city," Singla said.

Singla also instructed the NHAI officials to ensure hassle-free drive at the National Highway and keep an eye on waterlogging on the expressway.

"I will be in regular touch with the officials so that the residents could face such problems during the monsoon and the offices have also assured me no issues will be aroused this year," he said.

The NHAI officials assured the MLA that they have made



all required efforts during the monsoon season so that the commuters on Delhi-Gurugram expressway and residents didn't face any problem related to the traffic jams.

Furthermore, the Gurugram police have identified 24 points within the city which could be vulnerable to heavy traffic jams.

These points are Shankar Chowk, Atlas Chowk, Iffco Chowk, Signature Tower underpass, Sector-31, Jharsa Chowk, Rajiv Chowk underpass, Hero Honda Chowk underpass, Vatika Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Bata Chowk, Atul Kataria Chowk, Huda City Centre, Hanuman Chowk, Ghata More, Kherki Daula toll

plaza, Rampura Chowk, IMT Chowk in Manesar, Panchgaon Chowk, Bilaspur Chowk, Kapriwas, Himgiri Chowk sector-10, Ambedkar Chowk in Sohna and Jamalpur in Pataudi. The Department has planned to deploy additional force to manage traffic during the rainy season.



People participate in a mass yoga programme, organised by the Delhi BJP to mark the 6th International Day of Yoga, at Lodhi Gardens in New Delhi on Sunday

# Rlys adopts single-window system for vendors' nod

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Now a vendor approved for an item by any of the 'Vendor Approving Agency' of Indian Railways shall be considered as approved vendor by all railway units for that particular item.

"The decision shall not only save the time and effort of vendors significantly doing away with need of approaching multiple vendor approving agencies for participating in tenders of all railway units but also increase the competition in public procurement making it more economical and efficient," Indian Railways said in a statement.

Earlier, any vendor approved at one establishment was not automatically eligible

to be considered for procurement at other establishments and they had to apply for approval at multiple establishments to get considered, it said, adding that now even the Railways would have more options to choose from in a transparent manner.

The ministry said that it has taken one more important step to ease the procurement system in the network in a series of its continuous endeavors in enhancing transparency, efficiency and ease of doing business in all its activities.

With an aim to ease procurement norms and improve ease of doing business, the Ministry of Railways has taken an important decision by identifying safety and critical items where quality is of paramount



importance, and are procured from vendors approved by its nominated vendor approving agencies for the item.

This shall also promote better utilization of manufacturing capacity of Industry in India, helping the cause of 'Make in India,' it said.

# Retired MEA official's wife stabbed to death during robbery bid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a tragic incident, a 94-year-old retired External Affairs Ministry official was attacked and his 88-year-old wife stabbed to death during a robbery bid at their home in southwest Delhi's Safdarjung Enclave. Police said that the incident occurred on Saturday night.

Police said that the victim, B R Chawla and his wife Kanta Chawla lived in their home after the death of their two children a few years ago.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place around 9 pm on Saturday when the recently-appointed security guard of their building arrived at their home with his two-three associates.

"The security guard and his associates barged inside the Chawla house, overpowered the couple and forced them to sit on a sofa. When Kanta tried to resist the robbery bid, one of the accused stabbed her with a sharp object. She became

unconscious and fell on the sofa," said the senior police official.

"The men then went to their bedroom and managed to flee after taking away all the cash and jewellery kept in their cupboard," he said.

"While his wife was lying injured, the man managed to go outside the house to alert the neighbours who informed the Residents Welfare Association (RWA) president. The woman was taken to a nearby hospital where she succumbed to the injuries, he said.

A case has been registered and teams have been formed to nab the culprits, police said, adding that CCTV cameras are also being scanned.

# INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

## Yoga session for cops organised

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the 'International Yoga Day', the Delhi Police organised an hour-long yoga session for its personnel to de-stress them and enhance their immunity.

Around 100 officers and personnel of Delhi traffic police led by its Taj Hassan, the Special Commissioner of Police, traffic and Meenu



Chaudhary, the Joint Commissioner of Police, traffic took part in the yoga session.

According to police, the idea was to help them de-stress and enhance their immunity as well as increase their concentration level through certain yoga 'asanas' such as 'Sukshma Vyayam', 'Bramari', 'Nadi Shodan Pranayam',

'Bhastrika Pranayam' and 'Chakra' meditation.

The Police Families Welfare Society (PFWS) also organised a yoga session at the office of their president Pratima Shrivastava.

A limited number of team leaders and officers attended the event due to social distancing norms in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Shah chairs meet with L-G, CM over Covid situation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rising concern over the rapid growth of the novel coronavirus cases, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday chaired a review meeting with Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to discuss strengthening of medical services in severely impacted areas.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) tweeted: "CM Arvind Kejriwal and Dy CM @msisodia discussed key strategies with HM Amit Shah on making contact tracing more robust and further strengthening of medical services in severely impacted areas."

This is the third such meeting after the Covid cases in Delhi rose exponentially.

The meeting was focused on ways to tackle the corona pandemic in the city, availability of medical services among others, a government official said.

The home minister has been regularly holding meet-



ings over the Covid-19 crisis. This meeting came at the time after a sudden spike in positive cases was recorded in the National Capital.

Delhi on Sunday witnessed the highest single-day spike of 3,000 COVID-19 cases. According to a health bulletin issued by the Delhi Government there are 59746 positive cases in the national capital including 24558 active cases.

Earlier, the testing capacity and quick delivery of results in Delhi - testing via Rapid Antigen methodology was started at 193 testing Centres in the national capital with the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

# Follow home-isolation rules strictly, States, UTs told



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

As cases continue to rise and milder patients get shifted to home isolation, the Union Health Ministry has asked all States and Union Territories to ensure strict implementation of guidelines on home isolation at the field level. It cautioned against any laxity saying it might lead to the spread of disease among the family members and neighbours of the patient.

The country is already witnessing a surge in cases each passing day. At least 306 deaths and highest single-day spike of 15,413 new Covid-19 positive cases have been reported in India in the last 24 hours. Positive cases in India have crossed 4 Lakh, taking the

## Cipla, Hetero granted marketing authorisation of Remdesivir

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

A day after the DCGI gave permission to domestic firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals to manufacture anti-viral drug Favipiravir, two domestic pharmaceutical companies—Cipla and Hetero—have been granted marketing authorisation of anti-viral drug Remdesivir only for “restricted emergency use” on Covid-19 patients with moderate disease (those on oxygen).

With this development, India is soon to begin the domestic production of anti-viral drug remdesivir which would have efficacy, stability, safety for “restricted emergency use” on Covid-19 patients, a senior official from the DCGI said.

The DCGI has granted its permission to US-based Gilead Sciences for marketing authorisation of its anti-viral drug Remdesivir in India for “restricted emergency use” on hospitalised Covid-19 patients in the wake of virus pandemic.

The Union Health Ministry had also approved the use of remdesivir for patients with mild COVID-19 symptoms under the ‘Clinical Management Protocols for COVID-19’ guidelines issued recently.

However, it is not recommended for those with severe

renal impairment and high level of liver enzymes, pregnant and lactating women, and those below 12 years, the document on ‘Clinical Management Protocols for COVID-19’ says.

The drug, administered in the form of injection, should be given at a dose of 200 mg on day one followed by 100 mg daily for five days, says the guidelines.

To administer remdesivir in COVID-19 patients, hospitals need to take consent from them. Results of additional clinical trials, active post-marketing surveillance data and reporting of serious adverse events also need to be submitted, said the official.

During the last 24 hours, a total of 13,925 Covid-19 patients have been cured. The recovery rate has further improved to 55.49 per cent amongst Covid-19 patients, the Ministry said.

It said that there are 547 Real-Time RT PCR based testing labs had increased to 722 and private labs had increased to 259.

“The number of patients recovering from Covid-19 continues to increase. So far, a total of 2,27,755 patients have been cured.

## Pay full salary, stipend to faculties, students and other employees: DCI

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Dental Council of India (DCI) has asked private dental colleges across the country to pay full salary and stipend to the faculties, students and other employees during Covid-19 lockdown period or face strict action in case of failing to do so.

The move followed several complaints from the teaching and non-teaching staff of non-payment and in many cases deduction in salaries and stipend to them by the dental colleges.

In a circular issued to them recently, the top dental regulator said that they (medical colleges) need to extend their cooperation by making payment of salary of any faculty or other employees working in their colleges during the Covid-19 pandemic.

They did not attend the offices or classes due to lockdown imposed by the Government to check the spread of Coronavirus. The Council also reminded the colleges about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministry of Labour and Employment’s advisories issued from time to time, asking the private sector to not to deduct or cut the salary of the people working with the institutions in the tough times when Covid-19 has swept the world.

“This Council despite having issued its advisory in this regard, has received various representations from teaching

and non-teaching staff of the self-financed dental colleges to effect that the colleges are not honoring the instructions issued by the DCI and they are not making the payment of their salary on time,” said a senior official from the DCI.

“We have asked the colleges to ensure strict compliance of the order, failing which the representations made by teaching and non-teaching staff shall be considered and necessary action will be taken again such defaulting dental colleges,” said the official.

Maybe some institutions, which are struggling, are resorting to such tactics. It’s criminal to stop payment or cut salary in the present situation, he said adding this will not be taken lightly.

Currently, there are 1,69,451 active cases in the country.

The number of recovered patients has crossed the number of active patients by 58,305 on Sunday.

number of samples are being tested every day.

According to the statement, in the last 24 hours, 1,90,730 samples were tested.

The total number of samples tested thus far is

## Works Directorate of CRPF disinfected

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Works Directorate of the CRPF was disinfected on Sunday after at least two Covid-19 positive cases were detected at the CRPF headquarters here, officials said.

A dozen primary contacts of the infected persons have been quarantined for 14 days and they will be subjected to Covid test soon, they said.

On Sunday, overall 27 personnel of the CRPF tested positive across the country. The CRPF has reported 873 Covid-19 positive cases till now out of which 420 are active and 447 have recovered



and six have succumbed to the pandemic.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Sunday reported 14 positive cases even as 12 other positive cases have

turned negative during the last 24 hours and they have been discharged, paramilitary spokesperson Vivek Pandey said.

The ITBP patients are being managed at various Covid-19 designated hospitals including 16 at CAPF Referral Hospital, Greater Noida, two at Safdarjang Hospital, one at

MCD Hospital, New Delhi, two at Tezpur, three at Rajnandgaon, one at Madurai, five at Raipur, five at Jagdalpur, one at Jabalpur and 10 at Prayagraj/ Koshambi. Four patients at admitted at Dehradun, one at Samba, five at Kathihar and one each at Shimla and Jammu.

Besides the ITBP infected personnel, the CAPF Referral Hospital, Greater Noida is also managing five BSF personnel, 15 CRPF men, 37 CISF personnel, one NDRF employee, eight SSB men, five from NSG, one of BPR&D, seven from NIA, three from Intelligence Bureau, one each from CBI and NTRCO.

## Modi is ‘Surrender Modi’: Rahul

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister over the ongoing border conflict with China in Ladakh, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that Narendra Modi “is actually Surrender Modi”.

The former Congress president referred to an article published in Japan Times, which claimed that India’s “policy of appeasement” has failed to deter China from adopting an aggressive approach towards India.

“After years of bending over backward to appease China, Modi has received yet another Chinese encroachment on Indian territory. Will this be enough to persuade him to change his approach?” the article wrote.

The article further stated that Narendra Modi’s vision is clouded by “naive hope that, by appeasing China, he could reset the bilateral relationship and weaken China’s ties with Pakistan.”

His party colleague Kapil Sibal on too slammed the Prime Minister over the statement he made at the all-party meeting and then on the PMO’s clarification on the statement, demanding an explanation from him. Sibal the alleged that the Prime Minister has contradicted his own ministers.

On Saturday, Rahul Gandhi had questioned why and where were the Indian soldiers killed if the land, where the “violent face-off” happened, was Chinese territory.

“PM has surrendered Indian territory to Chinese aggression. If the land was Chinese: 1. Why were our soldiers killed? 2. Where were they killed?” he tweeted. Former Home Minister P Chidambaram too had posted serious Questions to the government on the China crisis.

Sibal raised the issue of the PM’s statement in the all-party meeting that “no one intruded

## BJP seeks apology from RaGa

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

New Delhi: The running squabble between the ruling BJP and the Congress on the India-China border stand-off continued on Sunday despite an all-party meet on Friday with BJP demanding an apology from former Congress president Rahul Gandhi for his sharp jibe on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and doubting his version on the status of Indian boundary following border escalation by the Beijing.

“Congress party and its leader Rahul Gandhi is crossing the line and maligning the image of the country. The country will not tolerate you calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi as ‘Surrender Modi’, said BJP leader and party spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain.

BJP leaders have been describing Rahul as Twitter-happy “immature politician”, who according to them, was making “irresponsible comments” while the country should be speaking in “one

voice”. Congress leader has been persistently asking the Prime Minister to come clear on the status of India-China boundary following clashes and reports of army build-up across the ‘Galwan valley’, Pangong lake and other border stretches around Doklam.

“The language that he uses, even a leader of the enemy country will not use such a language for our Prime Minister. Since the tension between India and China began, there has not been a single day when Rahul Gandhi has not slandered the country and the Prime Minister,” said Hussain.

He demanded an apology from Rahul “for the language that he used for the Prime Minister. Otherwise, the country will never forgive the Congress party,” he said.

Many other BJP leaders reminded Rahul of his party’s blunder leading to the 1962 surrender of the country against China. BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi and R P Singh slammed Gandhi calling him a “50-year-old adolescent” who is “spoon-fed pro-

paganda” by China against India.

“What do you do with a 50-year old man like this? When at a time the country is going through a pandemic and enemies at the LAC, he is dividing the country. Earlier also he used a phrase called political ‘lie’ology. This is something the Congress is an expert at. Creating misunderstanding. These khaandaanis were the ones who surrendered China in 1962,” said BJP Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi.

Another BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also lashed out at Rahul for his comment on Modi and said he is a “Traitor Gandhi”. Rahul wants to strengthen China and weaken India, Bhatia alleged.

The Prime Minister on Friday stated that none had made any incursion in the Indian border and a day after the Prime Minister’s Office issued a clarification following queries from various political parties whether the clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers did not happen on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control.

“Until the Chinese retreat and status quo is restored, our Government should not let up or appear to cede any part of these territories to the Chinese,” he further said.

“Why is PM refuting the statement of Raksha Mantri on “Chinese presence in large numbers” and EAM’s statement that we seek to restore “status quo ante”? Didn’t the Army Chief clearly state that “disengagement” is underway? If ‘no one has intruded into our territory’ and ‘no one is occupying our territory’, what was being erected by China or what status quo ante or disengagement were we seeking?”

“Has not the PM in a way endorsed the Chinese position that they never intruded into our territories? PM must explain,” Sibal said during a press conference.

“It is clear that Prime Minister’s statement of June 19, 2020 is in contradiction of the statements made by the Defence Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister and Army Chief,” Sibal said.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR (CENTRAL TENDER CELL) E-Procurement Tender Notice Main Portal: <a href="https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in">https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in</a>			
Tenders are invited for the Following works:-			
S. No	System Tender No. / Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in Lacs)
1	64923 (First Call) 06.06.20	BT Patch Repair Work in k.m. 0.00 to 110.00 on Ambikapur Ramanujanji Garwa Road N.H. 343.	380.94
2	64954 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of High-Level Bridge i/c Approach Road Across Devdaraha Nalla On Danighai-Paikin Road	537.97
3	64728 (Second Call) 06.06.20	Rehabilitation Work of High Level Bridge across Mahanadi River on k.m. 5 / 6 of Hasod - Jaipur - Sarsawa Road.	716.39
4	64729 (Second Call) 06.06.20	Reconstruction of Super Structure & Approach Slab i/c Dismantling of Existing Damage Super Structure Replacement of Elastomeric Bearing of Existing High Level Bridge Across Chokranalla in k.m. 14/2 on NH-200 (New Nh-30).	183.57
5	64956 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of H.L. Bridge across Duma Nalla in km. 2/4 on Ganjopara-Gudiyapara Road.	572.00
6	64957 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of H.L. Bridge Across Tel River at Urmalghat on Urmal-Mohara Road (Orissa Border)	1500.81
7	64767 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Different Sports Facility in District Sport Complex, Sipat Road, Bilaspur i/c W.S.S.F. Electrification & Boundary wall Work.	212.15
8	64763 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of kurda to Amjhar Road Length 1.50 km. i/c Bridges & Culverts Work.	211.11
9	64788 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Malda to Bhatnagpali Road Length 3.20 km (Actual Length 4.00 Km) Under Nabard Scheme.	323.63
10	64942 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Borda to Patrapali Khurd Road Length 2.195 km i/c Bridges & Culverts Work.	204.72
11	64731 (Fifth Call) 06.06.20	Balance work for Construction of Arampur-Kondasawali Jagargunda Road Km. 46/2 to 48/8-2.80 Km (Part-III)	601.09
12	64732 (Fifth Call) 06.06.20	Balance work for Construction of Arampur-Kondasawali-Jagargunda Road Km. 48/10 to 51/6-2.80 Km (Part-IV)	793.63
13	64943 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Markamgorhi to Khusaudera Amalidha Road Length 1.80 km i/c Bridges & Culverts Work.	208.52
14	64944 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of I.T.I Approach Road at Bilaspur (Kon) Length 2.18 km.	224.24
15	64960 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Sanjaygram to Basti Baradwar Road Length 2.50 km. (Actual Length 3.10 Km)	271.80
16	64968 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of I.T.I Building at Mandapal i/c Water Supply, Sanitary Work and Electrification Work with approach Road.(Word Code- W13621)	328.20
17	64966 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Palnar-Phoolpad-Junapara Road, Length=4.50 Km. with bridges & culverts.	269.46
18	64723 (Fourth Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Govt. model Residential collage Building & Girls & Boys Hostel Building i/c and Electrification Work at Bijapur, Dist-Bijapur (C.G.)	932.24
19	64727 (Second Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Ghonsara to Gadra Road (Main Road Ghonsara to Mahadevpara) Road Length 2.80 Km i/c Bridge & Culverts.	282.09
20	64967 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of 2 Nos. G Type, 52 Nos. H Type, 33 Nos. I Type Judicial Staff Quarter at Dantewada.	798.96
21	64965 (First Call) 06.06.20	Construction of Bazarpura Lohandiguda to Jagdalpur Chittrakote Road Length 1/2 to 2/8 = 2.25 km.	313.87
22	64770 (Second Call) 10.06.20	B.T. Renewal Work of 9-9Km o-n 04 (Four) Road of Division - Manendragarh Sub Division- Baikunthpur	244.55
23	65016 (First Call) 10.06.20	Construction of Darri (Brahman) to kumharikala Road Length 2.736 km i/c Bridge & Culverts.	307.02
24	65076 (First Call) 10.06.20	Construction & Upgradation of Tanda to Bardwar Road Length 3.40 km.	291.69
25	64772 (Second Call) 10.06.20	B.T. Renewal Work of 30.40 Km on 08 (Eight) Road of Division Ambikapur Surguja District.	533.27
26	65018 (First Call) 10.06.20	Construction of Belgaha to Darsargar Road 3.50 km i/c Bridge & Culverts.	237.54
27	64776 (Second Call) 11.06.20	B.T. Renewal Work of 19-80 K.M. on 02 (Two) Road of Division - Manendragarh Sub Division- Janakpur C.G.)	219.31
28	65095 (First Call) 11.06.20	Construction of Basni -Kanharpuri -Tumakala-Bori- Litiya Road (L.15.00 Km) actual Length 22.675 Km. i/c Bridge & Culverts. at Dist. Durg.	4352.77
29	64769 (Second Call) 11.06.20	B.T. Renewal Work of 32.60 Km on 10 (Ten) Road of Division Ambikapur Surguja District	576.94
30	65122 (First Call) 12.06.20	Construction of New M.L.A Rest House At Sector-25, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur.(C.G.) i/c Water Supply, Sanitary Fittings & Electrification Work.	11856.45

Last Date of Tender Downloading For S.No. 28, 30 Date 02-07-2020 and Other Tenders Dates are Scheduled as 30-06-2020. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer  
(Central Tender Cell)  
Office Of Engineer In Chief  
P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar

R.O. No.: 81731/5  
R.O. Date:- 18/06/2020

## Pleas in SC against blacklisting of over 3,500 foreigners for alleged Tablighi activities

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Multiple pleas have been filed in the Supreme Court by foreign nationals, who are presently in India, challenging the Centre’s decisions of blacklisting over 3,500 citizens of 35 countries for their alleged involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

Four writ petitions, including one by a Thai national who is seven months pregnant, have challenged the Centre’s decision of April 2 by which 960 foreigners were blacklisted and another subsequent decision on June 4 by which over 2,500 foreign nationals were blacklisted for 10 years from travelling to India.

“The impugned decision, by its very unilateral nature, infringes the principle of natural justice, particularly ‘audi alteram partem’ by blacklisting the said foreigners present in India without first granting an opportunity of being heard or notice of any form, and resultantly depriving the aggrieved foreign nationals of their right of locomotion and travelling back to the country of their citizenship,” the plea filed by the Thai woman said.

The petitions, filed through advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi and drafted by advocates Ibad Mushtaq and Ashima Mandla, contended that the en masse blacklisting of over 3,500 foreigners from 35 nations, who are currently in India without affording any opportunity to prima facie defend themselves, is an egregious and blatant violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

It said that the sudden blacklisting, apart from registration of FIRs against such foreigners, led to the forfeiture of their passports by state authorities, thereby resulting in a complete deprivation of their personal liberty sans procedure established by law.

The impugned decision, therefore, has been passed arbitrarily against the aggrieved foreign nationals, being devoid of any documentary proof or evidence to substantiate the allegations of alleged Tablighi activities.

## KVIC seeks to revive ancient glory of Pokhran potteries

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Seeking to restore the lost glory of yesteryears’ famous pottery of Pokhran in Rajasthan, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on Sunday launched its flagship “Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana” in the town. The KVIC distributed 80 electric potter wheels to as many potter families in Pokhran which has a rich heritage in terracotta products.

The tradition has been dying over several years due to the Government’s apathy towards these artists. Pokhran has over 300 potters’ families that are engaged with pottery for several decades. The potters started looking for other avenues due to lack of market support.

Apart from the electric wheels, the KVIC also distributed 8 blunger machines in a group of 10 potters, used for mixing the clay which can pro-



duce 800 kg clay in just 8 hours. Manually it takes 5 days to prepare 800 kg mud for pottery making.

KVIC has created 350 direct employment in the village. All 80 potters who were given 15 days of training by KVIC came up with some exquisite pottery. The products ranged from Kulhar to decorative pieces like flower vase, sculptures and interesting traditional utensils

like spherical bottles with a narrow mouth, Lotas with long spouts, and other spherical utensils used for cooking as well as decorative pieces.

The potters brilliantly depicted the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” and “International Yoga Day” – the two major achievements of the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi – through their pottery art.

Incidentally, it also coincided with the International Yoga Day being celebrated on Sunday.

After distributing the electric chaak and other equipment through video conference, KVIC Chairman Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena said the exercise is aligned with the Prime Minister’s call for “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” and strengthening of potters aimed at creating self-employment while also reviving the dying art of pottery.

“Pokhran was till now only known as the site of nuclear tests but very soon the exquisite pottery will be the new identity of this place. The main objective of Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana is to bring back the potters’ community to the mainstream. By providing potters with modern equipment and training, we are trying to reconnect them with the society and revive their art,” Saxena said.

BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION

# LK Advani, MM Joshi to depose in court online

**Lucknow:** Former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, former UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, BJP leader Dr MM Joshi and Ram Janambhoomi Trust chairman Nriytra Gopal Das will depose before a special CBI court in Lucknow, through video-conferencing from Tuesday in the Babri Masjid demolition case of 1992.

The special CBI court, on Saturday, sent a directive to the director of National Informatics Centre (NIC), a government of India body, to make arrangements for video-conferencing from addresses

furnished by these accused, to record their statements under Section 313 of CrPC.

All accused would have to answer at least 1,000 questions based on evidence produced by prosecution agency CBI. "The special court informs accused about facts and evidence that came up during trial and directs them to give their statement," said CBI counsel Lalit Singh.

Thirteen accused have deposed so far and the court may follow similar proceedings with others, said Singh.

While Advani will depose on June 30, Joshi on July 1,

Singh on July 2, Mahant Nriytra Gopal Das on June 23, R.N. Srivastava on June 22, Jai Bhagwan Das on June 24, Amar Nath Goel on June 25, Sudhir Khakkar on June 26 and Acharya Dharmendra Dev on June 29.

Earlier, on Saturday, one of the accused, Ram Chandra Khatri was produced before special judge S.K. Yadav through video-conferencing from district jail, Sonapat, where he is lodged in connection with another case. However, his statement could not be recorded because of poor connectivity. IANS

# BJP calls for both badal, badla in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With Bengal Assembly polls barely a year away the routine exchange of salvos between ruling Trinamool Congress and challenger BJP have degenerated into "Badla" calls with the senior leaders of saffron outfit openly threatening "revenge" and asking people to torch police stations that "act as the TMC party offices."

While BJP on Sunday called for "both Badal and Badla" (change of power and revenge) senior Trinamool leader and Minister Firdad Hakim responded in equal measures equating the outfit with the "reactionary Talibanis and Jaish e Muhammad who are experts in the art of revenge and killing."

The latest slanging match

started when the police lodged an FIR against senior BJP leader Sayantan Basu who openly spewed venom calling upon a crowd to "torch the police stations if they act like Trinamool party offices and victimize innocent people like they have been doing now."

Murder of a BJP worker at Danton in West Midnapore district provided the immediate spark for Basu's speech who while mourning the death of the party activist provoked a huge crowd against men in khaki saying "Don't attack police vans, don't attack the cops but torch the police station if a BJP worker is killed or tortured. Wait for six more months, we will teach them a lesson."

Basu and state BJP Chief Dilip Ghosh was attending the funeral of the slain party work-

**While BJP on Sunday called for "both Badal and Badla" (change of power and revenge) senior Trinamool leader and Minister Firdad Hakim responded in equal measures equating the outfit with the "reactionary Talibanis and Jaish e Muhammad who are experts in the art of revenge and killing"**

were arrested by the police when they were demonstrating in front of CPI(M) mouthpiece Ganashakti's office.

When asked to comment on the way the BJP leaders were talking Dilip Ghosh said reminding how the TMC chief Mamata Banerjee had spoken of "Badal (Change) but took Badla (revenge) when she came to power... We speak in a straight forward manner. We will not only talk about Badal but we will talk about Badla too. No person perpetrating violence against our men will go unpunished. Not even the police men. We are keeping a close watch on the situations."

When asked as to whether he was sorry about the way his party men were speaking he said "those who speak of forgiveness are basically cowards. We do not ask for forgiveness."

Basu himself remained non-repentant too saying "what else I would have said in such circumstances when our men are being killed by the TMC and the police are falsely implicating other BJP workers for such murders... In Bengal the police stations are acting as TMC party offices which is why we want to warn them. We want to tell them that the BJP is definitely coming to power in Bengal and then we will take account of everything."

Reacting to his statement Hakim said "BJP is the Indian Taliban or JeM. Like them this party acts like terrorists. They do not speak in any other language. They speak only in terms of violence. We will appeal to the people to identify these people and remain on guard against them during the coming elections."

# Man in Kathua quarantine centre dies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

After two close relatives of a Covid-19 patient died under mysterious circumstances before performing the last rites in Jammu on June 18, another civilian, quarantined in Kathua district, died early Sunday morning triggering protests against the district authorities.

A large number of stranded passengers, workers and others quarantined in the centre blamed the district authorities for ill treating common people. "Today, one patient has died, tomorrow some one from us may also die in these inhuman living conditions. We are not safe here", claimed others still present in the quarantine centre.

According to reports, soon after an ambulance arrived at the quarantine centre to shift the dead body of a passenger, others cornered the senior officers present at the centre. Shouting

slogans, the passengers highlighted the pathetic state of affairs. "The quarantine centre is ill equipped, there is no proper hygiene and above all the quality of food served to us is very bad". "We have been demanding the concerned authorities to segregate us to prevent spread of the virus but despite making tall claims we have been huddled inside stinking rooms to rot", the aggrieved passengers alleged seeking better facilities.

According to official sources, a 47-year-old resident of Kathua district, possibly suffered a heart attack early Sunday morning while he was present in the Changran quarantine centre.

He returned via Mumbai on June 15 and had tested negative for Covid-19. He was expected to be sent home after completing the necessary formalities on Sunday.

District Authorities in Kathua identified the deceased as Kamal Kumar, resident of

**122 new cases of coronavirus were detected in Jammu & Kashmir on Sunday and one more patient died in Kashmir valley. According to the media bulletin, the total number of coronavirus cases have scaled up to 5,956 and 82 patients have died so far**

Chipaki Kala village in Hiranagar.

According to official sources, he had tested negative but had to stay back after three others had tested positive from the same centre. As per the guidelines, their samples were taken afresh and the reports were confirmed late Saturday evening. Local authorities claimed, on his arrival in Kathua his family had insisted that he should be admitted to the hospital as he was suffering from Liver ailment.

He was taken for a medical examination in the Government

Medical college, Kathua on June 17.

Meanwhile, 122 new cases of coronavirus were detected in Jammu & Kashmir on Sunday and one more patient died in Kashmir valley. According to the media bulletin, the total number of coronavirus cases have scaled up to 5,956 and 82 patients have died so far.

Out of these 5,956 cases, 2,492 are active positive while 3,382 patients have recovered fully and sent home after they tested negative. According to the media bulletin, five districts of Kashmir valley have so far recorded more than 600 cases while Jammu district has so far reported 309 cases.

The highest number of 428 cases are active in Srinagar district alone followed by 318 in Baramulla and 240 in Pulwama district. In Jammu a total number of 109 cases are active followed by 94 cases in Udhampur and 88 in Kathua.

# Covid brings back Indian sages words

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI:

Were the ancient Indian sages and scholars aware of the possibilities of contagious diseases like coronavirus pandemic which prompted them to come out with the typical way of respecting and greeting others by saying Namastay/Namaskaar/Namaskaaram?

In the 21st century when Heads of State meet, they greet each other either by shaking hands or hugging, in all probability a bearhug. But Indian sages have proved right by recent events that shaking hands or hugging each other are not actions straight from the heart and are shrouded with dubious intentions.

A video featuring the speech of Swamy Chinmayananda, the founder of Chinmaya Mission, in which the celebrated monk speaks about the significance of Namaste and touching the feet of elders has gone viral. The Swamiji ridicules the system of shaking of hands and hugging as a means of greeting each other. With the coronavirus pandemic peaking and the Government struggling to convince the people about the need to maintain social distancing the importance of Namaste has come back through the video recording of the speech delivered by Swamy Chinmayananda (1916-1993).

He says shaking of hands is part of the western culture and it became an accepted norm because of historicity. "In the days of Anglo-Saxon and earlier also, in the western world, each one met the other only with an idea of killing. Open friendship was unknown to them. When someone really wants to express to the other that the former has no intention of killing or harming, he comes with both the hands open. It was a message to the other that there were no weapons in his hands," says the Swami in his characteristic witty style.

But the Swami pointed out that the western psyche was moulded by centuries of doubts and they still doubted the seriousness of friendship. "It is to ensure that there were no weapons in each others hands that they started shaking hands. I give my hand to check up and at the same time I check up your hand also," he says.

Amidst roaring laughter from the gathering, Swami Chinmayananda said situation in West Asia (Middle East) was much more serious. "They have a feeling that weapons may be hidden in the robes they wear and that's why they hug each other. When they embrace, haven't you seen them checking three times both the sides of the guest/host to make sure that there are no hidden weapons," he said

# 2 more corona deaths, 8 new cases in Agra

**Agra:** Two more deaths due to coronavirus were reported in Agra in the last 24 hours, taking the total death toll to 75 even as eight new cases took the tally to 1,132 in the Uttar Pradesh district on Sunday.

As many as 929 patients have recovered, while 128 active cases remain in the district. Agra's recovery rate is 81.71 per cent. Till Saturday, 18,559 samples had been collected. The total number of hot spots is 70, district officials said.

In Etah, nine new cases were reported and Firozabad five. Two patients had died in Mathura. Meanwhile, the Mathura district administration announced cancellation of the annual Mudiya Poonau festival in Goverdhan, which attracts more than one crore devotees during the five-day 'parikrama' of the holy hill. IANS

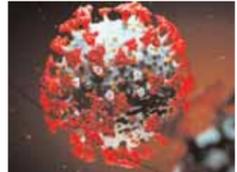
# 53 deaths, 2,532 new cases in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Each new day in Tamil Nadu brings with it news of desperation and despondency as the number of persons tested for coronavirus increases beyond expectations. On Sunday, despite the lock down of the four districts including Chennai, the State saw the number of persons diagnosed with covid-19 pandemic reaching new heights since the first case was reported in January.

The day saw 53 persons succumbing to the pandemic all over the State while 2,532 persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on a single day. The number of deaths as well as the number of coronavirus positive cases are the highest ever since the first instance of the pandemic was reported in Tamil Nadu. Needless to say, the capital city continued to resemble a ghost city, if the words of long term residents are to be believed.

With 2,532 persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on Sunday, Tamil Nadu has so far recorded 59,377 cases of the



pandemic till date. According to the Government of Tamil Nadu release, 1,438 patients were discharged from various hospitals in the State and this has brought down the number of active cases to 25,863.

But all relief regarding the abatement of the number of persons afflicted with the pandemic were vaporized as 53 persons succumbed to the disease on a single day taking the total number of fatalities till date to 757. Underscoring the warning issued by epidemiologists and physicians like Dr C V Krishnaswamy and Prof B M Hegde, 50 of the dead had comorbidity issues while three persons died only because of the pandemic.

Chennai continued to be the epicenter of Tamil Nadu's coronavirus as the Metropolis accounted for 1,493 cases out

of the 2,532 persons diagnosed with covid-19 on Sunday. Chengalpattu, the nearby district which had been a problematic region, did not test even a single coronavirus case on Sunday.

Kancheepuram (64) and Thiruvallur (120) proved once again that they were problematic regions and any kind of relief from the pandemic is far away. The day also saw two more judges of the Madras High Court testing positive for the pandemic which took the number of judges afflicted with coronavirus to three.

A doctor working in the Preventive Medicine department told The Pioneer that there was nothing to be scary about the increase in the covid cases.

"There are 86 laboratories in the State in addition to the mobile clinics summoned to the Chennai city from other districts. As the number of persons tested increases, there will be a corresponding increase in the number of positive cases," said the doctor who did not want his name to be quoted.

# 439 out of 24,451 samples test +ve on Sunday in AP

**Amaravati:** After the overnight high of 491 cases, Andhra Pradesh reported a lower single-day tally of 439 corona cases on Sunday. The State nodal officer also reported 5 deaths in the 24 hours ending 9 a.m., Sunday, putting the overall toll in the state at 106 deaths.

As many as 24,451 samples were tested during this period, which is the highest number of tests conducted in a day.

On Sunday, the highest tally of 70 cases was reported from East Godavari, followed by 66 in Krishna, and 58 in Kadapa districts. Of the 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh, 12 reported fresh Covid-19 cases, with Srikakulam being the sole exception by not reporting any incidence over the past 24 hours.

The overall tally of positive cases since the outbreak of corona in the state, now stands at 8,929, while the active cases tally is 4,516. So far, 4,307 persons have recovered after treatment and been discharged from hospitals in the state.

Meanwhile, the coronavirus toll further climbed up with three deaths reported from Krishna, 1 from Kurnool, and 1 from Chittoor district. With the latest update, the death toll in the state stood at 96 on Sunday morning.

On Saturday, the state had reported the highest single-day tally ever of 491 cases. The last 24 hours also saw 34 new cases detected among people who returned from other states to Andhra Pradesh. While 22 samples belonging to returnees from Tamil Nadu tested positive, 7 cases pertained to returnees from Telangana and 1 sample belonged to a returnee from Maharashtra. IANS

# Nearly 2,000 corona cases in 5 days send Telangana in a tizzy

IANS ■ HYDERABAD

With each passing day, the number of Covid-19 cases in Telangana is reaching a new high and sending the alarm bells ringing in the top echelons of the state administration.

The first Covid-19 case in the state was reported on March 2 and since then there has been a steady increase in numbers.

It was after 57 days, that is on April 26 that the state crossed 1,000 cases mark. It took another month for the next 1,000 cases but within a week the state added 1,000.

It was on June 3 that the state crossed 3,000 mark but such has been the surge since then that this figure doubled in a matter of 15 days.

The state added 1,045 cases in the last two days -- 499 on Friday and 546 on Saturday. As many as 1,859 people tested positive since Tuesday.

Telangana also crossed 200 fatalities on Saturday, making it the ninth state in the country to pass that figure. It is at 13th position among states in total number of Covid-19 caes.

While the authorities have been claiming that Telangana is in much better position compared to states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and others,

the massive surge over the last one week and huge jump in daily cases has sparked apprehensions that it may overtake some states in the coming days.

Telangana was one of the first states to impose the lockdown and kept things largely under control with strict enforcement. However, the surge after the relaxation in the lockdown upset all its calculations.

The officials in the health department point out that every time the government felt that it had contained the spread, a new problem cropped up.

In the initial phase, it was the arrival of people from abroad which kept the authorities on tenterhooks. By screening the passengers at the airport, testing those with suspected symptoms and by sending others to quarantine, the authorities were able to keep things under control.

The next wave came towards the end of March when returnees from Tablighi Jamaat conclave in Delhi were found infected. Health Minister Eatala Rajender had stated on April 16 that 640 out of 700 tested positive so far had Tablighi link.

Even in the beginning of May, the average daily jump was 20-30 cases. However, the surge began with relaxations in the lockdown. The number of infections rose with the return of migrant workers from

other states and those who were evacuated/deported from abroad.

As the cases were largely confined to Greater Hyderabad, Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Rao was still confident of containing the spread. However, the intra-state and inter-state movement of people and the greater mobility with the resumption of some economic activity led to the spread in the districts as well.

Under attack from the opposition for low testing, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government blamed the relaxations given by the Centre for the upsurge.

"The BJP leaders, who were shouting that the state government has failed in containing the spread of coronavirus, should go and ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi why relaxations were being given," said Telangana minister Srinivas Yadav.

The latest surge began with the launch of 50,000 tests in Greater Hyderabad, the biggest hotspot and surrounding districts from Tuesday.

The government on June 14 announced that 50,000 tests will be conducted in 30 Assembly constituencies in Greater Hyderabad and surrounding districts over the next week to 10 days. The process began on Tuesday with authorities collecting samples from containment zones and high risk groups.

# Lockdown fails to deter bovine smuggling in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Nationwide lockdown imposed during Covid-19 pandemic may have jammed the wheels of the transport industry and may have disrupted the movement of essential items for some time but it failed to deter 'bovine smugglers' from transporting animals inside the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

According to police records, "between the first week of May till June 19, around two dozen incidents of bovine smuggling were foiled by the police teams in Kathua and Udhampur districts of Jammu region alone."

Bovine smugglers use these routes to first enter the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir via Lakhampur and then take a bypass road via Samba to reach Udhampur before hitting the national highway bypassing Jammu.



Bovine animals rescued by the police



Photo credit: J&K Police

According to police records, "from May 2020 till June 19 over 1100 bovine animals have been rescued from the clutches of 43 bovine smugglers in Kathua and Udhampur districts". In all these cases, the bovine animals were loaded in a very cruel manner in all

these vehicles. Interestingly, in the month of May 2020, when the interstate borders were sealed and movement of only essential goods were permitted on priority these bovine smugglers managed to smuggle bovine animals via the gateway of

Jammu and Kashmir. Tweets posted by the Kathua police on its official twitter handle clearly give the timeline of these incidents beginning May 3. "Three bovine smuggling bids foiled in the jurisdiction of police post Ramkote and Chadwal. 75

bovine animals rescued, four arrested in last two days", Kathua police tweeted on May 3. A total number of 12 incidents were reported till June 19 in which 225 bovine animals were rescued in Kathua district alone while 889 bovines were rescued in Udhampur district

enroute Kashmir valley.

On June 18, Udhampur police rescued 428 bovine animals from Jakhani, Sangoor Chowk and Mian Bagh area.

According to the statement issued by the Udhampur police, while patrolling on

National Highway, police patrolling parties intercepted three groups of 428 bovine animals from Jakhani, Sangoor Chowk and Mian Bagh area of Udhampur town which was taken on foot by the smugglers towards Kashmir valley without any valid permission.

Police rescued 428 animals and arrested six bovine smugglers. Similarly, 148 bovines were rescued by the Udhampur police on May 4, 84 on May 14, 123 on May 28 and 61 on June 3 from different areas of Udhampur.

Recently when Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh was asked to comment on the menace of bovine smuggling during his visit to Kathua on June 15, he told reporters, police has strengthened the security checkpoints along the national highway and large number of smuggling bids have been foiled by the alert police teams.

# Osho's universal transmits energy to followers online

SP SINGH ■ KATHMANDU

Osho Tapoban, a premier meditation commune of international repute near Kathmandu scripted a history by transmitting Osho's divine energy to Osho followers across the world in an online meditation workshop conducted on June 20, night.

Bodhi Sattva Swami Anand Arun, Osho's main disciple and the founder of Osho Tapoban International commune claims that it was the first experiment on this planet to transmit any enlightened master's energy to his followers in remote distance through online technology.

The Osho Tapoban coordinated with the osho disciples across the world through zoom tv and fixed the workshop to be conducted online.

## Bare facts

For all the displays of bonhomie, the Modi Govt has failed to read China. Ladakh is a reminder why we need to up our game



In reversing the image of India from the Nehruvian era, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has almost always highlighted his aggressive foreign policy, one which propagandists claim to have elevated us internationally. One which has been built on huglomy and charisma and, therefore, is good for optics but not for diplomacy. Certainly not for China, which cannot be bracketed with anybody considering the over 3,000 km of shared boundary and contentious issues we have had with it and its economic supremacy in regional markets. The fact of the matter is for all kinds of muscular leadership that we might profess, we have failed to read China. And

continue to be intimidated by it. Our eastern neighbour continues to be as inscrutable as it was in 1962. If Nehru nurtured a romantic notion of civilisational loyalties, then Modi graduated that to a shared sense of Asian leadership, one which saw even more Chinese investment in India and a mounting trade deficit. Yet China has remained just the same, hovering over us, bullying us through salami-slicing of our territories, as sore about our sympathies for Tibetan refugees and still seeing us as a rival claimant to Asian greatness that President Xi Jinping has currently rechristened as the "Chinese dream." China wants India to fuel that dream with our dependencies on it and believes in an asymmetrical relationship. It certainly doesn't like the US-led Western endorsement of India in a post-pandemic world. And for all practical purposes it has besieged us. India may not participate in China's Belt and Road Initiative, or economic colonisation of smaller nations in the region, but those very nations, reduced to serfs caught in a debt-trap, are now China's bulwark against us. For all our chest-thumping against Pakistan as the arch enemy, the country, which we use to measure our nationalism against, is but a pawn. Nepal is hostile, Bangladesh is silent, Sri Lanka and Maldives have been taken over. And though the PM may assure the nation that not an inch of our territory has gone to the Chinese, the violent ambush by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the brutal killing of 20 Army personnel certainly were acts of offence, not defence by any stretch. Besides, Chinese ingress is not new in Arunachal Pradesh or Uttarakhand. So the PM may keep silent but his brand of engagement has not stopped the dragon from using its forked tongue. Doklam should have been a reminder. We may like to believe that we stared the Chinese down but fact is they moved negligibly and have now ramped up fortifications close to it, something we do not want to talk about. The Chinese continue to insist they won't restore status quo ante at Galwan Valley, which allows them strategic edge over our troop movements and a key connecting road, though we insist that they had only pitched a tent and were removed. Besides, China has not reconciled to our new map showing Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Home Minister Amit Shah's fiery speech in the Lok Sabha that we would take back Aksai Chin. Although External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar assuaged anxieties of expansionism, China distrusts our plans to upgrade border infrastructure. Pandemic-hit it might be, but being the only nation that will not slip into negative growth, it can sustain such adventurism and heat up flashpoints to deter India while staying under the escalation threshold and claim miscommunication at the troop level that could be settled through talks. By then, we would have lost more men and resources. We must remember that the PLA never does what is not mandated by the Communist Party of China and its head Xi.

For all the "Howdy Modi" and red carpet to Trump, the US has not lived up to its newfound ally in the region. Except for making some noise about "China troubling India" and Trump's old offer of mediation, there has been no statement by him or even Quad countries in India's favour. Besides, the US supports the "one-China policy" and has stayed away from taking a stand on Taiwan. Even Australia, which is at the receiving end of Chinese hitback over trade tariffs for leading the global probe on the contagion, remained silent. The US itself wants a better trade deal with China. India's hopes that it would get all fleeing companies from there to set up shop here are not realistic given the depth and cost-competitiveness of the Chinese economy. Every nation, India included, is just about waking up to the need for self-sufficiencies but the global supply chains will still be dependent on the factory floors of China. We may boycott Chinese goods and investment in government infra and review trade pacts but we account for just two per cent of China's trade volumes. It won't hurt it that much. China is one of our largest trading partners and has \$1.8 billion of FDIs locked in between 2015 and 2019. Of course, while we rebuild our strengths in the long-term and develop attractive markets for the world, in the short term we must deal with China one-to-one, intensify dialogue, delink it from contexts, keep it business-like and maintain an operational preparedness along the border. We must keep a hawk's eye on PLA movements. Most importantly, the PM should be transparent and use Parliament to keep the Opposition and the nation abreast of developments. Or silence would be interpreted as appeasement, something the Chinese love to feed on.

## L-G gives in

Bajjal recalls 5-day mandatory institutional quarantine order, stops short of confrontation with AAP Govt



Pandemic management is not about politics or a game of one-upmanship. If anything, there must be a unified command structure in protocol. What matters is the right judgment call. So Lieutenant Governor (LG) Anil Bajjal has rightly withdrawn his earlier order of a five-day mandatory institutional quarantine for every COVID-19 patient in home care. He has clarified that all patients will be sent for home isolation, except in cases where symptoms require further hospitalisation or where the home set-up is not conducive to cure. Till now, the ICMR has permitted asymptomatic and mild symptom COVID-19 patients in the whole country to self-isolate

at home. This was much in line with other countries and was done to ease the pressure on the already overcrowded quarantine centres being run by the Government. Naturally, the AAP Government had challenged the LG, terming his decision "arbitrary" and one that would "seriously harm" citizens. The fears of the Delhi Government were not unfounded as the city is already struggling to cope with the surge in the number of Coronavirus infections that for the first time since the pandemic began, recorded over 3,000 fresh cases in one day on June 19. So as it is the pressure on quarantine centres is bound to increase. With asymptomatic people and those with mild symptoms being forced to go to the quarantine centres, too, the entire infrastructure would have been thrown out of joint. As it is, there have been complaints of overcrowding and unhygienic conditions in State-run facilities. Some patients have avoided getting tested or fled because of the sorry state of affairs. As frontline workers fall prey to the virus, there is already an acute shortage of doctors and nurses to tend to serious COVID-19 cases. Where will the Government get more workers to look after those in the quarantine centres? With more people crammed into limited spaces, the risk of even those with mild symptoms getting a full-blown infection or some other disease grows exponentially.

Last week's *diktat* was ill-advised and short-sighted to say the least. Also, despite a high-powered panel set up in Union Home Minister Amit Shah recommending fixing the cost of a COVID-19 isolation bed in private hospitals in Delhi in the range of ₹8,000 to ₹10,000, this is not something that everyone will be able to afford, particularly in the present atmosphere of job losses, major salary cuts and uncertainty about continued employment. This will further burden the Government infrastructure. Imagine what institutional quarantine would do. This is not the time to question the Delhi Government's every move for the sake of it. Anyway reason has prevailed. That's all what we need.

# Restore their dignity

It is unfortunate that for certain democracies, the military willy-nilly becomes an inadvertent piece of the political legitimisation framework and is milked for partisan purposes



BHOPIINDER SINGH

Democracies across the globe have seen the sudden rise of the far-Right and the neo-nationalists, who posture muscular stances in a bid to undo the "weaknesses" of the past. From Washington, DC, to Rio de Janeiro, to Budapest, Ankara and Manila, the template is the same: Supposed "strongmen" recklessly pander to the basest instincts. The common playbook for the leadership entails "majoritarianism," "illiberality" and "discomfort" with constitutional restraints. Profundity of patriotism is replaced by supremacy of unbridled nationalism. The tone and tenor accompanying such leadership is decidedly "unapologetic" and "aggressive." Another commonality in such nationalistic fervour and rhetoric is the dangerous appropriation of the apolitical military to buttress the political credentials of the "strongman." Herein, the leadership seeks to dovetail, champion and posit the military as its natural supporter and ambassador. This affords it political legitimacy in the eyes of the citizenry to do many more dangerous unconstitutional acts. The military willy-nilly becomes a partisan accompaniment, a tool and an inadvertent piece of the political legitimisation framework.

Ironically, these adopters of militaristic symbolism are usually not from military background or sensibilities. Take the example of Presidents Donald Trump, Rodrigo Duterte, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Their formula of nationalism entails interventionist, revisionist and authoritarian agenda that necessitate the subliminal endorsement and usurpation of the military imagery. In all such democracies, these tendencies unsettle the traditional rectitude of the armed forces, which unequivocally disdains topical politics, societal divides and reckless liberties. The required "distance" between the political leadership and the relatively-independent and professional domain of the military gets compromised. The military then stands to assume a partisan slant and preference. Under the garb of "recognising" the military, condescending platitudes are routinely dished with no material benefit for it. The institution is only milked to serve partisan purposes. Given its regimented and disciplined ethos of not speaking up to the national leader-



ship — even when related to personal and career considerations — often, the senior leadership in the military does not do enough to stop the politicisation of this institution. Thus, the armed forces risk compromising their constitutional commitments.

Trump has displayed child-like glee for militaristic trappings such as parades, weaponry, language and self-claimed obsession with "quick action," ignoring the fact that behind the powerful symbols of the institution resides the purest, noblest and the most constitutionally adherent spirit in action. Combat units do not encourage "divides" as the US military is disproportionately populated by minorities like the Hispanics and African-Americans. This political polarisation would prove to be a natural anathema to the institution. But fragility in the military-political relationship in the US started brewing after most veterans voted in favour of Trump when he seduced them with his uber-nationalistic bluster and bravado. But the military was getting increasingly restless with the interferences, with the hallowed chain and command passing the buck to the "Generals" on operational failures; and with the institution being dragged into the theatrical politics of Trump.

One defining moment of this tenuous military-civil equation in the US came forth when the President strolled down to a nearby church, accompanied by a posse of his team, and dramatically held aloft a Bible. The photo-op caught the

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Washington police by surprise as they had to crudely and forcibly push away the peaceful demonstrators. The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington was "outraged" at the use of the church as a political stage. Even worse was the sight of the senior most US military General Mark A Milley in combat fatigues, forming the backdrop of that overtly dramatised "moment" and he being used as a willing prop.

Yet again, willingly or unwillingly, Trump had drawn the awfully apolitical institution into extremely politically-loaded "moment." The optics also inadvertently signalled the institution's alignment on the way security was being handled and worse, it sought to be further handled by invoking the military. What followed next was an unequivocal and bipartisan roast of the apparent conduct of the top General. The military's cherished political abstention was visibly compromised — all eyes turned on Gen Milley but not much was expected as Trump has routinely interfered, fired and bulldozed opposition.

But Gen Milley demonstrated the highest levels of military courage, uprightness and morality when he apologised for the optics, knowingly earned presidential ire and risked getting fired. Milley unambiguously said, "I should not have been there" and that "my presence in that moment and in that environment created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics." In one sweep, Milley restored the larger dignity of the

regrettable situation, the institution and the nation. Gen Milley's apology does not show him in weak light. On the contrary, both he and the institution have been strengthened by reiterating the supremacy of the US Constitution as opposed to the vanity and whims of any individual — even if he happens to be the Commander-in-Chief. Gen Milley salvaged the situation from getting dangerously and irreparably undermined. This is especially applicable for the military, which holds the coercive instruments of sovereign power. Gen Milley's extraordinary public apology also included a very telling and direct comment when he told his troops to "defend the Constitution" — the distinction between the President and the Constitution was unmistakable.

Gen Milley may join the revolving door of the White House administration that has seen the fired backs of some of the most decorated, valourised and respected veterans. Ironically, veteran affairs and the military were signature Trump issues in his politics but the treatment meted out to the institution, its traditions and values will make the most Republican Party supporting veterans think twice. The humility in Mark Milley's words, "As a commissioned uniformed officer, it was a mistake that I have learned from, and I sincerely hope we all can learn from it" is both rare and thoroughly inspirational.

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

## SOUNDBITE

We are not at war with China but are fully geared up to meet any contingency arising out of the recent conflict on the Line of Actual Control.

**Air Chief Marshal**  
—RKS Bhaduria



Love in any relationship is only about putting the other person's needs ahead of your own. And that, my friend, is just as simple and as complex as you make it.

**Actor**  
—Twinkle Khanna



Xi Jinping has green-lighted a brutal campaign of repression against Chinese Muslims, a human rights violation on a scale we haven't seen since World War II.

**US Secretary of State**  
—Mike Pompeo



Has the Prime Minister given a clean hit to China? If so, what is there to negotiate with it? Why are the Major Generals negotiating and about what?

**Congress leader**  
—P Chidambaram



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dubious propaganda

Sir — It has been reported that the People's Liberation Army of China has returned 10 members of the Indian Army whom it had detained after the violent face-off in the Galwan River Valley on June 15. Details of the 20 soldiers killed during the assault in eastern Ladakh is scarce. Some media reports have said that most of the deaths occurred as soldiers fell off the cliff into the river in the narrow Galwan Valley. What should be concerning for us is that last week's brawl saw the first LAC casualties in more than four decades. Post this incident, relations between India and China are bound to undergo a sea change.

Beijing has been using coercive methods to gain hegemony in the Asian region. At a time when Chinese President Xi Jinping is facing backlash at home and globally over his role in the Corona outbreak that has swept the world, he thinks border distraction will serve him well. But China must get the message clear that such an approach is untenable.

**Nimai Charan Swain**  
Bhubaneswar

### Delhi in the grip of Coronavirus

In the post-independent era, Chaudhary Brahm Prakash Yadav served as the first Chief Minister of Delhi and took charge in March 1952. In February 1955, he resigned following a bitter tussle for power with the Chief Commissioner. Same year, the State Reorganisation Commission submitted its report, which *inter alia* commented, "It is hardly necessary to discuss in detail the reasons why Delhi, if it is to continue as the Union capital, cannot be made part of a full-fledged constituent unit of the Indian union." The report pronounced that there would be no Statehood for Delhi. The Assembly was abolished forthwith. It further recommended that "municipal autonomy for Delhi in the form of a corporation would appear to be the most appropriate method of meeting and reconciling the broader requirements of the national Government as well as the local needs and the wishes of the people." This despite the strong objections raised by the State Government against such an arrangement. After 37 years, the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991, restored the Legislative Assembly of Delhi. Municipal Corporation of Delhi, too, came into being. Currently, the local administration is in the hands of five civic bodies. Yet, the tussle for power continued.

Together, the constitutional institutions, the Union



Government, the State Government and the three municipal corporations have turned the State of Delhi into a cauldron of crisis. Recently, the Supreme Court was called upon to adjudicate on the dispute between the State Government and the Centre. Shockingly, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government kept itself aloof from the bloody communal riots and its victims. Warning bells didn't ring even when the COVID-19 pandemic lurked at the doorstep. Alone, the AAP Government gasped to check the growth of the contagion. Besides, hospitals had no beds, oxygen support, ICU beds and ventilators. No wonder, Delhi is a city of sorrow now.

**Haridasan Rajan**  
Kozhikode

### Healthcare in tatters

Sir — At a time when State Governments are permitting some businesses to carry out

their daily activities, Tamil Nadu is being trooled for extending the lockdown till June 30. On the other hand, Delhi's COVID-19 case numbers are going up relentlessly

like Mumbai. Why single out a State or two when the entire nation is wilting under a pandemic? With several phases of the lockdown, metro cities are yet to sequester support infra-

structure and equipment. Forget about mofussil towns, they are not even in the picture. In sum, the healthcare scenario is poor in both rural and urban areas. Around 72 per cent of India's health spend is through high-priced private sector care. The working class acquires the malady through exposure by necessity but has no money for private care and municipal hospitals have no equipment to treat them.

**R Narayanan**  
Navi Mumbai

### Less than accurate

Sir — The inflation figure of 3.21 per cent released by the Government is less than accurate and shocking to say the least. The Government has failed to control the rising prices of essential goods. Had inflation really been so low, would it not be reasonable to expect a fall or stability in the prices of essential items? The Government must stop fooling the people.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## It is time for focussed action

We need a proactive policy effort based on post-pandemic realities of the country's economic potential



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

COVID-19 is probably one of the topics about which more has been written and spoken than perhaps any other subject in the last several months. The subject itself would be suffering from some kind of "author's fatigue." Content wise, the articles have little more to say than perhaps reflecting philosophically or administratively on certain categories, policies or more. All this is a part of life and several media fora flourish on this. So be it!

On May 25, in a write-up titled *Impenetrable Barriers* in these columns, a description had been put forth on the logic and birth of the concept of the National Capital Region (NCR). It pointed out how an over-anxious administrative zeal on the part of some in the affected NCR States had created impenetrable boundaries, barricaded with permits. For weeks, misguided zeal, an ill-informed search for solutions and an urge for seeking applause had created a state of competitive "statism." Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi took turns to make the life of average law-abiding citizens hapless, forcing them to try and build bridges in an attempt to integrate divided lives across barricaded State borders. There is at least some data on faulty test kits, alternate test kits, the number of people tested and the number of people who ought to be tested but there is no data available on how many suffered and in what manner, (all in the name of containing COVID-19) due to the closure of State borders. It may be recalled that much of this was post the lockdown phase of COVID-19.

Bless the Home Minister of India, who announced from a forum on June 18 that NCR for the purposes of the present concerns and more, should be seen as one unit. In matters like this, no credit needs to be claimed but one needs to count one's blessings. Since the Home Minister made this announcement, at least, the comparative babble of containing the virus through entry passes seems to have receded. What the future will bring remains to be seen.

The truth is, that as of now, the only instruments of containing COVID-19 are the common sensical ones of basic hygiene, social distancing, wearing masks, avoiding crowded events and the like. This is no rocket science. All diseases would be better controlled with these measures. Only in the case of COVID-19, they seem to be the only route. The drug and pharmaceutical options are clearly months away even though there has been some progress in the right direction. Of course if you are rich and powerful or both, you can get into a hospital where your influence or money could move the treatment from one to the other of the five-six options available and hopefully, something would work.

Earlier in this text, there have been references to a kind of fatigue that is setting in with all Coronavirus-related issues. A similar fatigue is setting in on social media platforms too. Messages and jokes on strained husband-wife relations on account of the "absconding" maid are becoming fewer, wise-cracks on domestication have significantly reduced and spaces so vacated are being taken over by China-bashing and posts on rejection of Chinese made goods and so on.

The kind of leadership shown by the Home Minister could be emulated by the Finance Minister. Few will doubt her attempt to try but it becomes more effective if the attempt is focussed. Doling out money in its various incarnations, including in the so-called bailout plans for the banks, in the past, did not work. Now the fond hope is that if you cut down the EPF share of the working individual and thereby put more money in the people's hands, the economy would boom. Even an undergraduate student of economics would know that this is the classical case of misconceived economic correlation. There are other options of course. Clearly, all is not lost on the economic front. Some of the sectors of the pharma industry are poised for big gains. That gain itself may be coterminous with COVID-19. The important thing is to select lines of pharmaceutical industry, which are prone to multiple drug formulations from an assortment of drug research streams. Those who have dealt with technology-oriented start-ups know that it is doable. At the policy level, both at the Centre and at the States, this could be done. It could be done by channelising of funding in a sectoral mode. However, this can only happen if focussed policy frameworks modulate the propensity to chase the last wagon of the train.

Now that it is obvious that, whether officially accepted or not, 2020 is a "zero year", there needs to be some attention on a proactive policy effort focussed on the realities of the economic potential. Our success in the motorcycle sector, especially in the manufacturing of its component parts, is a good example. It establishes what Indian acumen can do with a little bit of support and some encouraging policies.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

NEITHER HAS ANYONE (CHINA) INTRUDED INTO OUR TERRITORY NOR HAVE THEY TAKEN OVER ANY (BORDER) POST.

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



MODI HAS SURRENDERED INDIAN TERRITORY TO CHINESE AGGRESSION. IF THE LAND WAS CHINESE, WHY AND WHERE WERE OUR SOLDIERS MARTYRED?

—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

# Irreconcilable differences

China has learnt the hard way that its army is not combat-ready and no match for our battle-hardened soldiers. Our preparedness and alertness can keep PLA in check



ANIL GUPTA

The gory events that took place at the Galwan stand-off point (PP 14) on the evening of June 15 and carried on late into the night have exposed the barbaric tendencies of the Chinese army. Throwing all treaties and conventions to the wind, they attacked the unsuspecting Commanding Officer (CO) of an Indian Army unit with iron rods, chains, baseball bats covered with spikes and barbed wires and gloves fitted with iron spikes. This led to a brawl that resulted in heavy casualties on both sides.

One thing is certain, that the attack by the Chinese was unprovoked, premeditated and had the blessings of senior commanders. It cannot be brushed off as the work of a local commander obsessed with the Chinese movie *Wolf Warrior*. It was a clear case of betrayal of faith by the Chinese after having agreed to certain pullbacks as part of an overall de-escalation plan that would have led to an end to the stand-off between the two armies in eastern Ladakh. What prompted the Chinese to resort to such a treachery is a matter of conjecture but it is definitely driven by its "Middle Kingdom" syndrome.

The devious Chinese mindset can be gauged from the contents of an article published in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) mouthpiece, *Global Times*. "India has been building extensive infrastructure facilities along the border and forcibly built part of the facilities on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) regardless of bilateral divergences over the border disputes. The two sides went into repeated physical clashes as Chinese soldiers tried to stop their Indian counterparts." This is a blatant lie since there has never been any dispute in the perception of the LAC between the two armies in the Galwan Valley sector. The Chinese had never crossed the LAC here. The *Global Times* version is a cover-up as it is at variance with the earlier statement issued by the spokesperson of the Western Theatre Command of PLA. It would be pertinent to mention here that India is building a road up to PP14, which is well within its territory.

The article highlights Chinese anxiety and fear. It reads, "The arrogance and recklessness of the Indian side is the main reason for the consistent tensions along China-India borders. In recent years, New Delhi has adopted a tough stance on border issues, which is mainly resulted from two misjudgements. It believes that China does not want to sour relations with India because of increasing strategic pressure from the US, therefore China lacks the will to hit back provocations from the Indian side. In addition, some Indian people mistakenly believe their country's military is more powerful than China's. These misrepresentations affect the rationality of Indian opinion and add pressure to India's China policy." This article is a reinforcement of China's "neighbourhood bully" image. The Chinese leadership believes in, "Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past." The global community has not forgotten how China bullied its way into the South China Sea (SCS) despite an international tribunal's verdict to the contrary and has since declared a SCS District. This is a classic example of China's cartographic aggression, a legacy of the Middle Kingdom.

China's attempts in Ladakh are similar, a well-planned and coordinated cartographic invasion beginning with forcible occupation of Aksai Chin in the late fifties, retention of territories occupied in 1962, annexing Shaksang Valley through an agreement with Pakistan and thereafter frequent forays into Ladakh to lay claim on the grazing



“ AFTER GETTING AN UNEXPECTED RESPONSE FROM THE INDIAN SOLDIERS, WHO RETALIATED HARD, CHINA IS NOW LOOKING FOR A FACE-SAVING EXIT FORMULA. ITS TREACHEROUS ATTEMPT TO SHIFT THE BLAME ON INDIAN TROOPS IS FINDING NO TAKERS AND DESPITE TOTAL CONTROL ON THE CHINESE MEDIA, BEIJING IS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO HIDE THE LARGE NUMBER OF FATALITIES IT HAS SUFFERED ”

grounds of local Mons. China is well-known for shifting stances, mixing the past and present with a motive for the future and throwing all bilateral agreements to the wind. Putting together various threads available, it appears that as part of the agreement reached during the Corps Commander level meeting held on June 6, the Chinese troops opposite PP14 were required to move further eastwards to their base called Post 1. It may be recalled that the Chinese have built two posts namely Post 2 and Post 1 along the bank of Galwan River after it takes a turn and runs almost parallel to the LAC well within the Chinese territory before it enters India at PP14.

They have also built a road up to Post 1. The entire process was required to be completed within 10 days ending on June 15. The Chinese were to begin the thinning out since they had begun the build-up. The Indian CO and his platoon had gone to oversee the de-escalation process, it being the last day for the Chinese pullback. During the talks, the Chinese soldiers attacked the CO with spiked rods and baseball bats. Indian troops rushed to the scene and the brawl took an ugly turn. After the initial casualties, there was no backing down from either side. The scene of the clash was a narrow ledge with a deep ravine. Reinforcements arrived and the mayhem continued well into the night at those icy heights in the open. It was the Chinese side which broke all agreements, conventions and treaties in a barbaric manner. But as expected of the Chinese, they shifted the entire blame on the Indian side.

The fact that the Chinese action was premeditated and had the blessings of the higher military commanders can be substantiated from the fact that the spokesperson of the Western Theatre Command issued a Press note. It reads, "China always owns sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region, and the Indian border

defence troops are inconsistent with their words and seriously violated the agreements both countries have reached, the consensus made during the army commander-level talks and harmed the relations of the two militaries and the feelings of the two countries' peoples. India should stop all provocative actions, meet the Chinese side halfway and come back to the right path of solving disputes through talks." One only needs to compare this statement to the *Global Times* article to understand how China is trying to change the entire narrative by shifting the blame on India. China was still looking for a face-saving strategy to get out of the Coronavirus mess when it has landed into another global embarrassment with a faulty notion of having embarrassed India.

After getting an unexpected response from the Indian soldiers who retaliated hard, China is now looking for a face-saving exit formula. Its treacherous attempt to shift the blame on Indian troops is finding no takers and despite total control on the Chinese media, Beijing is finding it difficult to hide the large number of fatalities it has suffered. China has learnt the hard way that its army is not combat-ready and its soldiers are no match for battle-hardened Indian counterparts. Despite carrying the improvised lethal equipment, the Chinese were no match for the Indians in hand-to-hand combat. Despite starting the altercation and having suffered humiliation, China has started talking peace, which is quite unlike it.

China's actions in Galwan have only reinforced what was always known the world over since the Korean War, that Beijing's word can never be trusted and agreements are only a piece of paper. They are past masters in twisting facts through bluff and bluster. Similarly, the Chinese appeal for restraint and peace should not be taken at face value. They are always conscious of their global image of a respon-

sible and peace-loving State and would try to portray India as the aggressor.

China has yet to see India's aggression. It will have to pay for the unnecessary provocation leading to a bloody conflict and will no more be able to mislead Indians through sweet talk and diplomatically-laced statements.

The Chinese for once have crossed the red line and pushed back the efforts being made by the two sides at the political level to continue good relations despite the pending boundary issue. It has also made a mockery of all the five treaties signed so far between the two nations to maintain peace and tranquility on the border. China has been violating them frequently but never crossed the Rubicon. Fatal casualties have taken place for the first time since 1975 when a patrol clash took place in Arunachal Pradesh. If China thinks that it can dictate terms to India on border management and carry out bilateral trade on its terms because of a perceived superior military, it is sadly mistaken and has learnt a lesson the hard way.

China's land mass today consists of 60 per cent forcibly-occupied territories. It has been bullying its neighbours to continue with its expansionist policies. So far, it had not provoked India beyond a point. Though it had off and on been talking of Tibet being its palm and Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh being its fingers, it never dared to enforce its baseless and erratic claim. With the recent treachery, China can forget about the fingers and should prepare to lose the palm as well. The Galwan incident will become a defining moment in Sino-Indian relations. China has lost the plot and the dominating position it has always been proud of. The Chinese pride has been shattered beyond repair and the same goes for Sino-Indian relations.

(The author is a Jammu-based columnist and analyst)

# A conundrum of race, relics and righteous rage

In a world where our fates are inextricably tied, it is difficult to imagine a future based on the erasure of the past, however traumatic or unjust it might be



GAUTAM CHOUBEY

There is nothing new about the US race riots. After nearly three centuries of slave trade, hundred years of racial violence, decades of racial tension, numerous incidents of unrestrained police behaviour towards the African Americans, routine protests and occasional riots, the recent images emerging from the US attest to a social realism that the world is all too familiar with. With the protests growing in spread, strength and vehemence, the demonstrators have started targetting Confederate landmarks and pulling down statues of slave traders. There have also been calls to rechristen army bases named after Confederate

commanders; a move which US President Donald Trump has vowed to oppose in order to protect American heritage and the history of military triumphs. Taking a cue from the US, anti-racism campaigners in England, too, have set out on a defacing spree, unleashing their ire on statues of Winston Churchill, Queen Victoria and even Gandhi. However, when we attempt to reset the clock by "killing" the dead and decapitate statues, we often fail to build something of value in its stead.

In the BBC documentary, *Tearing up History: The Art of Revolution*, which deals with the large-scale destruction of art and architecture during the French revolution, art historian David Clay argues that such acts of vandalism are well nigh as powerful as acts of creation. Accounts of 1792 capture the zeal with which the revolutionaries went about demolishing statues, memorials and palaces — all symbols of the ancient regime. So copious was the revolutionary zeal to de-

Christianise and rationalise France that the seemingly innocuous ways of registering time were also altered. Names of days and months were changed on the calendar and days commemorating saints were removed. Sylvain Marechal, a notorious atheist, poet and political theorist, went as far as secularising the connotation of December 25 from the birth of Lord Jesus to that of Isaac Newton.

In spite of the reign of terror, the monarchical ambition of Napoleon in his later years and the sheer fact that within a space of 22 years the deposed Bourbon dynasty was restored, French experiments with radical social reengineering did yield a few results. However, bulldozing art or attempts at reordering time according to revolutionary ethics have only left behind a bitter legacy of confusion and pain.

The past never really evaporates and continues to inform our present. The erasure of the past, however bitter, cannot be the basis of a lasting future. We know this because Nelson

Mandela carved a rainbow nation in post-apartheid South Africa through reconciliation and Germany decided against dismantling the Nazi concentration camps, lest the coming generations of Germans forget the crimes their ancestors had committed.

This is not to suggest that busts of slave traders should adorn public squares in the US or wherever coloured races have suffered. But how much of the world can be really built anew? Statues, institutions and edifices of what antiquity or which period can be safely removed?

In the context of India, much like any other country of the world, these questions precipitate a set of irredeemably baffling answers. There are so many overlaps between pre and post-Independence India and there is so much that we have borrowed from our colonial exploiters. Our Constitution draws generously from the Government of India Act, 1935, our Parliament is modelled on the British Westminster style and the best of our

universities were established during colonial times. Must we shut our hallowed temples just because of their colonial past? Should we destroy the busts and the forts of India's erstwhile royals because of the caste and economic discrimination they represent and because democracy by its definition is antithetical to feudalism? Or should we prohibit the sons and daughters of former royal families from holding public offices because some of them continue to thrive on account of those identities and in those palaces?

Surely, their heritage notwithstanding, no Indian would ever contemplate dismantling the aforementioned institutions which have served our democracy so faithfully. Surely we cannot overlook the monumental contributions of the Maharajas of Darbhanga, Travancore and Bikaner; to name just a few, who have done so much to modernise India. If we start retracing our steps to arrive at the origin of a crisis, located at some point in the remote past, we would find our-

selves stranded in the middle of Darwin's archipelago. Hardening of administrative positions, calling the protestors "thugs" or making propositions like "no justice, no peace" lend themselves to the archaic Aristotelian logic of the "excluded middle" — a premise which leaves no room for negotiation or a middle ground — planks that we need for lasting truce. Besides, such a position blurs those distinctions that exist between the real oppressors and ideological adversaries. If we allow ourselves to be blinded by rage, however fair it might be, we often tend to misjudge and even Gandhi becomes a racist class enemy.

It is true that melting pots like the US leave much to be desired. Equally valid is the contention that transfer of power, such as the one that took place in India, is at best incomplete. In a country like the US and for that matter in most European nations, the process of integration is far from perfect. If we keep throwing the moments of "first contact" or the unfortunate

reality of colonialism into relief, we are bound to regress several steps away from a possible resolution. Mrinal Sen's film *Interview* offers an interesting take on this dilemma. The film opens with a newsreel showing the removal of colonial statues from Maidan, Kolkata's largest public park. However, attempts to sanitise the city of its colonial vestiges contrast ironically with the fate of the protagonist. Ranjit fails to get a lucrative job with a multinational company because he fails to show up for the interview dressed in immaculate Western attire.

In a world where our fates are inextricably tied, it is difficult to imagine a future based on the erasure of the past, however traumatic or unjust it might be. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine RK Narayan's fictional *Malgudi*, which has over the decades become a universal metaphor for the "real" India, without the statue of that unknown British general that stands proudly in its bustling market.

(The writer teaches English at DU)

# China may enact HK law by June-end

**Beijing:** China's top lawmaking body has announced a three-day session for the end of this month, a move that raises the possibility of the enactment of a national security law for Hong Kong that has stirred debate and fears in the semi-autonomous territory.

The official Xinhua News Agency said on Sunday that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress would meet from June 28 to 30 in Beijing.

The brief report did not mention the Hong Kong security law among several possible discussion items, but it could still be on the agenda or added at the meeting.

China released some details of the legislation late Saturday, heightening fears that the central government is tightening its grip on Hong Kong after months of anti-government protests last year.

Under the draft, the central government would set up a national security office in Hong Kong that would collect and analyze intelligence and deal with criminal cases related to national security.

Hong Kong police and

courts would maintain jurisdiction over cases, but the law would allow an exception for Chinese authorities to exercise jurisdiction over "a tiny number of criminal cases... Under specific circumstances," according to a Xinhua report.

It did not provide any details on what those circumstances might be.

The stationing of Chinese security officials in Hong Kong and their involvement in law enforcement would arguably be the most significant erosion to date of Hong Kong's autonomy in local affairs under the "one country, two systems" principle that has guided the city since Britain returned the former colony to China in 1997.

The draft says the new security law would prevail if local Hong Kong laws are inconsistent with it, Xinhua said. It would require the Hong Kong government to create a national security commission supervised by the central government. Beijing would also appoint a national security adviser for the city.

The timing of the upcoming legislative session is unusual, coming just one week after

a three-day meeting that ended Saturday, and suggests that China may be aiming to pass the law ahead of a July 1 holiday that marks Hong Kong's return to China. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress typically meets every two months.

Last year, anti-government protesters smashed their way into the locked Hong Kong legislative complex on the anniversary, spray painting slogans on the walls and damaging the electronic voting system. The months of protests, in which Chinese flags were trampled on and the Chinese emblem on its Hong Kong office defaced, prompted the central government's decision to enact the law.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, called the draft law "a significant initiative... At a critical moment" to ensure the long-term prosperity and stability of the city of 7.5 million people.

The law will criminalize four acts: secession, subversion of state power, terrorist activities and colluding with foreign forces to endanger national security. **AP**

# UK park stabbings that killed 3 declared terrorist attack

**London:** UK counter-terrorism officers on Sunday declared a stabbing rampage by a Libyan-origin man in a park in the English town of Reading that left three people dead as a terrorist attack.

The local Thames Valley Police had initially launched a murder inquiry and said it was keeping an open mind on the motive behind the knife rampage in a busy park in the city centre on Saturday evening.

"Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon, Senior National Coordinator for the Counter Terrorism Policing network, has this morning declared the incident a terrorist incident, and CTPSE [Counter Terrorism Policing South East] will be taking over the investigation," a Thames Valley Police statement said.

A 25-year-old man who was arrested on suspicion of murder Saturday night, remains in police custody at this time, the statement added.

The knife attack took place in Forbury Gardens in the cen-



Police officers collect flowers left at the Abbey gateway of Forbury Gardens following a multiple stabbing attack in Reading, England on Sunday **AP**

tre of the city in Berkshire.

The arrested man is believed to be a Libyan-origin resident in Britain.

"This was a truly tragic incident and the thoughts of Thames Valley Police are with all those who have been affected," said Chief Constable John Campbell of Thames Valley Police.

"Incidents of this nature are very rare, though I know that will be of little comfort to those involved and understand the concern that this incident will have caused amongst our local community. We will be working closely with our partners over the coming days and weeks to support the Reading community during this time, as well as

with CTPSE as they progress their investigation," he said.

"We have made one arrest and at this stage we are not looking for any other people in connection with this incident. There is no intelligence to suggest that there is any further danger to the public, however we urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious by calling police," Detective Chief Superintendent Ian Hunter, Head of Crime at Thames Valley Police had earlier said.

The police force also confirmed that the attack had no connection with an anti-racism Black Lives Matter protest that took place at the same park earlier on Saturday. They also urge members of the public to not share "incredibly distressing" footage of the knife attack on social media.

Ministers said that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and UK Home Secretary Priti Patel will remain in contact with the police leading the investigation through Sunday. They had issued Twitter mes-

sages expressing their shock at the "senseless attack".

"It's clearly a terrible crime whatever the motivation and we will be making sure the police have all the support they need," UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock told BBC on Sunday.

South Central Ambulance Service said "multiple ambulance resources" were sent to the scene, including five ambulance crews and a helicopter.

The Reading park was busy at the time with large crowds gathered outdoors to enjoy the good weather. Panic set in as the knife-wielding man was spotted, with shouts "run, run" heard as people started dispersing from the area.

Images later emerged of local police carrying out an armed operation at a block of flats in Reading, where the suspect was apparently held. About a dozen armed police officers with shields were seen entering the block and families living in the building were moved out. A loud bang was heard from the inside later. **PTI**

## Ruling populists set to win Serbia vote amid virus concerns

**Belgrade:** Serbia's ruling populists are set to tighten their hold on power in a Sunday parliamentary election held amid concerns over the spread of the coronavirus in the Balkan country and a partial boycott by the opposition.

Nearly 6.6 million voters are eligible to cast ballots for the 250-member parliament and local authorities.

The election — initially planned in April but postponed because of the pandemic — comes as Serbia still reports dozens of new cases daily after completely relaxing the lockdown rules. President Aleksandar Vucic's Serbian Progressive Party appears set for a landslide victory, facing little challenge from the divided opposition. Opponents say this is because Vucic has dominated the campaign on the mainstream media which he controls, clamping down on his critics. He has denied this. Citing lack of free and fair conditions and danger to public health, several main opposition groups are boycotting the vote. A number of smaller parties have decided to run, saying the boycott would only sideline an already marginalized opposition. **AP**

## India playing 'pharmacy of the world' role during COVID-19 crisis: SCO Secretary-General

**PTI ■ BEIJING**

India is playing the role as the "pharmacy of the world" during the COVID-19 pandemic with its vast experience and deep knowledge in medicine, setting the tone for many regional and global initiatives, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Vladimir Norov has said.

India has so far supplied medicines to 133 countries in the fight against COVID-19, which shows India's generosity, despite the fact that the country's government has taken urgent measures to prevent and treat the disease on a national scale, Norov told PTI in an interview.

This is a worthy and responsible example of the behaviour of a major power, and at the same time demonstrates the complementarity and mutual support of the SCO member states, he said.

India last week overwhelmingly won the election to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a non-permanent seat.

Commenting on India's

election to the UNSC, Norov, who visited New Delhi in January this year and held extensive talks with the top Indian leadership, said that the country's entry into the powerful UN organ is more than symbolic.

"This is more than symbolic now as India secures its non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council for the period of 2021-2022.

"I am sure that highly qualified scientists and medical professionals in India will take an active part in the efforts of the world community to study and research the coronavirus pandemic and develop a vaccine," Norov said.

"India plays the role of the 'pharmacy of the world' and in terms of a pandemic it is crucial in a global context," he said.

Beijing-headquartered SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc. India and Pakistan were admitted into the grouping in 2017. Its founding members include China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. **AP**



Demonstrators march outside the BOK Center where President Trump will hold a campaign rally in Tulsa, Okla. **AP**

## 1 man dead, 11 people wounded in Minneapolis shooting

**Minneapolis:** One man is dead and 11 people suffered non-life-threatening wounds in a shooting in Minneapolis, police there said early Sunday.

Minneapolis police had first said 10 people had been shot with "various severity levels of injuries," but revised that in a tweet posted just after 3 am.

The name and age of the deceased weren't immediately released, and it wasn't clear whether anyone was taken into custody. An initial tweet from Minneapolis police advised the public to avoid the area in Uptown Minneapolis. **AP**

## Trump suggests US slow virus testing to avoid bad statistics

**Tulsa (US):** President Donald Trump said Saturday he's asked his administration to slow down coronavirus testing because robust testing turns up too many cases of COVID-19.

Trump told supporters at his campaign rally that the U.S. has tested 25 million people, far more than any other country. The "bad part," Trump said, is that widespread testing leads to logging more cases of the virus.

"When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more people, you're going to find more cases," Trump said. "So I said to my people, 'Slow the testing down, please: They test and they test.' Trump opted to hold his first rally in

110 days despite concerns from local health officials that it could lead to further spread of the virus in Tulsa. Most of those in attendance declined to wear a mask.

The outbreak has killed about 120,000 people in the U.S., and nearly a half-million worldwide, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University, though the real numbers are believed to be higher. The number of newly confirmed cases per day has risen from about 21,400 two weeks ago to 23,200, according to an Associated Press analysis. And in Florida, Georgia, Texas and Arizona daily deaths have been quietly rising since early June. **AP**

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK

# Beijing tests millions for Covid

## PepsiCo suspends ops after workers test positive

**Beijing:** Food and beverage giant PepsiCo has suspended operations in Beijing after some of its employees tested positive for the coronavirus in the Chinese capital, where the city officials are conducting COVID-19 tests on millions, especially employees of restaurants, food delivery services and market vendors.

China's National Health Commission (NHC) said on Sunday that it had reported 32 new COVID-19 cases in the country.

Of the domestically transmitted cases, 22 cases were detected in Beijing and three in neighbouring Hebei Province, the NHC said.

Also on Saturday, seven new asymptomatic cases were reported, it said, adding that 111 asymptomatic cases, including 58 from overseas, were still under medical observation.

Municipal Health Commission of Beijing, where the new cluster of cases were reported, said that from June 11 to 20, the capital had reported 227 confirmed domestically

transmitted cases, all of whom were receiving treatment in hospitals.

There are 18 asymptomatic cases still under medical observation, and one imported case hospitalised in Beijing, the commission said.

The state-run People's Daily reported that PepsiCo Beijing has suspended operations after some of its employees tested positive for the coronavirus.

Till Saturday, Beijing had sampled a total of 2.29 million people for nucleic acid tests during its screening for COVID-19 cases between June 11 to 20, local officials said.

This is part of the efforts to test employees of all food-related services including restaurants and food delivery firms.

An Indian restaurant owner said that tests of all his employees had come as negative.

Beijing is the second Chinese city which resorted to mass testing. Wuhan, where the virus first emerged in December last year, tested almost all of its 11 million residents last month.

Beijing began efforts to contain coronavirus on war footing after the new clusters of cases emerged from May 30 from the city's main Xinfadi wholesale market. **PTI**



Afghan yoga enthusiasts perform to mark International Yoga Day amid the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan on Sunday **AP**

# UN: Afghan healthcare personnel were deliberately attacked

**Kabul:** The United Nations on Sunday released a special report expressing concerns over what it called recent "deliberate attacks" against healthcare workers and facilities in Afghanistan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, said it documented 12 incidents of deliberate acts of violence between March 11 to May 23.

The report said eight of the incidents were carried out by Taliban insurgents while three incidents were attributed to Afghan security forces. The most horrific attack, on a

maternity ward last month at a Kabul hospital that killed 24 people, remains unsolved.

"At a time when an urgent humanitarian response was required to protect every life in Afghanistan, both the Taliban and Afghan national security forces carried out deliberate acts of violence that undermined healthcare operations," said Deborah Lyons, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, and head of UNAMA.

"There is no excuse for such actions; the safety and well-being of the civilian population must be a priority."

Afghanistan has 28,833 confirmed coronavirus cases with 581 deaths.

Though international aid organizations monitoring the pandemic's spread in the country say the numbers are much higher because of a lack of access and testing capabilities.

Following the attack on the Kabul maternity hospital, Doctors Without Borders decided last week to end its operations in Kabul. The international charity, also known by its French acronym MSF, said it would keep its other programs in Afghanistan running, but did not go into details.

## B'desh's national carrier resumes int'l flights

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh's national carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed international flights on Sunday after a gap of three months due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The maiden flight of BG001 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft departed from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for London with 187 passengers on board, airline's Deputy General Manager (Public Relations) Tahera Khandaker told The Daily Star.

Passengers from Dhaka to London route do not require

health certificates declaring that they are not infected with COVID-19, said Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

But they will have to fill-up a health declaration form as per the International Civil Aviation Organization's guidelines, he added.

The CAAB chief also said that all London-bound passengers will have to stay in quarantine for 14 days as per the policy of that country. **PTI**

repeatedly attacked in the past. The UN report emphasized that deliberate acts of violence against healthcare facilities, including hospitals and related personnel, are prohibited under international humanitarian law and constitute war crimes.

"Perpetrating targeted attacks on healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when health resources are already stretched and of critical importance to the civilian population, is particularly reprehensible," said Fiona Frazer, UNAMA Chief of Human Rights. **AP**

## Around the Globe

**Madrid:** Spain's national state of emergency has ended after three months of restrictions on movement to rein in its COVID-19 outbreak. As of Sunday, 47 million Spaniards will be able to freely move around the entire country for the first time since the government declared a state of emergency on March 14. The lockdown measures have been rolled back gradually over recent weeks. "This freedom that we now have, that we don't have to justify our journey to see our family and friends, this was something that we were really looking forward to," 23-year-old Pedro Delgado said at Madrid's airport.

**Kathmandu:** Nepal on Sunday claimed that 90 per cent of its coronavirus cases are migrant workers who returned from abroad, mostly from India, as the country's tally inched closer to the 10,000-mark with 421 new cases. The virus has now spread to 75 of the total 77 districts in the country, the Health Ministry said. The confirmation of 421 new cases pushed Nepal's coronavirus infection tally to 9,026. Dr Basudev Pandey, director at Department of Epidemiology, Ministry of Health said 90 per cent of Nepal's coronavirus cases are migrant workers, who returned from abroad, mostly from India, and 98 per cent of the infected people did not show any symptom. Of the 421 new cases, 64 are female while 357 are male. **AP**

# Govt seeks product-wise details from industry

Planning to curb cheap, low quality imports from China: Sources

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Government has sought product-wise details of cheap imports, comparison with domestic prices and tax disadvantage, if any, from industry to curb low quality inbound shipments especially from China and boost domestic manufacturing, sources said.

They said a high level meeting to discuss ways to promote Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India), including cut in import dependence from China, also took place recently in the Prime Minister's office.

Industry was asked to send comments and suggestions on certain number of goods and raw materials imported from China, which include wrist watches, wall clocks, ampoules, glass rods and tubes, hair cream, hair shampoos, face powder, eye and lip make up preparations, printing ink, paints and varnishes, and some tobacco items, one of the sources said.

The other details sought

## China accounts for about 14 per cent of India's imports

recently put import restrictions on tyres, while also making its prior approval mandatory for foreign investments from countries that share land border with India to curb "opportunistic takeovers" of domestic firms, following COVID-19 pandemic, a move which will restrict FDI from China.

During April 2019-February 2020, India imported goods worth USD 62.4 billion, while exports to the neighbouring country stood at USD 15.5 billion in the same period.

The main goods imported from China include clocks and watches, musical instruments, toys, sports goods, furniture, mattresses, plastics, electrical machinery, electronic equipment, chemicals, iron and steel items, fertilisers, mineral fuel and metals.

India has time and again raised concerns over widening trade deficit with China which stood at about USD 47 billion during April-February 2019-20.

The Government has

include import surge data between 2014-15 and 2018-19; domestic prices of similar goods that are made here, domestic capacity, imports under free trade agreements, and inverted duty issue, if any.

An industry source said that they are preparing their views on all those products and would soon send to the commerce and industry ministry. The exercise to reduce and curb imports from China assumes significance in the wake of border tensions between the two countries.

China accounts for about 14 per cent of India's imports and is a major supplier for sectors like cell phones, telecom, power, plastic toys and critical pharma ingredients.

# Investors to monitor geopolitical developments, trend in Covid-19 cases: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Geopolitical developments and trend in COVID-19 cases will set the tone for equity markets this week, analysts said, adding that with no major events scheduled, indices may consolidate.

"Going ahead, we expect the market momentum to continue in near term on back of changed sentiments and improved liquidity.

"Apart from global cues and development around geopolitical tensions, the monthly F&O expiry would be some of the key monitorables," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

According to analysts, besides stock-specific action, trend in global markets and foreign fund movement would also dictate sentiments.

Rupee-dollar dynamics and crude oil movement would also be key factors to watch, they added. "Given that there are no major scheduled events both locally as well as globally, indices are expected to consolidate and move sideways. Across the world, markets are trying to decode how the eas-

**During the past week, the Sensex rallied 950.85 points or 2.81 %**

ing of lockdown restrictions will help revive economic demand.

"However, the current response seems to be a mixed bag across the world and foresight remains blurry as to how quickly the revival in economies pan out. It insinuates a long drawn journey which ultimately will be reflected in the stock prices," said Jimeet Modi, founder and CEO, SAMCO Securities & StockNote.

During the past week, the Sensex rallied 950.85 points or 2.81 per cent.

Eight days after recording three lakh COVID-19 cases, India went past the 4,00,000-mark on Sunday with the biggest single-day spike of 15,413 new infections, while the death toll rose to 13,254, according to Union Health Ministry data.

# Need more ease of doing business for self-reliant India: CII

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Steps for bringing further ease of doing business in the country will help bring more domestic and foreign investments, and help India in its aim of becoming self-reliant, a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) statement said on Sunday.

The industry body has identified immediate and medium term measures in terms of ease of doing business to boost the economy.

"While many policies have been announced for a facilitative investment climate, effective translation into ground-level outcomes will help investor perceptions and further boost confidence. We believe that taking the ease of doing business route can unlock huge potential at a time when the world is seeking new investment opportunities," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

The statement noted that central and state governments have introduced a plethora of reforms across the various areas of doing business, which helped India leap to the 63rd rank in the latest Doing Business Report of the World

Bank. Sustaining this reform momentum can drive new investments including from overseas, CII said.

It has sought effective implementation of Online Single Window System as the first step towards strengthening ease of doing business. Regular monitoring by the Chief Secretary of a state, time bound approvals and single interface should be implemented in all states, it said.

Currently, only 21 states have implemented this system. For a business entity, there should not be any other point of interface with the government, other than the single window system, it added.

CII noted that simplifying property registration and acquisition of land is critical. Industry should be permitted to buy land directly from farmers with deemed approval after 30 days. Digitisation and integration of land records and single online portal with integrated information can help in titling. Compliances for labour regulations could be speeded up at lower costs, according to the industry body.

As per CII, enforcing contracts is a challenge due to insufficient commercial courts

and infrastructure. It suggests major digital reforms such as virtual court proceedings, e-filing, and work from home to speed up court deliberations.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution institutions can be expanded in all parts of the country with arbitration and mediation centres, it said, adding that over the medium term, judicial capacity must be enhanced with specialized commercial courts at High Courts and District Courts.

It also said that MSMEs need a special helping hand and should be exempted from approvals and inspections for three years under state laws while following all rules. Self certification route can be used for renewal and approvals for MSMEs with a good track record.

India's high logistics costs impact its competitiveness, said the statement. This will require medium term action such as increasing the share of railways and waterways in transport, improving first-mile and last-mile connectivity and reducing port dwell time.

Cross-subsidisation of freight should be rationalised, CII said among other suggestions.

# FPIs invest ₹17,985 crore in June so far

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have infused a net ₹ 17,985 crore into the Indian capital markets in June so far amid increasing liquidity and higher risk appetite.

According to the latest depositories data, a net sum of ₹20,527 crore was pumped into equities by FPIs between June 1-19, while they withdrew a net ₹2,569 crore from the debt segment.

This took the total net investment to ₹ 17,985 crore.

Prior to this, overseas investors remained net sellers for three consecutive months. They pulled out a net ₹7,366 crore in May, ₹15,403 crore in April and a record ₹1.1 lakh crore in March.

"As economies all over the world are increasing liquidity, the appetite for higher risk investments like equities is also increasing considerably.

"This money will find its way into India as India is well placed among emerging markets," said Harsh Jain, co-founder and COO, Groww.

Household and personal products, oil and gas and telecom stocks have attracted most of FPIs' attention over the past month, he added.

As per Rusmik Oza, executive vice president and head of fundamental research at Kotak Securities, the market mood is quite supportive due to gradual resumption in business activities and some positive news flows coming from the banking and financial services sector.

"Since global markets are supportive, the Nifty-50 has smartly moved back above 10,000 level. If global markets don't fall sharply in the next week, then we can expect some positive flows from FPI side," Oza said.

Himanshu Srivastava, associate director-manager research at Morningstar India, termed the investment environment as "dynamic in nature".

However, he added that the Indian economy had been struggling to gain pace even before the coronavirus pandemic.

# China loses WTO dispute over market economy status

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark development, China has lost a dispute to the European Union at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a market economy status, as the former allowed the dispute to lapse.

The development comes after four years of battle for the market-economy status by China. The designation would have put the country in a stronger position in respect of its commercial and trade partners.

A note by the WTO Secretariat said China allowed the dispute to lapse. "At the request of China, the panel suspended its work on 14 June 2019 (WT/DS516/13). Since the panel has not been requested to resume its work, pursuant to Article 12.12 of the DSU, the authority for establishment of

the panel lapsed as of 15 June 2020," read the Secretariat's note.

According to the EU, China subsidises its industries to a great extent, particularly steel and aluminium, making their sales prices in the international market unfair.

After the latest development, to protect their industries, the EU and the United States will be able to apply high anti-dumping tariffs on goods from China.

Similar issues have also been faced by India in terms of "dumping" of low-cost products by China. India has imposed anti-dumping duties on several occasions on several items.

Further, amid the ongoing border tussle, India may impose higher tariffs on products that are mostly imported from China.

# LIKELY JOB CUTS

## Salary reductions to have low impact on SBI: Chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar assured shareholders that the likely job cuts and salary reductions in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic will leave 'relatively low level' of stress on the bank as the proportion of business from Government and quasi-Government sector is high.

In a letter to the bank's shareholders, Kumar exuded confidence that despite economic headwinds, the robust performance achieved by the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) in 2019-20 will continue in the current financial year.

"...despite the economic headwinds, the Bank is well prepared to adjust to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am more than hopeful that the robust performance achieved in FY20 will continue in FY21 as well," the SBI chairman said.

Observing that the full impact of COVID-19 outbreak will be felt in the current financial year, Kumar said from the bank's point of view, the true impact of COVID pandemic must also consider the behavioural impact on bank's customers, and composition of portfolio, among others.

"For instance, likely job cuts and salary reductions will have relatively low level of stress on account of higher proportion of Govt/ Quasi Govt. Sector customers," he said in the letter, as per SBI's annual report.

"As of now, only 21.8 per cent of the customers have availed the benefit of moratorium. Furthermore, the Bank was able to achieve 98 per cent branch operability as well as 91 per cent alternate channel operability during the period of lockdown," Kumar added.

Nevertheless, an elaborate Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is in place to manage disruptions, he said.

SBI has traditionally been the banker of choice to the Government of India (GOI)

An elaborate Business Continuity Plan is in place to manage disruptions- Rajnish Kumar

2019-20 at ₹14,488 crore. The net profit was ₹862 crore during 2018-19.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the outlook of the global economy has become very uncertain and world is likely to experience a deep rooted recession next year, Kumar said.

The RBI expects contraction in the Indian economy during the current financial year.

Kumar also said that the pandemic has changed the preference of customers and it is a big opportunity for the bank as there is now more acceptability to adopt digital channels for doing banking transactions.

He said the bank will further scale up YONO (all-encompassing digital platform) and has set a target of doubling user registrations in the next six months, and further strengthen platform through new product offerings like end-to-end home loans, pre-approved car loan and personal gold loans.

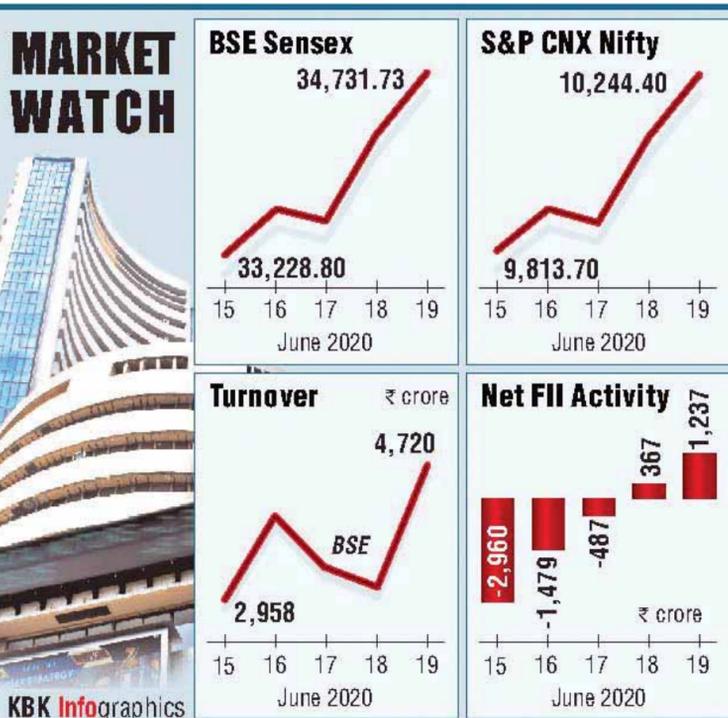
# PNB plans to hit capital market in Q4

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's second largest lender Punjab National Bank is planning to hit capital markets in the fourth quarter this fiscal to raise funds to help meet growth needs and regulatory requirements.

At the moment, the bank is sufficiently capitalised with the capital adequacy ratio of 14.14 per cent at the end of March 2020, PNB Managing Director S S Mallikarjuna Rao told PTI in an interview.

"However, we will finalise the opening balance sheet of amalgamated entities in the next board meeting in July. Probably then the bank will get an actual estimate of the capital," he said. "We will be planning (capital raising) somewhere around end of third quarter or beginning of fourth quarter. By this time we would have declared two quarterly balance sheet of the amalgamated entities," he said.



# Ratan Tata calls for stopping online hate, bullying

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata on Sunday called for stopping online hatred and bullying and instead supporting each other in what has been a "year full of challenges" for everyone.

In a post on social media platform Instagram, Tata said the online community is being hurtful to each other and bringing each other down.

"This year has been full of challenges for everyone, on some level or the other.

I see online community being hurtful to each other, bringing each other down, harshly and with quick judgements," the Chairman Emeritus of the Tata group said.

# PRICE HIKED FOR 15TH DAY IN A ROW

## Diesel hiked 60 paise, petrol up 35 paise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price on Sunday hit a fresh record high after rates were hiked by 60 paise per litre while petrol price was up 35 paise, taking the cumulative increase in rates in 15 days to ₹8.88 a litre and ₹7.97 respectively.

Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to ₹79.23 per litre from ₹78.88, while diesel rates were increased to ₹78.27 a litre from ₹77.67, according to a price notification of state oil marketing companies.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT.

Taxes make up for nearly two-thirds of the retail selling price.

As much as ₹50.69 per litre, or 64 per cent, in petrol price is due to taxes - ₹32.98 is the central excise duty and ₹17.71 is local sales tax or VAT.

Over 63 per cent of the retail selling price of diesel is taxes. Out of the total tax incidence of ₹49.43 per litre, ₹31.83 is by way of central excise and ₹17.60 is VAT.

Petrol in Mumbai costs ₹86.04 per litre and diesel is priced at ₹76.69.

The 15th daily increase in rates since oil companies on June 7 restarted revising prices in line with costs after ending an 82-day hiatus in rate revision, has taken diesel prices to fresh highs. Petrol price too is at a two-year high.

Prior to the current rally, the peak diesel rates had touched was on October 16,

2018 when prices had climbed to ₹75.69 per litre in Delhi.

The highest-ever petrol price was on October 4, 2018 when rates soared to ₹84 a litre in Delhi.

When rates had peaked in October 2018, the Government had cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹1.50 per litre each.

State-owned oil companies were asked to absorb another ₹1 a litre to help cut retail rates by ₹2.50 a litre.

Oil companies had quickly recouped the ₹1 and the Government in July 2019 raised excise duty by ₹2 a litre.

The 82-day freeze in rates this year was imposed in mid-March soon after the Government hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel to shore up additional finances.

# Provision of modernised medical equipments in KG Hospital of CLW

Chitranjan: In order to provide more medical facilities to all the workers of CLW and their family members, KG Hospital of CLW has provided 14 modernize medical equipments on Sunday. Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager of CLW inaugurated the modern medical equipments through video conferencing while e-opening from the meeting room in the administrative building. Senior officers were present at the opening ceremony in administrative building. 14 medical equipments costing around Rs 1.3 cr,



prominent among them, like, Operating Microscope for Eye, Remote Controlled OT 1. Table, ICU Ventilator, Automated CPR Machine,

# International Yoga day observed in metro staffers

Kolkata: International Yoga Day was observed by Metro officers and staff with their family members and friends by maintaining social distancing and other guidelines to improve immunity, the sense of well being on Sun. Due to the present pandemic situation, mass gathering is not possible. Hence, Metro men participated in programme with rest of the country by practising different Asanas from home in 45-min long drill to stay fit both mentally, physically as well as promote Yoga, an integral part of Indian culture.

# AEPC seeks lifting of export ban on PPE kits

Production hits 8 lakh units per day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian apparel export industry body AEPC on Sunday urged the Government to lift the ban on exports of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits as its production has reached 8 lakh units per day.

Apparel Export Promotion Council Chairman A Sakthivel said huge export opportunities exist for domestic players in the global PPE kit market.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY  
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR APPOINTMENT OF AGENCY FOR WATCH AND WARD SERVICES AT CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, RANCHI

Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for the appointment of agency for "Watch and Ward Services" at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. Tender documents can be purchased from the Establishment Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 by submitting tender fee (Rs. 300/- Rupees Three Hundred) in the form of Demand Draft favoring Administrative Officer, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 or by submitting Cash Rs. 300/- (Rupees Three Hundred Only) in the Cash Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 w.e.f. 22.06.2020 to 10.07.2020 between 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The tender documents can also be downloaded from the website free of cost. The last date of submission of tender is 13.07.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. (Monday).

The details of the tender is available in our website i.e. www.cipranchi.nic.in and also in CPP Portal website i.e. at the www.eprocure.gov.in.

Sd/- Director  
CIP, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Trend Slazer

'Bulbbul is clutter-breaking'

As a producer, **ANUSHKA SHARMA** wants to produce content that stands out, and says that her forthcoming production *Bulbbul* is in sync with the ethos. She said that the supernatural thriller narrates a cinematic story dipped in folklore.

"From the moment I heard *Bulbbul*, we immediately wanted to produce it. It is a fascinating, captivating, cinematic story dipped in folklore which we instantly fell in love with. Anvita's storytelling is unique and with this she is giving audience something really clutter-breaking," Anushka said.



**'I have always been in complete awe of singers, particularly actor-singers or singer-actors. I have often been so moved by their talent that I have cried through most musicals I have watched. Learning how to sing is like learning a new language. It requires complete attention and focus, and every small learning comes with so much joy.'**

—Rasika Dugal

Singer **ARMAAN MALIK** has been following the guidelines of the lockdown very responsibly, and says he is really missing his friends.



I have been at my home all this time and have followed the guidelines of the lockdown very responsibly. I am missing my friends a lot and just wish to meet all of them real soon," he said.

After foraying into international music with his English song *Control* a while back, Armaan recently unveiled a new English single, *Next 2 me*.

Separated for family's well-being: Angelina

Hollywood star **ANGELINA JOLIE** has finally opened up about the reason behind splitting from actor Brad Pitt, saying she separated for the well-being of her family.



She opened up about the split and said: "I separated for the well-being of my family. It was the right decision. I focus on their healing. Some have taken advantage of my silence, and the children see themselves in the media, but I remind them that they know their own truth and their own minds."

While live streaming and virtual gigs replace music concerts temporarily, do artistes really seem content? What does the future of music look like? **CHAHAK MITTAL** speaks to some musicians to assess the appeal of drive-in shows



LET THE QUARAN-TUNE PLAY

The photograph that slides down from your father's old album, in which he and your mother were sharing an ice cream while sitting on a car's bumper under the night sky, watching *Maine Pyaar Kiya* in the town's open theatre, is something millennials can never imagine. The idea seems fascinating but equally strange to a generation which sits on comfy couches in a movie theatre with a tub of popcorn in hand. But looks like history is going to repeat itself and a live indoor concert beamed on a screen at a drive-through is going to be the order of the day. When we spoke to some musicians about the scope of music and live concerts post COVID-19, they came up with innovative ideas.

TECH'S THE WAY. BUT IS IT?

Touring musicians and singers have been contemplating the future in the wake of Coronavirus as concerts have either been postponed or called off. Attending live concerts with ear-jarring speakers around the stadium and laser lights has become a rare sight. The music scene has never been in such peril. So what's the way out?

Singer and composer Kailash Kher says, "During this time, many new technologies and ways have evolved to connect people from various parts of the world through one platform. And hence, a few musicians are trying to get into virtual concerts. That way, we can see some positivity in this route. However, there's

a glitch in the process. First, the way that physical concerts happened with those lights and music effects, that extra energy and an adrenaline rush — all of that is missing online. Second, all the musicians cannot actually present it in the same framework the way they would in person, vibing off each other. So slowly, this technological aspect will also have to evolve so that every musician from wherever he/she is can join in and invest the performance with some energy."

Of course, witnessing live performances and virtual concerts are two different experiences. Says singer Amit Mishra, "Online streaming does not have that much impact. I think we need more technical advancements along with a team of editors who can make virtual concerts more interesting. We can also use VR kits for a more personalised experience. But the physical energy cannot be recreated. I am still happy though that the efforts are being made to keep up the good spirit of music."

Singer Mrinalini Somani, founder of WE - Concert with a Cause, makes a similar observation and says that even though a lot of concerts have shifted online, they fail to replicate the real deal. "But still, I don't think people will ever stop wanting to feel and

experience live music. The only big advantage of this is that people from all around the world can attend such shows which they otherwise wouldn't have been able to."

Singer Jonita Gandhi says that musicians will certainly have to rely on the internet for a foreseeable future. However, "bringing variations such as turning to online teaching and conducting masterclasses is a great way to connect since they are not on the road as much. Because I don't think there is much that can be done until more technical advancements take place. Then, we can even jam with other artistes with more spontaneity."

Singer Neeti Mohan still feels disconnected. Says she, "Putting it together online is easy. But it is a different segment of work, which is not even close to an actual concert. To recreate that, we need better technology and more resources, which are also cost-effective and affordable for artistes as well as the audience. We need a technology where there is no lagging or a technical glitch; where I can sing from my home and my band mem-

bers can join in from their homes and simultaneously people can watch it live and in real time. It is possible even now but there is always a lag or a buffer and we are not able to perform absolutely live! A lot of times we have to pre-record because we don't want to give out something to the audience that does not sound good."

Singer Jankee Mehta shares her challenges of conducting an online session. "It has been very challenging for me. My band, Jankee & Friends, comprises eight members. We have toured a lot for wedding gigs and corporate events and every band member is extremely integral to bringing a wholesome performance together. It is heartbreaking now to go solo from Jankee & friends to Jankee. I have been introspecting a lot on how I can make my virtual offering different and also researching on how I could involve my team to perform virtually together. It's still some work in progress."

SKYBOUND

When last week Denmark announced its first physically live concert in the city of Aarhus, there were apprehensions and worries among people as to how will such a large event ensure their safety? But it turned out to be a drive-in concert where the audience could watch live music from the comfort of their cars. A set of safety guidelines to be followed were provided to the citizens. A stage was set up on the city's outskirts for the singer to perform solo. From inside their socially-distanced cars, attendees could tune in to the designated FM channel and enjoy the live concert — exactly like the

famous drive-in movie of the 90s.

Jonita suggests that this concept, if implemented and followed wisely, could be a hit in India too. She says, "I think drive-in concerts could totally create a new normal. This is happening in many cities in the US and other parts of the world. It would be physically live and in person and at the same time, be very cool and safe. But yes, proper guidelines will have to be carried out for maintaining distance."

CREATIVE PURSUITS

The recent music scene has seen a range of remixes and item numbers. With more musicians at home in their spaces, would song-writing quality improve? Would we see more independent talent release their albums?

Kher says he has turned more inward and deep: "I am counting on myself to work and create something new that I couldn't while on the go." During the lockdown, he has written and composed almost 15 songs and he is now "ready to release two to three albums" whenever things get better or normal. He says, "During this time, I have so many thoughts coming about everything. These weren't something I'd have paid attention to in the normal routine days. Now, I have the time to pen them down. I think musicians should really see this as a chance to create something original. Over the past 10 years, I don't think I have heard any song which I can listen to over and over again or go back to. Only repetition has been there."

Jonita agrees and adds, "A lot of musicians, who were hesitating to put their time into writing, are finding their way with words. So we'll see a surge of independent music now that they are not tied down by film assignments."

Will distancing be factored in the lyrics of most love songs of the future? Will music made for awareness evolve as a whole new genre? Singer Neeti Mohan, who has been engaged with a lot of live concerts via Instagram and Facebook Live throughout the lockdown, doing charity concerts for awareness and positivity, was also a part of the MTV and MTV Beats' musical, *Music Beyond Borders*, on World Music Day. She says, "Recently, I worked on a song with AR Rahman for raising money on Corona awareness. Various artistes joined us to spread the message of safety and how music would never forsake us or let us be in solitude. I think bringing awareness through music is here to stay, messaging will find a way in lyrics."

Many music companies have already released special playlists on their respective apps like 'Lockdown tune-in,' 'Quarantine playlist,' 'At home specials,' etc. These include songs like Cody Francis' *We're Gonna Be Okay*, which also topped the charts during the first few weeks of the shutdown. May we add, "We're going to make it okay!"



BACK AT IT

There are some songs you want the world to listen to in your voice and *Do Ka Chaar* is one such, says **SONU NIGAM**

Sonu Nigam is back to what he does best — singing. He has sang a new original love song, *Do Ka Chaar*, for the latest film *Chaman Bahaar*, produced by Yoodlee Films. The film has an eclectic music score, matching its theme and semi-urban milieu, and spanning a varied music scape.

Set in Raipur, the film follows Billu (Jitendra Kumar), a young ambitious boy who sets up a paan shop and gets smitten by the young girl — Rinku, who lives in the bungalow opposite his shop. But this girl is fancied by other young men of the town. They all come and hang in front of Billu's shop just to get a glimpse of her. His business flourishes tremendously but Billu has to carefully navigate through this bunch of lovers and find a chance to express his feelings to this girl.

The situation in the song is Billu's reverie as he imagines Rinku and himself united forever, dancing away into sunsets and meadows, a stark contrast



to his real life situation, where he hasn't even spoken to the girl once.

Sonu said he loved the track when he heard it for the first time. "I absolutely loved the song. I had requested for a copy of the song right after I sang it. This is not generally my practice. There are some songs you want the world to listen to in your voice. I am in love with the composition, lyrics and arrangement of the song. Looking forward to the film," he

said. Siddharth Anand Kumar, Vice President, Films and Events, Saregama said, "Sonu was approached for he seemed the obvious and easy choice for this cracker of a love song. It's quirky, sensitive, exudes the fresh feeling of first love, and Sonu's impeccable voice captures the dreams and desires of this lovelorn character. I am happy at the way the entire soundtrack has turned out."

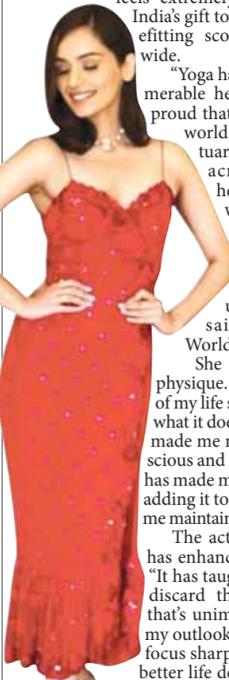
Yoga has made me stronger: Manushi

Manushi Chhillar, who is set to debut in *Prithviraj* opposite Akshay Kumar, said she is indebted to yoga for making her stronger physically and mentally. On International Day of Yoga, she said that she feels extremely proud that yoga is India's gift to the world and it's benefiting scores of people worldwide.

"Yoga has invaluable and innumerable health benefits and I'm proud that it is India's gift to the world. It has become a sanctuary for so many people across the world and helped them in so many ways. I recommend everyone should add yoga to their routines to understand the benefits that one can unlock for themselves," said the former Miss World.

She credited yoga for her physique. "Yoga has been a part of my life since school. More than what it does physically, I feel it has made me more aware, more conscious and I can say, in a way, yoga has made me stronger. I've enjoyed adding it to my rest days as it helps me maintain my flexibility," she said.

The actor also said that yoga has enhanced her sense of focus. "It has taught me patience and to discard things from my mind that's unimportant. It has helped my outlook towards life, made my focus sharper and helped me take better life decisions," she added.



The pandemic has impacted the worldly affairs at different, unfathomable dimensions. The immediate impacts were visible to everyone as both — the people and the governments — were caught off-guard by this novel virus. As months have passed and gaps in our basic infrastructure continue to hit hard the 'poorest of the poor', the pandemic is unfolding a world where some are looking at going back to the conventional ways of living closer to the nature while some are not too hopeful of the return.

Remote villages of the hilly Indian state, Himachal Pradesh, are faced with a similar dilemma where on one hand, COVID-19 has forced people to look at more 'communal' ways of surviving and on the contrary, has distanced people from one another. In the earlier days, most villages religiously followed a tradition — Buari, which was based on the 'spirit of cooperation'. Unfortunately, this tradition has been disappearing from the social milieu of the villages until the spread of the virus.

**WHAT IS BUARI?**

If on a particular day a villager had to harvest the crop, everyone in the village would lend their hand to finish the job. That applied to other farmers as well. Together, they would spend days in the fields cultivating the crop, conversing through traditional folk songs and sharing lunch. The cooperation was not just limited to agriculture field but extended to construction of each other's houses too. No one hired labourers, as villagers together laid the foundation of an individual's house. Slowly, people started migrating to towns in search of better career opportunities. This led to transformation in the agriculture traditions wherein they would give their orchards or cultivable fields on contracts or hired migrant workers mostly for harvesting vegetables, fruits and other crops. These migrant workers came from states like UP, Bihar, Jharkhand or the Ghurkhas of Nepal and were mostly hired by apple growers.

**RETURN OF BUARI IN THE POST-COVID WORLD**

The tradition that was on the verge of getting extinct has made a surprise comeback in the situation arising out of the spread of the virus, feels Layakram of Shill village in the Gram Panchayat Majhiwar of Shimla district. "As I returned to my village due to the nationwide lockdown, I decided to cultivate part



# BACK TO THE ROOTS

Though Corona has helped the people in Himachal revive their tradition, they are sceptical about the uncertainties that lie ahead, says SARITA BRARA

of my land where bushes and wild plants had grown in abundance rendering it uncultivable. Yes, the villagers helped me remove all that unwanted growth and make it cultivable again. Lands lying barren for years are now being tilled by the returnees," shared Layakram.

Meenakshi, his spouse shared how a time-consuming and labourious task of extracting *anardaana* from pomegranate was made easier because of the shared workload. The couple is hopeful that the tradition will help those who have come back to village reconnect with their roots.

**THE FORGOTTEN FRUIT OF PHYSICAL LABOUR**

Yashpaul Sharma, however, is sceptical. After having worked as a general manager at a hotel in the not so far tourist town of Shimla, he was forced to return to his native village Allana as the hotels were closed following the lockdown orders. Yashpaul feels that working in agriculture fields even with the cooperation of others is a lot of hard work. His two brothers who were also in the hotel industry in Solan and Chandigarh and were forced to return, shared their sentiments. After losing their lucrative and



rather cushy jobs, they are now growing cash-crops on their land. "No doubt we are enjoying the benefits of a joint family with all the members working in the field together and taking responsibility of household chores. But for how long?" they ask.

For them, there is a feeling of uncertainty about how long the hotel industry will remain shut, whether they will get back their jobs. Moreover, with the spread of virus, they are not even sure that the vegetables they are growing will fetch good prices.

**CORONA AND THE MISTRUST**

He says that while it is good to talk about the Buari spirit, the villagers

become quite wary if one goes to the market even to buy some basic commodity. "Villagers look at you suspiciously. There is an environment of fear and doubt with regard to the returnees." "Yes, this is true," says Sachin Sharma who was working for a yarn and fabric making unit in Baddi, one of the industrial towns of Himachal Pradesh. In the beginning people were even scared to greet him fearing he may have been infected by the virus.

But unlike Yashpaul, he wants to stay in his village permanently now. "I have come here for good and am not going back to my job. I have learnt all the processes required for yarn, fabric making and marketing of the products," shared Sachin who is hopeful of establishing a unit in his own village with the help of other returnees.

He seemed well aware of the challenges that this task will face him with, but he is determined of making it one day. Corona has impacted lives of people like Yashpaul, his brothers, Sachin and rest of the Himachali people in a drastic manner. Everyone is thinking of ways to ensure that they take the next steps in the right direction to keep their families safe to which there are no right answers yet. —Charkha Features



## The chronicles of mankind

If the virtues of tolerance, respect, compassion and mercy are put together, mankind can be saved from conflicts and wars, says

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Recent news of a powerful Asian country's invasion on a neighbouring country's territory to merge it into its own territory, clearly shows that how military or political power corrupts men and also the nations they lead. It's a fact that when power goes into a person's head, he gets so intoxicated that he does not mind the consequences of his misadventures. In his quest of gaining new countries, he may lose even his own or may be judged as a criminal in the eyes of the international community. Thus, lose prestige and even power, yet he takes all these risks because his judgement is shadowed by his ego generated by his military might. Not only does his ego and his power-to-strike lead such a person to his own doom but it drags to a definite decline of the whole nation. The whole country then suffers from the war psychosis or war hysteria and loses its good relations with its neighbours and the sympathisers.

If we rewind our memory a little bit, we would recollect many such misadventures that took place out of one person's ego. Thus, any vice is not only harmful to the person who is afflicted with it but it also spreads like an infection or an epidemic and affects the moral and spiritual health of the whole nation very badly. Same is the result of greed and selfishness. The motive to capture neighbouring country forms an axis with the power to kill and both together blindfold the man and lead him astray from the path of sanity. The chronicles of mankind bear witness to the truth that property worth inestimable amount and millions of men have been lost in the slaughter house of intolerance during the last 2,000 years. It's because of the intolerance that ensued from a hurt ego, an unfulfilled selfish motive or narrow-mindedness that could not stand the existence of different views, lifestyles, cultures and self-interests.



Can anyone calculate or imagine how many families lost their peace and harmony and how many cities and civilisations were ruined because of intolerance? If only this virtue called 'tolerance' had been sustained, all or many other virtues also would have survived because when tolerance is lost, man loses his patience. One would be wise to note that no vice or evil goes alone. Evils have powerful links among themselves. They help sustain and promote each other. Thus, the ego, activated by military power, goads lust for territory. Both together lead to hate, anger and violence in the form of war and attempt to annex another country's territory.

Another important negative development that usually takes place as a result of aggravation of vices in the leaders is that, it attracts a negative response from other nations or their leaders. Thus, show of military strength provokes other nations and the latter also try to meet the challenge by military might. So evil generates evil. Not only are many evils allies of one major evil but they generate their own enemies which also are nothing but evil. All this forms a vicious circle and destroys peace and happiness. Therefore, it is not too late for people, who are mercilessly killing innocents, begin to observe the virtues of tolerance, respect, compassion and mercy. All of which are greater than valour. And if put together, mankind can be saved from wars, communal riots, conflict on the basis of difference in religious beliefs and extinction through a nuclear catastrophe.

In life, there are more things outside of our control than we care to admit. We face uncertain situations in many aspects. The latest example being the unprecedented yet a tremendous challenge that was the COVID-19 outbreak. However, most of us find it difficult to be comfortable with not knowing the eventual outcome of our decisions. This low tolerance for ambiguity often makes things harder for us. Training ourselves to be comfortable with uncertainty will benefit both us and also those around us.

In workplaces, conflicts can arise when there is uncertainty, which can be about areas of responsibility or business outcomes. Uncertain situations are unavoidable, and so are conflicts. However, we often shy away from resolving conflicts because we fail to accept the need for resolution or we don't know how to go about it.

**RESOLVE CONFLICTS THROUGH ACTIVE PRACTICE OF COMPASSION**

Though unavoidable, conflicts can be prevented or resolved before it becomes disruptive to businesses. Quick and effective resolution of conflicts allows organisations to work productively. The most effective tool for conflict management is the active practice of compassion. In most cases, conflicts stem from a misunderstanding, and they can be resolved through gleaming understanding. Compassion is nothing but our willingness to understand the perspective of another person and the desire to help.

**HOW TO PUT COMPASSION INTO PRACTICE?**

# Thriving in the new normal

Through compassion and a solution-oriented mindset, we can have greater control over how we manage conflicts even in uncertain times, says SHALINI BHATTACHARYA

**Identify the problem**

Constructively resolving and preventing further conflict begins with seeing things as they are. Our views are often clouded by prejudices and deep-rooted perceptions. Compassion is practicable when there is awareness and acceptance of subjective experience. We must separate the real situation and our perception of it while resolving conflicts.

**Become self-aware**

Through understanding ourselves we can understand others. Practice self-awareness. When conflict arises, what is your immediate reaction? Can you notice certain patterns of thought which stem from your cognitive biases towards a person or situation? When you acknowledge this in yourself and accept it, it becomes easier for you to accept this in others as well.

**Communicate even when it's uncomfortable**

We need to communicate to gain understanding of other's perspective and emotional reaction to a certain situation. However, people often find it difficult to communicate, especially when their views are in conflict with another's. It is easier to shut down but it doesn't solve



anything and often leads to further conflicts.

**Learn to listen**

Listening is the key to effective communication. Let the other person explain the situation from their perspective. Create a space for them to be vulnerable and acknowledge their issues. You can get uncomfortable and be tempted to explain, give advice, justify and defend yourself and even divert the conversation to your own experience. Avoid this while listening to someone else.

It is easier said than done. Compassion takes practice and a constant eye on our own reac-

tions and responses. However, it's worth the effort. By doing this, we encourage others to decode their own responses conditioned by their perceptions and build successful work relationships.

**Importance of positive outlook**

As we discussed earlier, uncertainty is inescapable. We shouldn't ask — 'Will I experience uncertainty?' but rather — 'How do I foster the right mindset to deal with uncertainty?' There is nothing wrong with experiencing fear, anxiety or panic when it hits us. These are our common responses when we

face uncertain situations. But we can take a step back and look at things differently. Negativity is quick to affect our thoughts, what we hear, speak and how we interact with people around us. We start blaming ourselves or others. In those moments, problems give birth to more issues. Though we can't control certain things, we can gain control of how we approach an issue. If we are to strive for the best possible outcome then we need to adopt a solution-oriented mindset.

**HOW TO BECOME SOLUTION-ORIENTED**

A solution-oriented person adapts and shows resilience in the face of challenges. Not many people are inherently solution-oriented. However, this can be practiced and developed over time.

**Recognise problem-oriented thinking**

Understand what problem and solution-oriented thinking sounds like.

❖ Problem-oriented thinking: I want to do 'A' but can't because of 'B'.

❖ Solution-oriented thinking: How can I work my way around 'B' so that I can do 'A'?

It's important to recognise and catch ourselves when we are slipping into the problem-oriented mindset.

**Understand the issue**

Try to look back to a situation where you blamed yourself, other people or circumstances. It led you to nowhere and probably created more problems. It is essential to see the uselessness of problem mindset to adopt a new mindset. J Krishnamurti said, "Freedom from the desire for an answer is essential to the understanding of a problem." Our need to find an answer can become an obstacle. We need to understand the problem fully from its roots to the surface. Breaking it down can help us approach problems without getting overwhelmed.

**Commit to thinking out of the box**

We tend to lament over a situation rather than being solution-oriented and it's not hard to see why. Albert Einstein once said, "We are boxed in by the boundary condition of our thinking." Being solution-oriented requires thinking out of the box, which most of us don't do readily. However, this too is practicable. We can make a conscious decision to think differently, unconventionally and from a new perspective whenever we face problems.

It's important to practice until it becomes our second nature. We must commit to channeling our attitude, time and energy to find solutions to problems and conflicts. Through compassion and a solution-oriented mindset, we can have greater control over how we manage conflict even in uncertain times and there is nothing more empowering.

(The author is the executive leadership coach and the founder of White Ray Coaching.)

I've learned that even when I have pain, I don't have to be one. —Maya Angelou

**NEW MOMS FEEL ANXIOUS DURING PANDEMIC**

Ladies, please take note. Researchers have stressed that new mothers are more likely to suffer from post-natal depression and anxiety during COVID-19 pandemic.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Global Women's Health, revealed that the number of pregnant and postpartum women suffering from the condition have increased during the health crisis.

"The social and physical isolation measures that are critically needed to reduce the spread of the virus are taking a toll on the physical and mental health of many of us," said study co-author Margie Davenport from the University of Alberta in Canada.

For new moms, those stresses come with side effects. Such effects can include premature delivery, reduced mother-infant bonding, and developmental delays in infants.



**VIT D MITIGATES CHEMOTHERAPY SIDE EFFECTS**

Researchers have found that vitamin D can mitigate chemotherapy-induced gastrointestinal mucositis — a painful inflammation and ulceration of the digestive tract.

Gastrointestinal mucositis is one adverse outcome of chemotherapy that has plagued cancer sufferers for years and, for which, no effective treatment currently exists.

The findings showed that vitamin D could mitigate inflamed intestinal tracts and provide relief to cancer patients. The study, published in the journal Supportive and Palliative Care, highlights the limited options for easing the gastrointestinal side effects of chemotherapy, singling out Vitamin D and probiotics as the most promising.

"We know that Vitamin D helps in the absorption of calcium, but new findings suggest it may also play an important role in chemotherapy-induced intestinal mucositis," said study lead author Cuthan Sylvester from the University of South Australia.



**MMR VACCINE MAY PREVENT COVID-19**

The MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine could serve as a preventive measure to dampen septic inflammation associated with COVID-19 infection, say researchers.

According to the study, published in the journal mBio, vaccination with MMR in immunocompetent individuals has no contraindications and may be especially effective for health care workers who can easily be exposed to COVID-19. "Live attenuated vaccines seemingly have some nonspecific benefits as well as immunity to the target pathogen. A clinical trial with MMR in high-risk populations may provide a low-risk-high-reward preventive measure in saving lives during the COVID-19 pandemic," said study researcher Paul Fidel from the Louisiana State University in the US.

"While we are conducting the clinical trials, I don't think it's going to hurt anybody to have an MMR vaccine that would protect against the measles, mumps, and rubella with this potential added benefit of helping against Covid-19," Fidel added.



**STRESSED CORONA PATIENTS AT DEATH RISK**

A team of UK scientists, led by an Indian-origin researcher, has found that COVID-19 patients with extremely high levels of stress hormone cortisol in their blood are more likely to deteriorate quickly and die.

The study from Imperial College London, published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, provides the first data to show that cortisol levels are a marker of the severity of the illness.

The researchers suggest cortisol levels can be used to identify those patients who are more likely to need intensive care.

Cortisol is produced by the body in response to stress such as illness, triggering changes in metabolism, heart function and the immune system to help our bodies cope.



**UK COVID TRACING APP ADOPTS APPLE MODEL**

The UK has shifted its Coronavirus contact tracing app to Apple-Google Exposure Notification technology which has been touted as more decentralised and privacy-focused model.

The UK National Health Service (NHS) tested both centralised and decentralised systems against each other over the course of the past month.

Germany, Italy and Denmark are among other countries to have switched from centralised approach to a decentralised one for their contact tracing apps.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said that original plan might have worked had it not been for Apple's restrictions on third-party apps' use of Bluetooth. "Apple software prevents iPhones being used effectively for contact tracing unless you're using Apple's own technology," he was quoted as saying.



# ATM heat up top-4 race

## Vitolo's strike makes difference for Simeone's side against Valladolid

AP ■ BARCELONA

Atletico Madrid honored the club's victims of the coronavirus pandemic and earned a hard-fought victory in its first home game since the Spanish league resumed.

Substitute Victor "Vitolo" Machin scored the winner in the 81st minute of a 1-0 win over Valladolid on Saturday.

The victory lifted Diego Simeone's team past Sevilla and into third place on head-to-head goal difference.

Barcelona leads the league by three points over Real Madrid, which can pull level if it wins at Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Madrid holds the tiebreaker between the two in case of a tie. Atletico and Sevilla trail Barcelona by 13 points with eight games left.

Atletico used the occasion of its first match at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in more than three months to pay tribute to its former coach Radomir Antic, three former players, and a 14-year-old youth player who died during the pandemic.

A jersey with Antic's name was



Atletico Madrid's Vitolo celebrates after scoring his side's only goal of the match against Real Valladolid. La Liga/Twitter

## Barca confirm Frenkie's injury

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona confirmed they have detected an issue in the soleus muscle in Frenkie de Jong's calf after missing the draw with Sevilla.

The Netherlands international had to miss Friday's trip to the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, where Barca were frustrated in a goalless stalemate.

It was confirmed a day earlier that De Jong had been ruled out through injury, though the club did not reveal what the issue was.

Following further medical tests, Barca were able to determine the former Ajax talent is suffering with a problem in his soleus muscle in the right calf.

However, the club have not commented on how long he could be out for, saying the "evolution of the injury will condition the player's availability."

De Jong is in his first season at Camp Nou and has made 38 appearances across all competitions.

Barca are next in action at home to Athletic Bilbao on Tuesday.



Celta Vigo players celebrate after 6-0 win against Alaves. La Liga/Twitter

placed on a seat next to Simeone on the bench, while the four players had shirts with their names draped on seats in the empty stands.

A violinist played the club's anthem to honor all of Spain's over 28,000 virus victims before kickoff.

Vitolo went on in the 73rd and broke the deadlock when he headed in after goalkeeper José Caro failed to punch a corner away, leaving his goal undefended. The ball fell to Vitolo at the far post and he guided his header home.

## Magpies hurt Blades European hopes

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

Newcastle beat 10-man Sheffield United 3-0 in the Premier League on Sunday to virtually guarantee its top-flight status for another year and make the club an even more attractive option for its controversial potential buyers.

Newcastle capitalized on the 50th-minute sending-off of Sheffield United center back John Egan for a second yellow card to score through Allan Saint-Maximin five minutes later, Matt Ritchie in the 69th and Joelinton in the 78th.

The win at an empty St. James' Park lifted Newcastle to 38 points, 11 clear of the relegation zone with eight matches remaining.

The future of Newcastle has been one of the big talking points during Football's three-month shutdown, with Premier League officials currently deciding whether to approve a takeover of the north-east club by Saudi Arabia's sovereign fund.

The deal is complicated by a recent ruling by the World Trade Organization that the Saudis facilitated sports broadcasting piracy of rights owned by Qatar's beIN Sports - one of the Premier League's broadcasting partners - while others have expressed concerns about the kingdom's human rights record.

A decision on the takeover is expected in the coming weeks, by which time Newcastle might have mathematically ensured their survival and secured a fourth straight season in the lucrative top division.



Sheffield United was looking for a win that would have lifted the team into fifth place, currently a Champions League qualification spot pending Manchester City's appeal against a two-year European ban for a serious breach of financial fair play rules.

This was the visitors' second game since the restart, after drawing 0-0 at Aston Villa on Wednesday, and the game turned on the decision to hand Egan a second booking for pulling back Joelinton as they fought to reach the ball after a long clearance by Newcastle.

Five minutes later, Ritchie played a ball across the area, Sheffield United left back Enda Stevens completely missed his kick, and Saint-Maximin applied a finish at the far post past goalkeeper Dean Henderson.



## Very sure of playing IPL if T20 WC postponed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

opener David Warner is "very sure and positive" that he and other Australian players will be able to play the IPL if the T20 World Cup is postponed in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Though Cricket Australia chairman Earl Eddings has said that it is a bit "unrealistic" to host the 16-team tournament in October-November, the ICC is yet to decide the fate of the event and is expected to do so next month.

"...And if it is unlikely if the World Cup can't go ahead, then I am very sure and positive that we will be able to come and play in the IPL if that replaces the World Cup schedule," Warner was quoted as saying by 'India Today'.

"If that permits us from Cricket Australia giving the go-ahead to go over there, I am sure we will put our hands up and come and play cricket which at the end of the day is what we love."

The southpaw himself had said earlier that hosting the T20 World Cup would be a tough ask considering the number of teams involved.

He said everybody is waiting for ICC's decision on the matter.

"Look, there has been a lot of talk about the T20 World Cup being postponed, the challenges around getting every single nation that participates in the World Cup into Australia, given the fact that we have the quarantine for 14 days."

"Nevertheless, making sure we are restricting the chances of a Covid-19 outbreak back into Australia. Those restrictions are in place with the Australian government at the moment. We have to obviously abide by those rules and obviously we await the decision from the ICC," said Warner.

He said most Australian players would want to play the IPL, which can be held in September-October if T20 World Cup and Asia Cup are postponed.

"Look, most definitely all the players who have been selected and picked in the auction will put their hand up if we are permitted. One we have to get government clearance as well to travel."

"If Cricket Australia allows us to go over there and participate, I am sure the guys will definitely be on board with that to be back up and running and playing cricket again," said Warner.

Having missed the previous home series against India in 2018-2019 due to the ball-tampering ban, Warner is looking forward to the next one in Australia this summer when two teams play four Tests.

However, he would not want to provoke India captain Virat Kohli during the high-profile series.

"Virat Kohli is not a person to be poked and no point poking the bear," he said.

On the upcoming series, he added: "It would be very surreal playing against India without the crowd. I want to be selected and be part of that series. Last time we were not bad but we were beaten by a good team and their bowling was relentless."

"Now, India has got the best batting line up and our bowlers will like to target and the Indian crowd will be eager to see that."

## Bernardo one of best Portuguese players: Gomes

IANIS ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City's Bernardo Silva has improved a lot under manager Pep Guardiola, feels his Portuguese compatriot Nuno Gomes.

Silva moved to Man City three years ago and has since blossomed at the English Premier League club under Guardiola.

"Bernardo is, for me at the moment, one of the best players that we have in Portugal," Gomes said on Manchester City's official website.

"With Pep he's improved a lot. I believe that Guardiola has said a lot of times that he is a massive fan of Bernardo Silva."

"And I believe Bernardo Silva, knowing that he has the trust and the confidence of the coach, he goes onto the field and he plays natural-



ly, because he has a talent that is natural."

"The way that he pushes the opponent, the way he can compromise defensive situations, because with the ball he is one of the best."

"I believe with Pep Guardiola, he has already improved a lot in his style of play, and I'm a big fan of Bernardo Silva."



Torino's Nicolas Nkoulou, left, kneels as he celebrates with his teammate Andrea Belotti after scoring his side's opening goal during Serie A, started after three month coronavirus forced break

## Always wanted to score a century in Eng: Chase

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

West Indies all-rounder Roston Chase wants to be taken more seriously as a batsman and says personally it would be a big disappointment if he fails to score at least a century in the three-Test series against England, starting July 8 in Southampton.

The 28-year-old, who has scored 1,695 runs including five hundreds in 32 Tests, said he wants to be rated higher as a batsman and was looking forward to pile up some runs in England.

"I've always wanted to score a century in England. I scored a century against England in the Caribbean, but I would love to get



one in England," he told media via video conference.

"As I said, when you score hundreds in England, I think, as a batsman people take you more serious and rate you a bit higher. I'm looking to have a good series with the bat, score as many runs as possible. I will not be happy if I don't get at least one century."

While opening duo of Kraigg Brathwaite and Shai Hope will look to provide starts, Chase will have to share more responsibility in the middle order in the absence of Darren Bravo and Shimron Hetmyer, who had refused to tour England amid the COVID-19 pandemic due to family concerns.

"It's fair to say that we haven't had the best time as a top order. But I think some of the guys have played 30 or more Test matches, so the guys are experienced and know how to get runs at that level - so we are ever improving," said Chase, who averages 24.75 in away Tests.

"It's just for us to get that confidence and belief back in our batting in the top order and I think that will be fine because the guys know they have the ability."

The West Indies team will also face the challenge of taking on fellow Barbadian, Jofra Archer, who is one of the vital cog in England's bowling attack.



## Pak have a good chance of winning T20 WC: Malik

IANIS ■ LAHORE

Veteran Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik feels that the team stands a very good chance of winning the 2020 T20 World Cup, if it goes ahead as per plans. The fate of the showpiece event, which is scheduled to be played in Australia later this year, hangs in balance due to implications put forward by the coronavirus pandemic.

Shoaib, who won the trophy once in 2009, stated Pakistan has a very good bowling attack and that is why they will be one of the top contenders at the tournament.

"I believe our chances are very good," Shoaib told PakPassion. "In order to win these kinds of events, you have to have a very strong bowling attack and I think we have that box ticked. In addition, we also have a good batting line-up to complement that strong bowling attack."

"Not only that, but our fielding has also developed and improved over the years, which is

important on big grounds.

"Our fitness is much improved and better than it was in previous years, so overall, I think we will be right up there as a team that stands a very good chance of winning this tournament if it goes ahead," he added.

Shoaib, in July, will join the 29-man Pakistan squad that leaves for England on June 28. The tour is set to consist of three Tests and as many T20Is and will all be played in empty stadiums due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Of course, we all like to see packed stadiums and matches that have a buzz from the crowd, which all adds to the spectacle. But right now, the situation around the world is very concerning and we must do what is right for everyone's health and safety," he said.

"Hopefully one day and not too far into the future crowds will be back. But for now, cricket needs to be played and if this is what needs to be done to get cricket back on then we must support it and accept it."

## Being mature is crucial: Patil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India batsman Sandeep Patil on Sunday advised players to remain mentally strong and ensure an injury-free return to cricket when the game resumes amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a halt in the cricket calendar due to the coronavirus pandemic, the first international match begins next month between England and the West Indies in bio-secure venues. There is no cricket match lined up for the Indians immediately.

"These are pretty uncertain times and the challenge to bounce back without any injuries will be a real task for any player. But they need to remember that all these challenges will first have to be dealt strongly in the mind," Patil was quoted as saying by 'Star Sports'.

"You need to begin slowly and ensure that you tune your focus firmly on making an injury-free comeback. Even during my tenure as coach of Kenya, I used to always focus on players being



mentally strong before any tournament."

The 63-year-old, who played 29 Tests between 1980 and 1984, cited the example of India's 1983 World Cup final triumph against the mighty West Indies, saying the match proved how mental strength can win games.

"During 1983 World Cup final, after we were restricted to 183, we thought we were done out. But before stepping onto the field for second

## Gopi props Prannoy for Arjuna Award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shuttler H S Prannoy has been recommended for the Arjuna award by chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand after the Badminton Association of India ignored him for a second successive year due to disciplinary issues.

On June 2, BAI had recommended Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty and Sameer Verma for Arjuna award, leaving out Prannoy which prompted the shuttler to express his displeasure on twitter.

"Same old story. Guy who has medals in CWG and Asian Championships not even recommended by the association. And guy who was not there on any of those major events recommended. #waaah #thiscountry-isajoke," Prannoy had said in his now-deleted tweet.

It has emerged now that Prannoy's name was recommended by Gopichand on June 3 in his capacity as a Khel Ratna Award recipient.

"Gopichand recommended Prannoy for Arjuna on June 3 after BAI decided not to send his name. He did it as a winner of Khel Ratna and not as the chief India coach. He was not aware of the disciplinary issues," a source close to the development told PTI.

Gopichand, however, refused to comment on the issue, while Prannoy



didn't respond despite repeated calls.

On Friday, Prannoy was served a showcase notice asking him to respond for his outburst against BAI within 15 days.

"There are several instances of disciplinary issues with Prannoy. The Federation had been very tolerant all this while but in the recent past, his attitude has forced BAI to take action and also relook at the disciplinary policies," Ajay Singhania had said.

"A show-cause letter has been issued for the re-marks made. If the player fails to respond in the allotted time, BAI will be taking stern action."

## Djokovic advances to final

IANIS ■ ZADAR

World No.1 Novak Djokovic reached the final of his exhibition tournament in Zadar, Croatia, after easing through the round-robin group stage on the first day. This is the second stage of the Adria Tour with Austrian Dominic Thiem winning the first leg in Belgrade, Serbia.

Djokovic started by saving three set points in his 4-3, 4-1 win over fellow Serb Pedja Krstin. He then beat home favourite Borna Coric 4-1, 4-3 in front of several thousand fans at the Visnjik tennis complex.

The tournament in Zadar is being played on red clay over two days. In the other group, Russian Andrey Rublev is in pole position to advance into the final after wins over 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic and Serb Danilo Petrovic. He faces German star Alexander Zverev in the final round robin match on Sunday who stayed in contention after beating Cilic 4-3, 0-4, 4-3.

Djokovic's own inconsequential final group match is against Croatian Dino Serdarusic who replaced Grigor Dimitrov after the Bulgarian pulled out of the tournament with sickness following his opening 4-1, 4-1 loss to Coric.

"I hope we gave the crowd a good show," Djokovic said in a court-side interview.

"A few points here and there swung the tie my way. Many thanks to the fans who turned up and stayed late. The last few months have been difficult (because of the pandemic) and I hope you will come in numbers tomorrow too."