

OPINION 6
CHINA'S
BRI TRAP

MONEY 9
ANOTHER FISCAL STIMULUS
OF 1% GDP LIKELY: FITCH

SPORT 12
VERTONGHEN TO
STAY AT SPURS

Established 1864

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 173
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



KABIR SINGH
MORE THAN A
FILM: SHAHID
10 VIVACITY

LAC parleys on, but no breakthrough

India, China to meet again in next few days to mutually withdraw troops from all stand-off sites

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
As the situation remains tense on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh following the unprecedented clashes leaving 20 Indian Army personnel dead on June 15, senior military commanders of India and China held extensive talks on Monday to restore peace. There was no immediate breakthrough, but both sides agreed to keep open all line of communication and meet again in the next few days to mutually withdraw troops from all the stand-off sites.



- Both sides agreed to keep open all line of communication
- Army Chief General MM Naravane is likely to visit Ladakh later this week
- This will be his first visit post the bloody brawl
- The two countries have also speeded up diplomatic process and senior officials of two countries are likely to talk to each other in the next two or three days
- These proposed talks will give a positive push to the military level talks to arrive at a consensus

Leh-based 14 Corps chief Lt General Harinder Singh held parleys with Chinese Army Major General Liu Lin. At the same time, the top brass of the Indian Army reviewed the fast-evolving situation on the border in the commanders' conference here. Besides participating in the conference, Army Chief General MM Naravane is likely to visit Ladakh later this week. This will be his first visit post the bloody brawl. He had earlier visited Leh in mid-May to take stock of matters in the wake of the ongoing face-offs.

IAF chief RKS Bhaduria reviewed the operational readiness of his force during his two-day visit to Ladakh last week. The two countries have also speeded up diplomatic process and senior officials of two countries are likely to talk

to each other in the next two or three days. These proposed talks will give a positive push to the military-level talks to arrive at a consensus. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar last week lodged a strong protest with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi about Chinese actions. However, both sides agreed to continue talks with Jaishankar asking Yi to honour the June 6 agreement. On the latest round of Lt General level talks in Moldeo at the LAC on Monday, sources said the focus was on defusing the tension as early as possible. Incidentally, this was the second Lt General level meeting since June 6 in which both sides agreed to withdraw troops from the face-off points and operational areas. They also agreed to pull back their heavy weapons to peacetime locations as a confidence-building mea-

sure. The latest meeting was planned to review the pullback process. The first round of Crops Commander talks on June 6 saw the two sides reaching important understanding on limited "disengagement". Both sides mutually identified five locations of conflicts Patrolling Point (PP) 14, 15, 17A and North bank of Pangong Tso. Initially, both sides started mutually moving back their troops gradually. The matters changed post-June 15 and India has ramped up its troop strength all along the LAC from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. India also insisted that status quo ante as in April be observed at the LAC thereby making it imperative for China to move back its troops from all the sites including the Galwan valley.

India is fighting a twin battle against China, says Kejriwal

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the country is fighting a twin battle against China. Kejrival said, "Our country is fighting a twin battle against China. First, our doctors are fighting against Chinese virus and second, India's brave soldiers are fighting China on the border." P3

Niti member wants Govt to stop import of raw material from China for bulletproof jackets

New Delhi: Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat on Monday said Indian companies manufacturing bulletproof jackets for the Army personnel should avoid importing raw materials from China because of "inconsistencies in the quality" of the shipments. P2

China admits it lost 'less than 20' soldiers in clash with India

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI
"observer" from the piece. The Chinese "analysts" and "observers" also accused Indian officials of placating nationalists by "making speculations on China's casualties to satisfy Indian hardliners, such as speculating that China lost more soldiers than India." The *Global Times* report referred to Union minister and former Army Chief Gen VK Singh, who on Saturday had claimed that the number of PLA soldiers killed in the stand-off in the Galwan valley was more than 40. The analysts in Beijing also threatened India saying, "India will be more humiliated than after the 1962 border conflict with China if it cannot control anti-China sentiment at home and has a new military conflict with its biggest neighbour." Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as per the observers, "is trying to respond to the nationalists and hardliners with tough talk, but he understands his country cannot have further conflict with China so he is also making an effort to cool tensions."

A day after Indian media reported that India had handed over dead bodies of 16 Chinese soldiers to the People's Liberation Army (PLA), China on Monday for the first time admitted that it lost "less than 20" troops during the violent face-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh last week. Until now, even as New Delhi had officially announced that 20 of its soldiers were killed in a clash with the PLA in Ladakh's Galwan valley, Beijing had remained tight-lipped about its casualties.

The *Global Times*, the mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party regime in Beijing, in a piece quoting "Chinese experts" on Monday said that "the reason why China did not release the number" of its casualties, is that China "wants to avoid an escalation." "If China released the number which is less than 20, the Indian Government would again come under pressure," The *Global Times* tweeted quoting an



Traders burn Chinese products during a protest in New Delhi on Monday. AP

SC allows Rath Yatra in Govts' safety net

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Days after Supreme Court stayed the annual Rath Yatra at Puri's Jagannath Temple on June 23 due to coronavirus pandemic, saying "Lord Jagannath won't forgive the court if they allow it", the same court took a U-turn and allowed the same after the both the Odisha Government and the Centre appealed to the court to review its order.

The Odisha Government has placed Puri under a complete shutdown from 9 pm on Monday till 2 pm on Wednesday with curfew-like restrictions for smooth conduct of the Rath Yatra. "All entry points to be closed," said Odisha Chief Secretary, Asit Kumar Tripathy. The bench, whose order is yet to be uploaded on the apex court website, amply indicated during the hearing that it will allow the Rath Yatra by leaving the micro-management to the wisdom of the Centre, the State and the temple trust. The SC asked the Odisha Government to make necessary arrangements for the Rath Yatra. "If it is confined to Puri alone in a limited way without public attendance as proposed by Gajapati Maharaj of Puri, Chairman of the Jagannath Temple administration, State Govt will endeavour to make necessary arrangements to conduct it," the SC said.

Continued on Page 2

57 girls Covid positive, pregnant minor HIV +ve in Kanpur home

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
Fifty-seven minor girls at a State-run children's shelter home in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district have tested positive for Covid-19, with five of them found to be pregnant. One of the five pregnant girls, who tested positive, was also HIV positive.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav have slammed the Yogi Government alleging that the girls were physically exploited in the shelter home. Priyanka has compared it with the infamous Muzaffarpur shelter home case in Bihar. Kanpur DM Brahma Dev Ram Tiwari told reporters that the five pregnant girls, who have been found Covid-19 positive, were referred by the Child Welfare Committees of Agra, Etah, Kannauj, Firozabad and Kanpur under the POCSSO Act. "Two other pregnant girls have tested negative for Covid-19. The seven girls were pregnant at time when they came to the shelter home," he said.

The District Magistrate added that two girls are undergoing treatment at LLR Hospital in Kanpur, while three others are undergoing treat-

Priyanka, Akhilesh rap Govt, allege girls were sexually assaulted in shelter home

- In a Facebook post, Priyanka said the condition in Government shelter homes is "inhuman" and demanded strict action against the officials
- Akhilesh said that outrage has spread in the State after this news
- The Government should immediately take up the investigation against those who were involved in physical abuse, the former CM said



ment at a private hospital. Highlighting the media reports, Priyanka said that it shows that "facts were being suppressed in the name of investigations at such facilities." In a Facebook post, Priyanka said that the condition in Government shelter homes is "inhuman" and demanded strict action against the officials. "The entire story of the Muzaffarpur shelter home case is in front of the country. Such a case had also come to light in Deoria in UP. In this scenario, another such case emerged now in Kanpur shows that in the name of probes, everything is suppressed, but there are many inhuman incidents happening at State-run child shelter homes," Priyanka claimed in her Facebook post while targeting Yogi Adityanath Government for failing to act against those responsible for exploitation of the protection home inmates. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Government should immediately investigate alleged physical abuse of minor girls. Continued on Page 2

Govt to provide pulse oxymeters to corona patients at home: Kejriwal

With Centre's help, testing increased to 18K/day, swift 30-min test starts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has decided to provide pulse oxymeters to Corona patients recovering under home isolation. "We will give pulse oximeters to the Covid-19 patients under home isolation. Every district will have oxygen con-



centrators. Delhi will soon have a helpline and our team will go to the houses of the patients who are recovering from the disease to provide oxygen," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday. The patients can return the pulse oximeters to the Government after they fully recuperate, added the CM. Kejriwal said the number

of coronavirus tests has increased by three times in the national Capital to around 18,000 daily. Until a few weeks ago, around 5,000 COVID-19 tests were being conducted daily in Delhi.

With the Union Government's help, antigen tests, which give the results within 30 minutes, have also been started in Delhi, he said. From June 15 to 21, Delhi reported 18,564 coronavirus cases. However, 16,790 people also recovered from the disease in Delhi in the said period. Continued on Page 2

Delhi on high alert after Intel inputs about terror threat

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has been put on high alert following intelligence inputs about a probable terror threat to the national Capital, sources said on late Sunday.

Intelligence agencies have alerted police on the possibility of four to five men entering the national Capital with an intention to carry out a terror attack, they said. The sources said all the 15

police districts have been put on high alert along with elite units of the Crime Branch and the Special Cell. Special vigil is being maintained on Delhi's borders and a close watch is being kept in market areas and hospitals, which are seeing a large influx of patients these days, they said. Security agencies are on heightened vigil in view of the India-China stand off in eastern Ladakh. PTI

CAPSULE

ARMY JAWAN KILLED IN PAK FIRING ALONG LOC
Jammu: An Army jawan was killed on Monday in unprovoked Pakistani firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu & Kashmir.

VIRGIN ATLANTIC TO START LONDON-DELHI FLIGHTS
New Delhi: Virgin Atlantic plans to restart flights on the London-Delhi and the London-Mumbai routes from September 2, the airline said on Monday.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

Steady increase in coronavirus cases

TOTAL CASES: 4,40,174
DEATHS: 14,015
RECOVERED: 2,48,129
ACTIVE: 1,77,988

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,35,796	6,283	67,706
Delhi	62,655	2,233	36,602
Tamil Nadu	62,087	794	34,112
Gujarat	27,880	1,685	19,917
Uttar Pradesh	18,322	569	11,601
Rajasthan	15,232	356	11,910
West Bengal	14,358	569	8,687
Madhya Pradesh	12,078	521	9,215
Haryana	11,025	169	5,916
Karnataka	9,399	142	5,730
Andhra Pradesh	9,372	111	4,435
Telangana	8,674	217	4,005
Bihar	7,893	52	5,767
Jammu & Kashmir	6,088	85	3,531
Assam	5,586	9	3,566
Odisha	5,303	21	3,863

India's Covid/L one of lowest, so does test rate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 cases per lakh people is one of the lowest in the world despite its high population density, claimed the Union Health Ministry on Monday. What the Ministry didn't tell that India's testing per lakh population is also one of the lowest in the world.

For every one lakh population, there are 30.04 coronavirus cases in India, while the global average is over three times at 114.67, the Ministry said in a statement here, while referring to the WHO Situation Report 153, dated June 21.

However, there is more than what meets the eyes. An analysis of the global data on test per million available from the Worldometer indicates that India is lowest among the first ten worst-affected countries.

India's test rate per million is dismal at 5,038. In contrast, it is 1.18 lakhs for Russia; 11,436 for Brazil; 86,093 for the USA. The US has conducted highest number of tests 28,505,661, followed by Russia (17,289,691), the UK (8,029,757), India (6,950,493) and Spain 5,162,909 as on Monday.

The UK, Spain, Peru, Chile, Italy and Iran are among the other countries in the list of first 10 which have carried out many more times tests per million population than India. India's cases per lakh population are 30.04 while the global average is more than its triple at 114.67. The US has 671.24 cases per lakh population while the metric for Germany, Spain and Brazil is 583.88, 526.22 and 489.42 respectively, claimed the Ministry.

Continued on Page 2



Health workers wearing PPE suits arrive to collect swab sample of people for the Covid-19 test during a medical camp, in Chennai, on Monday. PTI

Niti member: Stop Chinese import for bulletproof jackets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat on Monday said Indian companies manufacturing bullet-proof jackets for the army personnel should avoid importing raw materials from China because of "inconsistencies in the quality" of the shipments.

This assumes significance as the clamour for boycott of Chinese goods has been growing louder ever since the violent clash broke out between the Indian and Chinese armies in the Galwan Valley last week.

Saraswat, also a former Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief, said these companies producing bullet-proof jackets for the army can get raw material from other sources that are the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) production agencies.

"Many times raw materials imported from China (to produce bullet-proof jackets) are not of good quality... We should avoid importing from Chinese sources because of inconsistencies of the raw material quality," he told PTI.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had asked Niti Aayog to prepare a road map for "incentivising" domestic manufacturing of lightweight



body armours and protective gears. The Bureau of Indian Standards has also finalised quality norms for body armours to be used by Indian forces.

"Our committee made very clear recommendations, we should use indigenous material as much as possible and wherever indigenous materials are not available and import is required then we should avoid import from China because of inconsistent quality," the eminent scientist emphasised.

India lost 20 of its Army personnel, including a colonel, in the violent face-off on the night of June 15/16 on the border, the biggest confrontation between the militaries of India and China after their 1967 clashes in Nathu La when India lost around 80 soldiers while the death toll on the Chinese side was over 300.

The two armies were engaged in a standoff in Galwan and several other areas of eastern Ladakh since May 5 when their troops clashed on the banks of the Pangong Tso.

According to government projections, more than 3 lakh bullet-proof jackets will be required by Indian armed forces.

Indian companies were earlier procuring raw materials for bullet-proof jackets from the US and Europe. Now, most of them are being obtained from China due to lower prices. Indian companies like Kanpur-based MKU and Tata Advanced Materials export body armour to armed forces of many countries.

If the lightweight bullet-proof vests and helmets are produced in bulk quantity within the country, it will ensure low-cost supplies and end the endless wait for foreign vendors to supply the equipment.

Meanwhile, according to sources, 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.

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.

Ex-gratia of ₹10L for death during last rites in Jammu

PNS ■ JAMMU

Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday approved an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh each in favour of next of kin of Vipan Zadoo and Vimal Zadoo, who died while performing last rites of a coronavirus relative in Jammu on June 18.

Similar amount was also sanctioned in favour of next of kin of deceased Kamal Kumar R/o Chhapaki Kalaan, district Kathua, who died while being under administrative quarantine in district Kathua on Sunday.

District Administration Jammu has already sanctioned an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh each to the Next of Kins of Vipan Zadoo and Vimal Zadoo. The aggrieved family members had demanded Rs 25 lakhs compensation, besides a government job for wife of the Vimal Zadoo and allotment of accommodation for the family.

Meanwhile the District Administration of Kathua has sanctioned an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh to the wife and two children (01 lakh to wife and 01 lakh to two children) of deceased Kamal Kumar.

Moody's projects Indian eco to shrink 3.1 pc in 2020; flags rising geopolitical risks in Asia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Monday projected the Indian economy to shrink 3.1 per cent in 2020 and said clashes with China on the border also suggest rising geopolitical risks in the Asian region where countries are particularly vulnerable to changes in geopolitical dynamics.

While it pegged India's annual growth at 0.2 per cent in April, the forecast has been sharply revised after taking into consideration the disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, Moody's expects the economy to register 6.9 per cent growth in 2021.

In its June update to Global Macro Outlook (2020-21), Moody's said it has revised down its 2020 growth forecast for India as incoming data show the extent of coronavirus-related disruption in January-March and April-June quarters.

"April-June quarter of 2020 will go down in history as the worst quarter for the global economy since at least World War II. We continue to expect a gradual recovery beginning in the second half of the year, but that outcome will depend on whether governments can reopen their economies while also safeguarding public health," Moody's said.

Moody's has forecast that China would be the only G-20 country to post growth this year. The expectation is that China would grow 1 per cent in 2020, followed by a strong rebound of 7.1 per cent in 2021, it added.

According to Moody's, a rebound in demand would determine the ability of businesses and labour markets to recover from the shock.

"Asian countries are particularly vulnerable to changes in geopolitical dynamics. The rise in tensions between China and countries bordering the South China Sea and clashes on the border with India suggest that geopolitical risks are rising for the entire region," it said.

New norm adopted, Maha daily death tally drops to 62; but 3,721 test +ve

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After Maharashtra adopted a new methodology to Covid deaths, the number of deaths came down to 62 on Monday, even 3,721 others tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State.

A day after the Coronavirus claimed 101 lives and left 3870 others infected, there was a relatively low death tally of 62 in the state during the last 48 hours, on Monday.

In addition to the 62 deaths that took place during the last 48 hours, the state health department reported an additional 51 deaths that took place in the earlier period, taking the total number of deaths reported on Monday to 113.

Given that the authorities used to add up the earlier deaths to the day's tally, the figures used to be more. Now, the state health department is reporting the latest deaths first and mentioning the earlier deaths, thus projecting a lower

death figure.

"Out of the 113 deaths reported in the state today, 62 occurred in the last 48 hours and 51 deaths are from the period earlier. These 51 deaths have not been included in the daily numbers, instead, they have been included in the cumulative figures," a state health bulletin said.

"This report is prepared based on figures provided by the authorized laboratories on the Central Government's COVID-19 Portal. Because the laboratory report scrutiny and the availability of figures accordingly is an ongoing process, state cumulative numbers are subject to change," the bulletin added. Of the 62 newly reported deaths in the state, Mumbai accounted for 46 deaths, while there two deaths each in Vasai-Virar and in Raigad and one in Kalyan-Dombivli.

With fresh fatalities and new infections, the total number of deaths in Maharashtra went up 6283, while the infected cases jumped to 1,35,796.

SC allows Rath...

From Page 1

The Odisha Government told a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde that it will coordinate with the temple management and the Centre to make things smooth during Rath Yatra, which is attended by lakhs of people from around the world, and ensure compliance with health guidelines in view of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Centre also backed the Odisha Government's stand with Solicitor General Tushar Mehta claiming that the Central Government has no objections with the yatra. He suggested telecasting it on TV in order to avoid a large congregation of people.

"It is a matter of faith for crores. If Lord Jagannath will not come out tomorrow, he cannot come out for 12 years as per traditions," Mehta said.

While hearing a PIL filed by NGO 'Odisha Vikash Parishad' the apex court on June 18 had said that in the interest of public health and safety of citizens, this year's Puri Rath Yatra cannot be allowed and that "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. These applications, including those filed by 'Jagannath Sanskruti Jana Jagarana Manch' and BJP leader Sambit Patra, urged the court to allow the Rath Yatra with certain restrictions due to the pandemic.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheswari and A S Bopanna, was informed by the Centre that Rath Yatra can be conducted without compromising on citizens' health and with co-operation of State and temple trust.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the entire nation is delighted by the Supreme Court's decision to allow Puri's iconic Rath Yatra and leave the management of the festival to the Odisha Government.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only understood the sentiments of devotees but also initiated consultations. The entire nation is delighted by the Supreme Court's decision to ensure the Rath Yatra goes on," Shah said after the top court's judgment permitting the festival to take place.

Earlier, the home minister also spoke to Gajapati Maharaj

and the Shankaracharya of Puri to know their views on the Rath Yatra.

Considering the urgency and importance of the matter, it was placed in front of a vacation bench of the Supreme Court and the hearing took place this afternoon, which paved the way for the important decision by the SC. "Congratulations to the people of Odisha," Shah tweeted soon after the hearing on the issue.

CJI Bobde, who presided over the hearing through video conferencing from his Nagpur residence, said that the order will be made public after some time.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the Odisha government said that the Yatra or the procession will not be conducted in the entire state. The bench said that it is only considering holding of the Yatra in Puri and not anywhere else in Odisha.

The top court said the when temple committee and the trust are responsible for conducting the Rath Yatra, then why Shankaracharya is involved.

Mehta said that it is done only for the consultation purpose. Salve said the chariot can be pulled by 'Shebaitis' or police personnel who have tested negative for COVID-19.

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for Odisha-based NGO, which filed the PIL for the cancellation and deferment of the annual festival, said that if the Rath Yatra is permitted by the court then minimum number of people of the temple should be allowed to participate in the ritual.

The bench said the court is not going to micro-manage the Rath Yatra and it will leave it to the wisdom of the Centre, the state and the temple trust for conducting the rituals.

Salve added that they would coordinate between the Centre and the temple committee and ensure that the health guidelines are followed and things go smoothly.

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.

200 employees of Locusts Warning Organisation along with BSF deployed in States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 200 employees of Locusts Warning Organisation along with the Border Security Force (BSF) have been deployed in States affected from locusts attack, including Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to kill the swarms before they invade plants of kharif crops in June and July.

As per data of Ministry of Agriculture, 909 spots in 84 districts spread in six states are affected from desert locust swarms that damaged crops, vegetables and fruits worth hundreds of crores. Drones have been deployed in several districts.

Meanwhile alerts have been sounded for fresh attack of locusts swarm in bordering states as spring breeding has nearly ended in Iran and Pakistan, some adult groups/swarms are expected to arrive alongside the Indo-Pak border.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, temporary base camps have been sent in Jaipur, Ajmer, Dausa and Chittorgarh in Rajasthan; Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh; and at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh for effective control of desert locust. In a related development, the Centre has received 15 sprayer machines

from M/s Micron of the United Kingdom and 18 are expected by June 25.

It has also ordered procurement of five CD Atomizer kits with GPS trackers for aerial spray capabilities from this UK based company. The first two kits will be available in September 2020 and the remaining three kits are to be made after one month of their successful testing. These kits will be fitted into helicopters of the Indian Air Force (as agreed by them) and will be used for air operations for control of desert locusts. Parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are in the grip of large swarms of locust attack.

After a high level meeting on locust swarms in seven states, the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday said that control measures are in full swing in close coordination with state agriculture departments, local administration and Border Security Force (BSF). Two locust swarms from Indo-Pak border areas are reported, one each in Bikaner and Sriganagar district. At present, swarms of immature pink locusts with intermittent population of maturing yellow adults are active in Jaisalmer,

Bargar, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Sri Ganganagar, Jaipur, Nagaur, and Ajmer districts of Rajasthan, Panna district of Madhya Pradesh and Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

The immature locust is very active and mobile making it difficult to control the swarm at one location, due to which it takes 4 to 5 days to control at different locations to completely eliminate the locust population in one place. The yellow, mature adults appear tending to copulate in some areas.

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS ELECTRICAL TRD WORKS
10 E - Tender Notice: EL-TRD-W-118-20-21, dated: 22.06.2020. Name of Work: Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE for WONDER CEMENT private siding at Nardana in Udhana-Jaigaoan section of Mumbai division (Deposit work).
Advertised Value: ₹ 2,21,61,400/-
Earnest Money: ₹ 22,60,800/- Date & time of submission: 20.07.2020, 15.00 hrs.
Date & time of opening: 20.07.2020, 15.30 hrs.
12 E - Tender Notice: EL-TRD-W-118-20-21-3, dated: 22.06.2020. Name of Work: OHE electrification work of line no. 8 & 9 at Nandurbar yard in Udhana-Jaigaoan section of Mumbai Division. Advertised Value: ₹ 1,15,69,666/- Earnest Money: ₹ 22,07,800/- Date & time of submission: 20.07.2020, 15.00 hrs.
Date & time of opening: 20.07.2020, 15.30 hrs.
Detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions of sale, please visit www.irreps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. D-01
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Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited
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CIN: L15319PB1993PLC012975

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at Chhoti Nehar, Malakpur, Pathankot, Punjab, inter alia, to consider and approve the audited financial results of the Company for the fourth quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2020.

Notice is further given that Trading Window will remain closed from 22nd June, 2020 to 1st July, 2020 (both days inclusive) pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015.

The Notice of the Board meeting is also available on the website of the Company at www.pioneeragro.co.in and also on the website of BSE Ltd. i.e. www.bseindia.com.

By Order of the Board
For Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited
Place: Pathankot
Date: 22.06.2020
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

57 girls Covid positive, pregnant minor HIV +ve in Kanpur home

From Page 1

The former Chief Minister said that outrage has spread in the State after this news. The girls who are Covid-19 positive should be treated immediately.

"Outrage has spread in Uttar Pradesh due to the news from the Government Child Protection Home in Kanpur. There has been serious disclosure of some minor girls are pregnant. Of these, 57 have been found to be suffering from corona and one from AIDS, they should be treated immediately. The Government should immediately take up the investigation against those who were involved in physical abuse," Yadav tweeted on Monday.

Govt to provide pulse oxymeters to corona patients at home: Kejriwal

From Page 1

The CM said till now, Delhi did not require beds for Covid-19 patients on a large scale as most of them recovered from the disease, adding that the number of serious patients is also less in the national Capital.

"As of now, 6,200 beds have been occupied, which means only 900 more beds have been occupied in the last 10 days...7,000 beds are still available.

"This means that the number of new coronavirus patients admitted in hospitals is almost the same as that of the people recovering from the disease and going back to their homes," he said.

India's Covid/L one of...

From Page 1

This low figure is thus a testimony to the graded, pre-emptive and pro-active approach the Government of India along with the States/UTs took for the prevention, containment and management of Covid-19, said the Ministry statement.

So far, a total of 2,37,195 patients have been cured of Covid-19. During the last 24 hours, a total of 9,440 Covid-19 patients have been

cured. The recovery rate is 55.77 per cent amongst Covid-19 patients.

Presently, there are 1,74,387 active cases and all are under active medical supervision. The difference between the recovered patients and the active Covid-19 cases continues to widen, as can be seen from the graph below. Today the number of recovered patients has crossed the number of active patients by 62,808.

The Covid-19 testing infrastructure is continuously being

ramped up. The number of Government labs has been increased to 723 and private labs has been increased to 262, adding up to a total of 985.

The total number of samples being tested per day is also steadily rising, as is the number of total samples tested.

In the last 24 hours, 1,43,267 samples were tested. Whereas the total number of samples tested thus far is 69,50,493.

Which can be uploaded by date 30.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 01.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.

(B).

S.No.	Job No. / Work Name	Amount
1.	60/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-2021, M/o RSP (Uproting & Repairing of tree guard) Sector-11, 12, 55, 56, 57, Rajat Vihar, 63, 63A, F.N.G Road 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70 and 71	Cost Rs. 27.60 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 07.07.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 08.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office: Sector-39

Director (Hort.)
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

MPDL Limited
(Formerly Monnet Project Developers Limited)
Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Uria Industrial Complex, Raipur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moh, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone: +91 11 29218542-46; Fax: +91 11 29218541 Email: isc.mpdl@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN: L70102CT2002PLC015040

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 29th June, 2020 at the corporate office of the Company, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and financial year ended 31st March, 2020. This information is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com).

By Order of the Board of Directors
MPDL Limited
(Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)
Anurag Singh Rathore
Company Secretary

Dated : 22.06.2020
Place : New Delhi

Delhi, Centre synergy takes on coronavirus

Demarcation of containment zones, contact tracing from June 27

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 59,746 positive cases of coronavirus reported in the national Capital, the Central Government along with the Delhi Government has agreed to work out strategies such as fresh demarcation of containment zones, intensifying contact tracing of positive cases and serological survey to across the city from June 27 to contain the spread of Covid-19.

A Serological survey will be conducted from June 27 to July 10 in which sample testing will be conducted of 20,000 persons. "This will help in comprehensive assessment of the spread of infection in Delhi and will help draw up a comprehensive strategy," Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement.

Dr Paul's Committee Report on Containment Strategy on COVID-19 in Delhi was also tabled and discussed in the meeting chaired by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday that was attended by Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, LG Anil Bajjal and other senior officials amid rising concern over the rapid growth of the novel coronavirus cases.

The committee was constituted on June 14 under the Chairmanship of Dr Vinod Paul to submit a report on containment strategy on COVID-19 for Delhi following the direction of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

As per the report, the main points of the containment strategy determined by Dr Paul including revised demarcation of containment zones and a strict monitoring and control of activities in such containment zones, contact tracing and quarantining of contacts of all infected persons, with the help of Aarogya Setu and Ithas Aap, listing and monitoring of each household even outside containment zones, which will help in getting comprehensive information about Delhi, keeping the Covid-19 positive cases in hospitals and proper functioning of Covid care centres.

Following the proposal by Dr VK Paul, it was also decided that every district in Delhi will be linked to a major hospital, which will provide adequate help. The Delhi Government will constitute district level teams by June 23 and

issue revised demarcation of all containment zones by June 26," the ministry said, adding that hundred percent surveys of containment zones by June 30 besides and a comprehensive survey of the rest of Delhi will be done by July 06.

The Home Minister also directed the Delhi Government to conduct an assessment in respect of every dead individual as regards how many days before death the person was brought to hospital and from where.

Shah also said that special focus has to be given about whether the person was in home isolation and whether the person was brought to hospital at the right time or not and every death has to be reported to the Government of India.

The Home Minister also said that all Covid-19 positive cases should be first referred to the covid centres and those who have adequate facilities at home and do not suffer from other comorbidities, can be allowed to stay in home isolation.

The minister further asked the Delhi government to keep informing the centre about the number of people kept in home isolation.

The Home Minister also advised that Delhi government officials should take technical help for the revised demarcation of containment zones.

India fighting twin battle against China — Virus, LAC: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after India-China face-off in the Galwan valley in Ladakh, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the country is fighting two wars against China—one at the border and another with coronavirus which originated from the neighbouring country and expressed confidence that India will win both the wars.

He said there should be no politics by anyone in fighting these two wars. Kejriwal's remarks come amid criticism of the Centre by the Congress over the situation in eastern Ladakh.

Addressing an online media briefing, the Delhi chief minister said, "Twenty of our brave soldiers did not back down, we will also not retreat and win both wars against China."

Twenty Indian soldiers, including a colonel, were killed in a violent face-off with Chinese troops on June 15 in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley.

"Today, the country is fighting two wars against China - one against the virus that has come from China and the other on the border," Kejriwal said during the briefing.

On one hand, all doctors and nurses of the country are



fighting COVID-19, and on the other hand, soldiers are fighting wars on the border, he said.

"The entire country is standing with doctors and soldiers. We all have to fight these two wars together and there should be no politics and groupism in this," the AAP supremo asserted.

Earlier in the day, senior Congress leader Manmohan Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must be mindful of the implications of his words and cannot allow China to use them as a vindication of its position.

Noting that disinformation is no substitute for diplomacy or decisive leadership, the former PM called upon Modi to ensure justice for soldiers who died defending India's territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, the country recorded 14,821 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, pushing the infection tally to 4,25,282, while the death toll rose to 13,699 with 445 new fatalities, according to the Union health ministry data.

Fake plasma donor arrested for duping Assembly Speaker Goel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly cheating Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on the pretext of donating plasma to coronavirus patients.

The accused has been identified as Abdul Karim alias Rahul Thakkar, a resident of Prahlapur area.

The matter came to light after the police received a complaint from the Speaker on Saturday.

According to the complaint, Goel's nephew was in search of a plasma donor for his father-in-law who had tested positive for coronavirus. Subsequently, he posted a request for help on social media and got a call from Thakkar.

The complainant in his complaint stated that the accused introduced himself as a doctor of a government hospital and said he had recently recovered from the disease and

was ready to donate his plasma. His help, however, was not taken at that time due to the availability of another donor," said Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district.

"But later, on June 19, when Goel required a donor for one of his acquaintances, his nephew again posted for a request online. They received a call from Thakkar who asked for transferring Rs 450 to his account for meeting his travel expenses," said the DCP.

"After Goel transferred the requested amount, the accused assured that he would reach the private hospital where the patient was admitted. But later, the accused told them that he did not receive the amount and asked the Delhi Assembly Speaker to transfer the money again. When they tried to contact him, Thakkar's phone was found to be switched off," said the DCP.

"Later, Goel found out that

the accused had taken money from the family members of the patient as well. An FIR was registered under section 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Indian Penal Code against Thakkar at the Civil Lines Police Station. He was arrested on Saturday," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the accused disclosed that he cheated people on the pretext of donating blood plasma amid the pandemic outbreak. He introduced himself as a doctor to COVID-19 patients, pretended to be a plasma donor and asked for money in the guise of travelling expenses to reach the hospital where patients were admitted," the DCP said.

"The mobile phone used in commission of crime has been seized. The accused has been also found involved in a case of cheating registered at the Hauz Khas Police Station," the DCP added.

Days after first Covid death at Mandoli Jail, 17 inmates test positive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 17 inmates were tested negative for Covid-19 days after a 62-year-old inmate of Mandoli Jail died due to Covid-19. Mandoli prison officials said on Monday that the inmates tested positive had shared barrack with him.

The first inmate, Kanwar Singh, lodged in Central Jail number 14, Mandoli, died in his sleep on June 15. His test report for COVID-19 came back positive on Saturday, following which 29 inmates who shared barrack with him were also tested, according to prison officials.

Singh's is the first case of a Delhi prison inmate dying due to the contagious respiratory disease.

According to Sandeep Goel, the Director General, Prisons, of the 29 inmates who were tested, reports of 17 came back positive on Monday.

"The remaining 12 inmates have tested negative for the disease. All the 17 inmates who tested positive have been shifted to a separate barrack in Central Jail number 14 and their health is being closely monitored by the jail doctor. As

of now, they are alright," said Goel.

The 12 inmates who tested negative have also been separately quarantined, he added.

In the wake of an increase in COVID-19 cases in prisons, the officials said, the jail staff and inmates have been briefed to remain extra careful, take all necessary precautions and follow social distancing norms.

Till now, 40 inmates of Delhi Prison have been tested positive for COVID-19, out of which 16 have recovered and one died. As many as 46 prison staff members have also tested positive for the disease. Of these, 12 have recovered so far, according to the officials.

Delhi Prison comprises Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini jails.

Singh was in jail since July 6, 2018. He was lodged in the senior citizens' barrack of Central Jail number 14. He was asymptomatic and the cause of his death was ascertained after a COVID-19 test was conducted on his body, the officials said.

"He was serving life imprisonment in a 2016 murder case," they said.

Out of 482 rapid antigen tests, 39 Covid +ve

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 39 persons were found positive for Covid-19 out of 482 rapid antigen detection tests done by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in the last four days.

On Monday, one official from the commerce department, one from tax and two non-medical employees of Palika Kendra dispensary was tested positive, a senior NDMC official said.

"Three were tested positive for Covid-19 on June 19th, nine on June 20, 15 on June 21 and 12 on Monday," he said.

Ninety one employees have tested Corona positive in the council. Out of which 12 recovered and five died. Seventy four cases are still active, he added.

The antigen testing for covid-19 is ongoing at NDMC Physiotherapy Centre situated at Sarojini Nagar since 19th June. The Indian Council of Medical Research had approved one more kind of test for diagnosis of Covid-19.

Clash between residents, civil defence staff at virus zone, 1 held



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A scuffle broke out between the residents and civil defence staff deployed at a containment zone in west Delhi's Naraina on Sunday after some people tried to step outside the zone. Police said that a man was arrested after a civil defence staff member got injured in the melee.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place around 12 noon on Sunday when some of the residents of the containment zone became agitated to go out while food was being distributed there.

"When they were prevented from stepping out, they started arguing and a quarrel broke out between the residents and the civil defence staff," said the senior police official.

"A police constable and a civil defence staff member present at the site told us that some residents in the containment zone wanted to go out, while food was being distributed. They removed the iron tin shade used to cover the area and during the scuffle, a civil defence staff was injured while he was trying to control the crowd," he said.

"A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered on a complaint of civil defence staff Suraj Kumar under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Epidemic Act," said Deepak Purohit, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), West district.

A resident of the containment zone, Sampurnaand Bharti, was arrested in this regard, police said, adding further investigation is underway.

AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal's close aide granted bail in doctor's suicide case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Court on Monday granted interim bail to Kapil Nagar, arrested along with AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal in connection with a case of alleged suicide of a doctor in south Delhi last month, noting that his father has been tested positive for Covid-19.

Special Judge Sanjay Bansal granted the relief for one month to the accused, saying the "severity of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be underestimated," as he was told that the wife of the accused was also showing symptoms.

"The family circumstances of the applicant cannot be ignored. His father has tested positive for Covid-19 and his

wife is also showing symptoms. "There are minor children of applicant who will definitely need care and protection if something wrong happens with the wife," the judge said.

He further noted that the accused himself had undergone treatment for vocal cord.

As on date, the accused has suffered 42 days of custody, the judge said, adding that "the investigation was definitely going to take substantial time."

"Considered so, without expressing any opinion on the merits, this court is inclined to grant interim bail to the applicant/accused. It is ordered that applicant/accused Kapil Nagar be released on interim bail for a period of 30 days," the judge said. PTI

N-E DELHI VIOLENCE Safoora case grave, pregnancy no ground for bail: Cops to HC

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Monday opposed in the Delhi High Court the bail plea of Jamia student Safoora Zargar, arrested under the anti-terror law — UAPA— in a case related to communal violence in northeast Delhi during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, saying the severity of offence is in no manner mitigated by the factum of her pregnancy.

The Delhi Police, in its status report opposing Zargar's bail plea, said a clear and cogent case has been made out against the accused woman and as such she is not entitled for bail for the grave and serious offences which have been meticulously and surreptitiously planned and executed by her.

It said there is strong, cogent, reliable and sufficient

material available proving the direct involvement of Zargar, M Phil student of Jamia Millia Islamia University, who is 23 weeks pregnant.

The police said she has been lodged in a separate cell and chances of her contracting coronavirus from any other person does not arise.

Further, it maintained that there there is no exception carved out for pregnant inmate, who is accused of such heinous crime, to be released on bail merely because of pregnancy and said that 39 deliveries have taken place in Delhi prisons in the last 10 years.

Jamia Coordination Committee member Zargar, who was arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police on April 10, has challenged in the high court

the June 4 order of the trial court denying her bail in the case.

The report, filed through DCP of special cell, said statements of witnesses and co-accused clearly implicate Zargar as being a leading co-conspirator in commissioning of serious offence of causing large-scale disruption and riots, not only in the national capital but also in other parts of the country.

"The present case pertains to grave offence against the society and nation. The investigation is at a very crucial juncture, and therefore, considering the sensitivity and the broad nefarious conspectus of present case, it would not be in the interest of justice as well as in public interest to grant bail to the accused at the present stage," it said. PTI

Traders stage protest, burn Chinese goods in Karol Bagh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Traders in the national Capital burnt Chinese goods in Delhi's main market Karol Bagh on Monday as part of nationwide call "Bhartiya Samaan- Hamara Abhimaan" (Indian goods, Our pride) given by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT).

"This demonstration is a reflection of the boiling anger in the hearts and minds of Indian traders and citizens against China's continued antagonism towards India," said CAIT.

The protesting traders led by CAIT secretary general Praveen Khandelwal were detained by the Police and were taken to Karol Bagh Police Station.



Members of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) burn Chinese goods during a protest against the killing of 20 soldiers by Chinese troops in Ladakh last week in New Delhi on Monday

CAIT national president BC Bhartiya and Khandelwal said that traders and consumers across the country have shown great enthusiasm and tremendous support for boycott of Chinese goods. "The first highlight of this campaign will be

seen on the festival of Rakhi in the month of August when Indian women will tie purely Indian made rakhis to their brothers and boycott the Chinese Rakhi. Both leaders said that even the great Indian festival of Janmashtami will be

celebrated in complete harmony with Indian culture where Indian made products will be used and there will be no place for Chinese products," they said.

Khandelwal also said that this year's Diwali will be celebrated throughout the country in the form of an original Hindustani Diwali in honour of the Indian soldiers who were martyred in Ladakh, in which light will be illuminated in earthen diyas and even the idols of Lakshmi ji and Ganesh ji will be worshipped made out of the Indian soil rather than Chinese products.

CAIT has urged traders from all over the country that in view of the upcoming festivals, they should refrain from selling or buying Chinese goods.

French envoy to India visits fair price shop

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Imran Hussain along with the Ambassador of France to India H E Emmanuel Lenain and Bruno, country head of French Agency for Development (AFD) visited a Fair Price Shop at Tughlakabad enclave to witness the various initiatives being taken by the Delhi Government to ensure food security to the people, particularly the vulnerable sections of the society during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The French delegation was informed that the Delhi government under the National Food Security Act is providing subsidized food grains to almost 50 per cent of the population of the city which is



being implemented by the Delhi Government at the ground level. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delhi Government has enhanced its efforts towards ensuring the food security of the people," the government said in a statement.

Apart from the regular entitlement, the Delhi government along with the Central

government has also provided supplementary support by giving 5 kg of foodgrains per beneficiary and 1 kg pulses per household under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, it said, adding that the food grains are being distributed through a network of more than 2000 Fair Price Shops located in different parts of Delhi.

59 suspected virus patients admitted in Rly Covid coaches

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 42 suspected patients have been admitted in specially designed covid coaches by the Indian Railways deployed at Mau Junction in Varanasi division on June 20 and 17 patients were admitted on June 21. However, eight patients have already been discharged till now.

With this, Indian Railways has started providing care to corona patients referred for admission in Covid coaches deployed in various States. "Railways is making an all out effort to supplement the health care efforts of State Governments. It has geared up to provide its 5,231 Covid Care Coaches to the States. Zonal Railways have converted these coaches as covid centres to be used for very mild or mild



cases," it said in a statement.

As of now, Indian Railways has deployed total 960 Covid Care coaches in 5 states i.e. Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh. Out of total 960 Covid Care coaches, 503 Covid care coaches have been deployed in Delhi, 20 in Andhra Pradesh, 60 in Telangana, 372 in Uttar Pradesh and 5 in Madhya Pradesh.

In Delhi, 503 Covid Care coaches are deployed at 9 locations. 50 such coaches are deployed at Shakurbasti, 267 at Anand Vihar, 21 at Delhi Sadarjung, 50 at Delhi Sarai Rohilla, 33 at Delhi Cant, 30 at Adarsh Nagar, 13 at Delhi Shahadra, 13 at Tughlakabad and 26 at Patel Nagar, it said.

"In Uttar Pradesh, total 372 Covid Care coaches have been deployed at 23 different locations i.e. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn., Lucknow, Varanasi, Bhadohi, Faizabad, Saharanpur, Mirzapur, Subedarganj, Kanpur, Jhansi, Jhansi Workshop, Agra, Nakha Jungle, Gonda, Nautanwa, Bahraich, Varanasi City, Manduadih, Mau, Bhatni, Bareilly City, Farrukhabad and Kasganj," it added.

In Madhya Pradesh, total 5 Covid Care coaches are deployed at Gwalior. In Andhra Pradesh, total 20 Covid Care coaches are deployed at Vijayawada while in Telangana, a total of 60 such coaches are deployed at 3 different locations i.e. Secunderabad, Kachguda and Adilabad," it said.

As per guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), these State Governments have sent the requisition to Indian Railways and Railways have allocated these coaches to the States and Union Territories.

It is worth mentioning that Indian Railways is working as Service Provider of Coaches as Covid Care Centres as its contribution to national cause. Doctors and paramedics are to be provided by State Governments. This is as per MoHFW guidelines issued on 6th May 2020.

It may be noted that these Coaches can be used for very mild cases that can be clinically assigned to the Covid Care centers as per guidelines issued by MoHFW. These coaches can be used in areas where the State has exhausted the facilities and needs to augment capacities for isolation of both suspect and confirmed Covid cases.

STF busts 'fake RCs of stolen vehicle' racket, four arrested

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Haryana police have arrested four persons including three employees working in the office of the regional transport authority (RTA) Meham, Rohtak and a commission agent working in the RTA for their alleged involvement in preparing fake registration certificates (RC) of stolen luxury vehicles.

Those arrested are Anil Kumar, registration certificate clerk Krishan Kumar and Sombir, who is a data entry operator in the RTA office and Praveen Kumar a commission agent.

The STF claimed to have recovered 14 SUVs and

incriminating documents and other material from the four arrested so far. "This is a significant development. Praveen was facilitator while the other three would help him in registration and forging of documents. We are hopeful of more arrests. At the same time we are trying to ascertain if any senior officer is also involved," said Satish Balan DIG, STF.

According to sources, there was a gang of vehicle lifters that would steal SUVs on demand. They would hand over the group of receivers from New Delhi, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The receivers would then approach their buyers, who in turn would get the RC prepared for further sale of the vehicle.

INCLUSION OF TRANSGENDERS AS THIRD GENDER IN CAPF EXAM

SSB seeks internal opinion

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a bold move, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has taken the lead in seeking comments and views from all its formations across the country on inclusion of transgenders as third gender in the rules for CAPF (Assistant Commandant) Examination, 2020 for recruitment of officers. The move comes in the wake of directions from Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to include transgenders as Third Gender along with male/female for recruitment of Directly Appointed Gazetted Officers (DAGO) or cadre officers in the rank of Assistant Commandant. In a communication titled "Views on Inclusion of Transgender as third gender in

the CAPF (AC) Examination, 2020" sent across all the formations on Friday, the SSB headquarters said, "As per direction of DoP&T, inclusion of transgender as third gender along with Male/Female has been included as candidate for the examination with the notification of Civil Services Examination, 2020 and requested to examine the matter to incorporate the same in the Rules of CAPF (AC) Examination, 2020."

The CAPF refers to Central Armed Police Force or the Central paramilitary force. The views have been sought in order to explore the possibility of recruiting transgenders by allowing them to appear for the entrance under a separate category by modifying the recruitment rules. While the UPSC

conducts the examination for the recruitment of the cadre officers, every paramilitary force has its own recruitment rules, paramilitary officials said.

All Inspectors General, Frontier and Directorate besides SSB, Academy are requested to offer their comments on the subject by Tuesday (June 23, 2020), the letter said, requesting perusal and comments from the Inspectors General.

Other paramilitary forces like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) are also likely to follow suit in changing the rules for allowing transgenders as candidate for the entrance conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment of

Assistant Commandant, officials said.

On April 20, the DoPT had issued an office memorandum for inclusion of Third Gender/any Other Category in the application forms in recruitment to various posts under the Central Government.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 was passed by both Houses of the Parliament and received the assent of the President on December 5, 2019. This Act (No 40 of 2019) was notified in the Gazette of India on December 5 last year.

"The matter regarding inclusion of 'Third Gender/any Other Category' in the application forms in recruitment to various posts under the Central Government was under consideration of the Government

for quite some time. Based on the provisions of the Act and the legal opinion obtained on the subject, Civil Services Examination Rules, 2020 have been notified on 05.02.2020 providing for inclusion of 'Transgender' as a separate category of gender for the said examination," the DoPT had said in its circular issued in April.

The DoPT further said, "All ministries/Departments of Government of India are requested to modify the relevant examination rules providing for inclusion of 'Transgender' as a separate category of gender, so as to make the said Rules in conformity with the provisions of The Transgender Persons (Protection) of Rights) Bill, 2019."

Manmohan Singh's criticism comes just a few days after Prime Minister Narendra

Don't let China use your words as their vindication: Manmohan to Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday mounted more pressure on the Centre to come out clean on the China issue with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday taking a dig at his successor Narendra Modi saying the latter should not allow Chinese to use his words as "vindication of their position."

While Singh urged Modi to ensure that all organs of the Government work together to tackle the present crisis and prevent it from escalating further, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi seeking explanation as to why has China praised Modi in the conflict times when the Chinese have killed Indian soldiers.

Manmohan Singh's criticism comes just a few days after Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's statement that the Chinese military did not enter Indian territory. The statement triggered a huge political firestorm with BJP President J P Nadda accusing the former PM for allowing more incursion.

In a Press statement, Singh said that the 20 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the ultimate act of sacrifice should get justice and that their deaths should not go in vain.

"Our government's decisions and actions will have serious bearings on how future generations perceive us. Those who lead us bear the weight of a solemn duty. And in our democracy, that responsibility rests with the office of the prime minister."

The former PM said this is a moment where we must stand together as a nation and be united in our response to this brazen threat.

"The prime minister must always be mindful of the implication of his words and declarations on our nation's security as also strategic and territorial interests."

intimidation nor permit a compromise with our territorial integrity," Singh said.

He further said that the prime minister "cannot" allow them (China) to use his words as a vindication of their position.

"This is a moment where we must stand together as a nation and be united in our response to this brazen threat," Singh added.

Sharing a newspaper report, Rahul Gandhi tweeted saying, "China killed our soldiers. China took our land. Then, why is China praising Mr Modi during this conflict?"

Rahul has been continuously attacking Modi and has been taking a swipe at the PM over the LAC face-off. A day earlier, citing another news clipping of Japan media, the Gandhi scion quipped 'Narendra Modi is actually Surrender Modi'. Before that he questioned the government why were Indian soldiers unarmed at the borders which led to casualties.

Responding to Nadda, Congress chief spokesman Randeep Singh Surjewala said Nadda should show the courage to ask the Modi Government about 2,264 Chinese transgressions since 2015.

Surjewala also sought explanations on the martyrdom of 471 jawans and 253 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir alone being the highest in 30 years.

"There were 3,289 ceasefire violations by Pakistan in 2019 alone, highest in 16 years, up from 583 in 2014. The BJP should stop compromising on 'National Security' & India's 'Territorial Integrity'. This would be the biggest disservice to our Armed Forces & our 20 martyrs. Don't buckle down, have the strength to 'rise to the occasion'. We'll give the Government every support," Surjewala reacted to the BJP chief's criticism of Manmohan Singh statement.

Manmohan surrendered land to China: Nadda

New Delhi: In a scathing counter-attack on Manmohan Singh, BJP president J P Nadda said on Monday that he as Prime Minister "abjectly surrendered" hundreds of square kilometres of India's land to China and presided over 600 incursions made by the neighbouring country between 2010 and 2013.

In a series of tweets after Singh took aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his handling of the ongoing stand-off with China, Nadda said the senior Congress leader and his party should stop "insulting" our forces repeatedly and questioning their valour. They did this post the air strikes and surgical strikes, the BJP president said, asking the Congress to understand the true meaning of national unity, especially in such times. While accusing the Singh-

led UPA government of surrendering huge tracts of India's land to China, Nadda did not give any detail to substantiate the charge.

Incursions from China have been common, and the UPA and then the BJP-led NDA government, which came to power in 2014, have played them down, saying armies of both countries often entered into each other's territory because of their different perceptions about the Line of Actual Control.

Hitting out at Singh, Nadda said, "Dr Manmohan Singh belongs to the same party which: Helplessly surrendered over 43,000 KM of Indian territory to the Chinese! During the UPA years saw abject strategic and territorial surrender without a fight. Time and again belittles our forces"

The BJP president further charged, "One only wishes that

Dr. Singh was as worried about Chinese designs when, as PM, he abjectly surrendered hundreds of square kilometres of India's land to China. He presided over 600 incursions made by China between 2010 to 2013!"

In his first remarks on the Ladakh face-off, the former prime minister said Modi must be mindful of the implications of his words and cannot allow China to use them as a vindication of its position.

Noting that disinformation is no substitute for diplomacy or decisive leadership, Singh called upon the prime minister to ensure justice for soldiers who died defending India's territorial integrity.

Hitting back, Nadda said Singh's statement is mere "word-play"

Sadly, the conduct and actions of top leaders of the

Congress party will not make any Indian believe such statements, he added.

Remember, this is the same Congress that always questions and demoralises our armed forces, he said.

"India fully trusts and supports PM Narendra Modi. 130 crore Indians have seen his administrative experience in some of the most testing times, particularly how he has always put the well-being of the nation over and above everything else," he said.

Nadda said Singh rightly calls for unity. He then added that these strong words on paper fall flat when people see exactly who is vitiating the atmosphere of unity.

"Hope Dr. Singh is able to prevail on his own party at least," he said.

Twenty Indian Army personnel were killed in a violent

LADAKH FACE-OFF



clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh on June 15.

The Congress has been attacking the government on Prime Minister Modi's remarks at an all-party meeting that no one has entered Indian territo-

LADAKH FACE-OFF



ry or captured any military post while referring to the eastern Ladakh standoff.

The government has, however, said that attempts are being made to give a "mischievous interpretation" to the prime minister's remarks. PTI

Tips for healthcare workers while treating Covid patients

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid increasing cases of health workers getting infected with Covid-19, a first of its kind study has dwelled in detail about various sizes of virus-containing droplets present in sneezes and coughs and their locations in the respiratory systems even as it suggested a string of protective measures to prevent the contagion transmission in various settings to protect the corona warriors.

The study "Coughs and Sneezes: Their Role in

Transmission of Respiratory Viral Infections, including SARS-CoV-2," is published online in the American Thoracic Society's American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

Rajiv Dhand, professor and chair, Department of Medicine and associate dean of clinical affairs, University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, along with Jie Li, associate professor, Department of Cardiopulmonary Services, Division of Respiratory Care, Rush University Medical Center, said that "The apprehension about the use of aerosolized therapies in Covid-19 patients relates to their potential to spread infectious aerosols."

Airborne particles may be produced by various aerosol generating procedures (AGPs), such as suctioning or tracheal intubation, as well as jet nebulizers.

"AGPs such as intubation, bronchoscopy, physiotherapy and suctioning generate poten-

tial infectious bioaerosols by provoking coughs and are associated with increased infection rates among employees working in health care," stated the authors.

In contrast, AGPs such as oxygen therapy, use of humidified high-flow nasal cannula, non-invasive ventilation and manual ventilation via mask are less about 'generating' bioaerosols and more about 'dispersing' aerosols further away from the patient, said the researchers.

Drs. Dhand and Li also noted that aerosols produced by medical aerosol generators do not contain pathogens unless the aerosol device is contaminated.

The authors have made various recommendations for reducing the transmission of respiratory tract infections, which are consistent with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Over 1 lakh health-care workers worldwide are believed to have been infected with

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WARRIORS TO KEEP VIRUS AT BAY

- Avoid procedures that irritate airways and provoke violent coughing and try to reduce exposure to infectious aerosol
- If possible, health care providers should stay six feet away from infected patients, especially when the patient is coughing or sneezing
- When using a mechanical ventilator, institute barriers to filter the virus or reduce virus dispersion by placing a filter at the exhalation port of the ventilator or connecting a filter to the oxygen mask.
- Employ Personnel Protection Equipments (PPEs) for health care providers

Covid-19, and possibly twice that, amid reports of continuing shortages of protective equipment, the International



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

For spontaneously breathing patients, placing a surgical mask on the patient's face or using tissue to cover his or her mouth, especially during coughing, sneezing or talking, may reduce the dispersion distance or viral load.

While, ideally, infected patients should be in single rooms to prevent droplet dispersion, it is acceptable for two patients with the same infection that is spread by respiratory droplets to be in the same room

NITI Aayog lists 10 best practices to combat Covid

testing has to be extensive since it is the most powerful tool to defeat Covid-19. "Global and Indian success stories have strategies grounded in a robust testing mechanism," he said.

Citing the example of New Zealand, Kant said the country ramped up its diagnostic testing and was able to eliminate the virus and added that the success of Indian states like Kerala and Karnataka can be attributed to their willingness and resolve to test more. Second, he said that contact tracing has to be rigorous.

"The example of South Korea shows that a robust contact-tracing strategy is a must. In New Zealand, an innovative model encourages people to scan QR codes placed at different locations to create a repository of their movement."

The third practice that Kant advocates is the effective and timely treatment to ensure a high recovery rate, saying that it can be achieved through timely reporting of symptoms, early identification and admission of high-risk individuals.

The fourth is institutional quarantine- the virus has to be tackled at the source and countries that were able to proactively impose quarantine on incoming passengers at airports are better off today, he said. "Impose quarantine on

incoming passengers at airports is better off today," he said.

The fifth practice should be stringent employment of containment measures. "Lockdowns cannot be a permanent solution and this is where stringent containment comes into the picture," he added.

The sixth measure he stressed was the maximum use of data analytics and to bring data transparency to draw meaningful insights to help guide strategies while the seventh is to leverage technology.

"Manual interventions have to be supplemented by cutting-edge technologies that should form the backbone of efforts," he said. Moreover, enforcement plays a major role in ensuring that rules that have been instituted to curb the spread of the virus are observed strictly.

The ninth practice is online training and protocols that help impart knowledge to frontline workers to ensure that they are aware of the necessary protocols, emerging trends and relevant best practices in areas.

Lastly, Kant said that public adherence and community participation is a must since efforts of the government are futile unless observed by citizens.

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS ELECTRICAL TRD WORKS
(1) E - Tender Notice: EL-TRD-W-118-20-21-1, dated: 22.06.2020. Name of Work: Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE for WONDER CEMENT private siding at Nardana in Udhana-Jalgaon section of Mumbai division (Deposit work). Advertised Value: ₹ 2,21,61,400/- Earnest Money: ₹2,60,800/- Date & time of submission: 20.07.2020, 15.00 hrs Date & time of opening: 20.07.2020, 15.30 hrs. (2) E - Tender Notice: EL-TRD-W-118-20-21-3, dated: 22.06.2020. Name of Work: OHE electrification work of line no. 8 & 9 at Nandurbar yard in Udhana-Jalgaon section of Mumbai Division. Advertised Value: ₹ 1,15,69,666/- Earnest Money: ₹2,07,800/- Date & time of submission: 20.07.2020, 15.00 hrs Date & time of opening: 20.07.2020, 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.irreps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. D-01

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TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	CHDA GURUGRAM	CONNECTION OF SURFACE GRAB TO MASTER STORM WATER DRAIN	19.06.2020 25.06.2020	RS.500-	https://www.gmda.gov.in	res@chda.gmda.gov.in
2	MPU VARANASI	THE TENDERER WILL BE AWARDED THE CONTRACT ON THE BASIS OF SERVICE CHARGES & OTHER PRESCRIBED CRITERIA WITH THE APPROVAL OF COMPETENT AUTHORITY.	20.06.2020 27.06.2020	100 LACS	www.mpu.ac.in	7015019911 mpu@mpu.gov.in

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Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 40-42 Years, Height: 5'8", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Wearing: T-Shirt and Pant, Place of Recovery: Found dead on 13.06.2020 in the drain near Gagan T Point Red Light (behind Nand Nagri bus stand) Delhi.

In this regard DD No. 25A, Dated 13.06.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Nand Nagri, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

Phone: 011-24368638 and 24368641, Ext. 2101
Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/166/NE/2020

SHO
PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22583307, 22585985

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one lady Name: Deeepika, W/o: Rahul, R/o: H.No. 72 3rd Floor, Vijay Vihar, Ph-II, Delhi, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Suit & Salwar & Hawaii Chappal in feet has been missing since 09.06.2020 from the area of PS. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 60A, Dated 10.06.2020 has been lodged at PS. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/184/RD/2020

SHO
PS. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27052772

Cyclonic circulation over Odisha: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said that a cyclonic circulation is currently seen over north interior Odisha and neighbourhood with a height between 0.9 kilometres and 7.6 kilometres above mean sea level tilting southwards. The cyclonic circulation is very likely to move northwards during next three days. Meanwhile, the monsoon had advanced to majority regions across India. The IMD said rains are going to continue over the next few days with the monsoon expected to reach the national capital on Wednesday.

In its weather forecast on Monday, the IMD said If this

cyclonic circulation intensifies into a depression and further into a deep depression, it will lead to a formation of a cyclonic storm. The next cyclone will be named as 'Gati', meaning speed or pace. The name 'Gati' has been given by India and is the second name in the new list of which comprises of 169 cyclone names from 13 member countries. This comes just days after cyclone Nisarga made landfall in Maharashtra earlier this month. Cyclone Nisarga made landfall between Murud and Revdanda in Maharashtra's Raigad district on June 3.

Last month, super cyclone Amphan lashed parts of Odisha and West Bengal and made landfall on the coastal areas of

West Bengal and Bangladesh. The last severe cyclonic storm to hit close to Mumbai was in 1961. Cyclone Nisarga was severe with a wind speed of only 100 to 110 kmph.

"Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely to continue over northeast India during next 5 days and over East & adjoining central India during next 2-3 days. Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall activity with isolated heavy to very heavy falls also very likely over Western Himalayan Region, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and East Rajasthan from June 23 onwards," the IMD said.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the

head of the regional forecasting centre of the India Meteorological Department, said on and off pre-monsoon rains are going to continue in the national capital on Monday and Tuesday. The monsoon will reach the city by Wednesday after covering western Uttar Pradesh. According to weather experts, earlier than usual arrival of the monsoon in Delhi can be attributed to a cyclonic circulation over West Bengal and the neighbourhood which moved towards southwest Uttar Pradesh on June 19 and 20. "It helped in further advancement of the monsoon, it is expected to cover west Uttar Pradesh, and some parts of Uttarakhand by June 22 and 23," Srivastava said.

Maha puts 3 Chinese MoUs worth ₹5,020 cr on hold

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Sensing an intense anti-China smooch prevailing across the country over the killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in last week's violent clashes between the Indian and Chinese troops, the Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra Government on Monday decided to keep on hold three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹5,020 crore signed recently with as many Chinese companies.

The three MoUs over which the State Government has decided to maintain "status quo" were among the MoUs worth ₹16,030 crore signed in the presence of chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 15 with investors from 12 different countries, including the US, China and South Korea, as part of "Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0" for setting up of industries in various parts of the state.

Incidentally, the MoUs worth ₹5,020 crore were signed by the Maharashtra Government hours before the

violet showdown between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh, in which 20 Indian Army personnel were martyred.

Not wanting to lose investment altogether, the Uddhav Thackeray Government is treading cautiously and has chosen not to cancel the three MoUs signed with the Chinese companies but put it on hold. Announcing the decision, Maharashtra Industries Minister Subhash Desai said: "Status quo will be maintained on the MoUs with the Chinese companies for the moment. This does not mean that they have been rescinded or cancelled. In fact, further developments on the same are awaited."

Even while placing the three MoUs on a "as-is-where-is" state, the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi has chosen to play a political card by shifting the onus of deciding the matter with the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. "The Maharashtra

Government is awaiting clear policy directions from the Union Government, on these three projects collectively worth ₹5,020 crore, in the wake of the currently changed environment in India," Desai said in a statement issued here on Monday.

The three MoUs that the Maharashtra Government has kept on "status quo" mode are the ones signed with the Chinese companies - Hengli Engineering, PMI Electro Mobility Solutions (joint venture with Photon) and Great Wall Motors. Together, these Chinese companies "have committed to an investment of ₹250 crore, ₹ 1,000 crore and ₹3,770 crore respectively in the Talegaon industrial belt of Maharashtra (phase II) in Pune."

Hengli Engineering has committed to invest ₹250 crore for setting up a unit at Talegaon Phase no 2 and has promised to create 150 jobs.

PMI Electro Mobility Solution JV with Photon

The Maharashtra Government is awaiting clear policy directions from the Union Government, on these three projects collectively worth ₹5,020 crore, in the wake of the currently changed environment in India, Desai said in a statement issued here on Monday

(China) Auto-Talegaon promises to bring in an investment of ₹1,000 crore and 1500 jobs.

The MoU with M/s Great Wall Motors (China) is biggest of the three projects. It promises to set up an Automobile unit at Talegaon-Pune, involving an investment of ₹ 3,770 crore and creation of 2042 jobs.

It may be recalled that on June 15, the Maharashtra Government signed MoUs worth ₹16,030 crore with investors, including some Indians, from 12 countries including United States, China, South Korea and Singapore through video-conferencing in the presence of Uddhav

Thackeray, Industries Minister Desai, Minister of State for Industry Aditi Tatkare, Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta, Principal Secretary of Industry Department Bhushan Gagrani and other senior bureaucrats.

Speaking on the occasion, Uddhav had said: "As Neil Armstrong had expressed his feelings after stepping on the moon, it's a small step for one person, but it is a big leap for mankind. Similarly, this small step of confidence shown by investors will be a big leap in the future. MoUs worth around ₹ 16,000 crore are being signed today and MoUs worth ₹8,000 crore in the near future."

Expressing his confidence that foreign investment would increase and employment will be available in our state as compared to other countries, Desai had said that nearly 40,000 hectares of land had been reserved in the state for these industries. "Instead of various licenses, the Super license will now be issued in 48 hours. An industrial labour bureau will be

set up to provide skilled labourers to new industries in the state," an enthusiastic Desai had said.

The Maharashtra government's decision is in line with the Indian government's strategy to hit China where it hurts most. After the recent killing of 15 Indian soldiers in a violent face-off with Chinese troops, the Telecom ministry had asked BSNL and MTNL to stop using the Chinese equipment for the upgradation of 4G network. Similarly, the Indian Railways terminated a signalling contract worth ₹470 crore given to Beijing National Railway Research & Design Institute of Signal & Communication in 2016.

There are clear indications that as a fallout of the Indo-China border conflict, the Shanghai Tunnel Engineering Company may lose the ₹ 1,100 crore Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) contract. As a consequence, M/s Larsen and Turbo may land the contract.

All Covid patients should be given beds: BMC chief

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ordering thorough checking of patients in all hospitals coming under the jurisdiction of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai Municipal Commissioner IS Chahal on Monday mandated that all patients showing Covid-19 symptoms be given beds.

After taking a walk around the most Covid-19 affected areas of Malad (East) in north Mumbai and interacting with people there, Chahal directed the civic administration to undertake thorough checking of patients in all hospitals coming under the BMC limits. "It is a must that all the patients showing Covid-19 symptoms should be given beds," the civic chief said, amid complaints that there was a shortage of Covid-19 beds in the metropolis.

In BMC's P-North ward, as many as 3267 people have been tested positive for Coronavirus. Of them, 1442 have recovered fully in hospitals and returned home.

During the course of tour or the area by foot, Chahal visited the localities of Aapapada, Santri compound, Pratamesh Nagar, Devaki Nagar and Shivahi Nagar localities.

Meanwhile, the BMC has launched 'Mission Zero' - along the lines of the 4e one undertaken in Dharavi - at spread in north Mumbai with 'Mission Zero' in not Mumbai, as a public-private-partnership initiative. The 'Mission Zero' involves a Rapid Action Plan with 50 mobile dispensaries with doctors and all facilities to move around in north-western suburbs like Dahisar, Borivali, Kandivali and Malad and north-eastern suburbs like Bhandup and Mulund to identify and treat patients for two-three weeks.

During the drive, the BMC's medical team will be assisted by local doctors, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, top realtors body, CREDAI-MCHI, NGOs like Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana and Desh Apnayan which will provide the mobile vans, medics and medicines.

BMC seals Malabar Hill building after 21 test +ve

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has sealed the entire "Tanhee heights" along Napean sea Road at upmarket Malabar Hill area in south Mumbai, after 21 persons - including 19 house helps, drivers and security staff - tested positive for Covid-19 during the last seven days.

Giving details of the mass spread of the Covid-19 in one particular building, a senior BMC official said here on Monday: "The house helps

work in different flats of the building and there is every possibility that they may have spread the virus to the other flats as well. So as to break the chain it was necessary for us to seal the entire building."

"We have also shifted nearly 20 house helps and security staff to quarantine centres," the BMC officer said.

"We have requested society to sanitise the common toilets used by their staff four to six times a day. Till the time society makes arrangements we have started sanitisation from MCGM side," he said.

Army jawan martyred in Pak's unprovoked firing

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

An Indian Army jawan, hailing from Nepal, on Monday sacrificed his life along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district after the Pakistan Army resorted to 'unprovoked' firing aimed at escalating the tensions in the region.

Since June 15, when the standoff between India and China took an ugly turn at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh sector, Pakistan army has been consistently targeting forward Indian locations and large numbers of civilian pockets with heavy calibre weapons to

trigger unrest among the local population.

The Indian Army is closely monitoring the movement of the Pakistan Army close to the line of control.

According to Jammu based Defence PRO, Lt-Col Devender Anand, "the Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera Sector early Monday morning.

Own troops responded strongly to the enemy fire. In the incident, Havildar Dipak Karki was critically injured and later succumbed to his injuries". He said, Havildar Karki hailed from Nepal and

his mortal remains would be dispatched soon for the last rites after completing the necessary formalities.

Defence sources claimed, "the Pakistan Army is desperately trying to push small groups of infiltrators inside the Indian territory to execute terror strikes on vital security installations."

Ground reports suggested movement of heavily armed group of infiltrators has been spotted along the line of control in Nowshera sector where the Pakistan Army is providing cover firing to these trained infiltrators to sneak inside the Indian territory.

The Indian Army jawans



He has been kept in a state of high alert to foil nefarious designs of the Pakistan Army.

The Possibility of sensational strikes by the Border Action Teams (BAT), comprising commandos of the Pakistan army and heavily armed terrorists, cannot be ruled out in the region. Alert Indian troops

have already foiled several infiltration bids and also neutralised four heavily armed infiltrators in different sectors of Rajouri in the beginning of this month.

So far, four Indian jawans have also sacrificed their lives in the line of duty in this month only.

More than 150 incidents of ceasefire violations have been reported since June while the total incidents of ceasefire violations have crossed 2050 since January 2020. Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner, Sanjeev Verma in Jammu took stock of the bunker construction work in border areas of Jammu division at a high level

meeting.

According to the press statement issued by the department of Information, "a total number of 6919 bunkers have been completed so far in the division, including 6123 individual bunkers and 796 community bunkers". It was also informed during the meeting that 9905 bunkers are under execution and are at different stages of construction.

According to official sources, "1430 bunkers including community and individual bunkers have been completed in district Samba, 1058 in district Jammu, 1324 in district Kathua, 2316 in district Rajouri and 791 in district Poonch".

TN: 2,710 afflicted in a day

37 MORE DEATHS

KUMAR CHELLAPPA ■ CHENNAI

Situation in Tamil Nadu worsened on Monday as 2,710 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19, the highest number of persons to test positive on a single day till date. The day also saw 37 persons succumbing to the pandemic taking the death toll till date to 794.

A medical bulletin issued by the Tamil Nadu Government said there were 27, 178 active coronavirus cases in the State as on Monday. Till date, 62, 087 persons have been tested positive, said the bulletin.

In an important development, Chief secretary, Tamil Nadu Government by a special order has declared that Madurai Corporation, village panchayaths of Madurai East,

Madurai West, and Thiruparankundram Blocks of Madurai district would be under complete lockdown under the Disaster Management Act 2005 for seven days from June 24.

Except the essential services like hospitals, medical laboratories, pharma shops, ambulance and hearse vehicle services, no other establishments would function in these areas during the lockdown period, said the chief secretary's order. The move to enforce lock down is in the backdrop of the increasing number of covid cases in these areas and to give the district administration more elbow room to continue with the containment work.

Greater Chennai Corporation commissioner Prakash told reporters on Monday that he was confident that the lock down in Chennai

and three other districts is certain to yield encouraging results. "We will be able to see the coronavirus cases coming down by the end of this lock down period. People have been asked to stay indoors and not to come out unless it is for some emergency. This will bring down the covid cases in these four districts," said Prakash.

Out of the 37 persons who succumbed on Monday, 35 had comorbid conditions, said the medical bulletin. Chennai remained at the top of the table with 1,487 persons testing positive on Monday. Chengalpattu tested 126 positive cases while Thiruvallur had 120 covid-19 cases on Monday. Madurai district reported 153 cases of coronavirus and this has made the government to declare lock down under the Disaster Management Act 2005.

Why no Kalyan Rojgar for WB garib, TMC, Congress ask PM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan a central scheme drawn up to keep jobless migrant workers financially afloat during corona times seems to have provided some political ammo to the Opposition parties like the Trinamool Congress and Congress which have attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "ignoring" 11 lakh the migrant workers from Bengal who too have gone jobless.

Dismissing the State BJP's counter logic that the Bengal Government had not provided the data on migrant workers in time TMC MP and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee wondered: "Why have you blatantly ignored the concerns of 11 lakh migrant workers from Bengal who've recently returned to their homes. Why has WB been left out of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan? Why this apathy towards the people of Bengal?"

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury a bitter critic of Banerjee too wrote to the Prime Minister expressing his "astonish-

ment" as to why the Bengal districts were kept out of the programme.

"May I draw your attention that you have already announced Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, which includes 116 districts in six states and the program will be continuing for 125 days purportedly to provide livelihood to the returnee migrant workers... The criteria of this program is set to incorporate those districts where the population of migrant workers are supposed to be minimum twenty-five thousand who had been constrained to come back to their native villages in the wake of lockdown," he wrote wondering why the workers from Bengal were not included in the list.

The Behrampur MP wrote how "lakhs of migrant workers have returned to their native villages due to lockdown and since then they have been rendered jobless, penniless and hopeless... I am astonished to note that not a single district in the state of West Bengal has been included in the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan," requesting Modi to reassess the programme and include the eligible districts from his State.

Kerala reports 138 new cases on Monday

KUMAR CHELLAPPA ■ KOCHI

Kerala's reputation as the State which won the fight against coronavirus has come under a shadow as 138 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic on Monday. This is the highest number tested positive for the pandemic on a single day in the State, which had announced on May 8 that the coronavirus curve has been successfully flattened.

The last three days saw 378 persons in the State diagnosed with Covid-19 and the situation has turned grave in Kerala. On Monday, 17 persons were tested positive in Malappuram district.

A release issued by the Government of Kerala said out of the 138 persons tested positive on Monday, 87 were expatriates while 47 from other States in the country. Four persons were infected through community transmission, said the release. Meanwhile Kerala's agriculture Minister VS Sunil Kumar (CPI) has gone on observation mode following reports that a covid -19 afflicted person had attended a meeting convened by the minister.



On Monday, 241 persons have been hospitalised and this took the total number of coronavirus patients in the State to 1540. There are 112 hotspots in Kerala as on Monday.

With the advent of South West Monsoon, Kerala has been burdened with more contagious diseases like dengue and rat fever. According to doctors in the Government Health Service, a total of 589 persons have been identified with Dengue in the last one month.

Meanwhile former Chief Minister Oommen Chandi came out on Monday against the move by the Kerala Government to make "no-covid certificate" mandatory for expatriates returning to the State. Last week's cabinet meeting had decided to make "No-Covid Certificate" issued by medical authorities from the countries where the expatriates working a compulsory requirement.

2016 SHANKAR MURDER CASE

Madras HC sets aside death sentence of 5 accused

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A division bench of the Madras High Court on Monday set aside the death sentence awarded to five accused in the Shankar murder case which had caught the national attention.

A three-member gang allegedly hired by B Chinnaswamy had murdered 22 year old Shankar at Udumalpet as part of honour killing. Shankar, a Dalit youth had married Kausalya belonging to the Thevar community against the wishes of the latter's family. Enraged over the decision of his daughter and fearing ostracization from the community, Chinnaswamy, her father had hatched a plan to get rid of the couple and hence hired the gang.

On March 13, 2016, the gang hacked Shankar to death in Udumalpet town while Kausalya was seriously injured in the attack. The police arrested Chinnaswamy and six others for the gruesome murder. The Thirupur district sessions court sentenced six persons including Chinnaswamy to death while three other accused were acquitted.

Katra wears deserted look after yatra suspension

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Bustling streets of Katra, base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, continue to remain deserted in the absence of pilgrims. Since March 18, 2020 not a single pilgrim/tourist has visited the temple township.

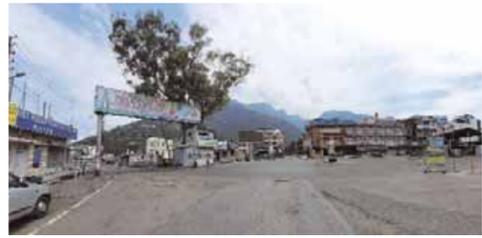
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) authorities had formally suspended the yatra in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic on March 18. Hundreds of hotels, guest houses, resorts remain closed and the bus station, railway station continue to wear deserted looks.

In the absence of pilgrims, priests stationed at the bhawan shrine are only performing daily rituals of prayers and broadcasting the same on the satellite television for worshippers to follow. Only shops selling essential items remain open in Katra even after the lockdown guidelines have been eased.

However, the dry fruit shops, which form the backbone of the local Katra economy continue to remain shut and totally empty.

Reason, owners of more than 400 shops, selling dry fruit and prasad items to thousands of pilgrims, have shifted their entire dry fruit stocks, including running stocks to cold storages in Jammu to preserve them for the coming season.

As per rough estimates dry fruit stocks worth 300 Crores



Deserted streets of Katra and stocks being ferried from a cold storage in Jammu

have been stocked inside cold storages in Jammu.

Gourav Khajuria, owner of a prominent Dry Fruit shop in Katra told *The Pioneer*, "to preserve our dry fruit stocks we have shifted them to the cold storages in Jammu."

He said, "we would have ended up losing our stocks if we had not packed them and stocked them inside cold storages."

"We can't keep them like this inside closed down shops to rot."

He said, "instead of earning a single penny we are paying a hefty amount per month to preserve our stocks."

He said, for each truck load of stock we are paying around 40,000 per month to a cold storage. Besides we have spent money on transportation charges @ ₹5,000 per truck.

"We are facing a precarious situation. We cannot predict what is in store for the coming season" ? Even if everything goes fine and things come on

track we have to stock fresh dry fruit supplies to remain in the business. Some of the big players in the market may invest money to lift fresh supplies but the majority of dry fruit shop owners may go selective and procure bare minimum items to sustain themselves.

According to Gourav, an average truck load of four to six trucks have been shifted by each dry fruit shop owner to a cold storage in Jammu.

A truck load consists of 500 boxes weighing 5 to 6 kgs.

Former President of Dry Fruit Association in Katra, Kuldeep Sadotra said, "we purchase dry fruit stocks from Kashmir based growers". He said, "we have been constantly suffering losses since August 2019. The yatra was gradually picking up this season but due to Covid-19 pandemic everything has come to a halt".

Sadotra said, "a large number of small shopkeepers who repackaged dry fruits are struggling to cope up in the absence

of sales. They have no money to pay salaries to their employees.

Sadotra said, "as per rough estimates dry fruit stocks worth 300 Crores have been stocked inside cold storages in Jammu".

He said, we have appraised our former BJP MLA, Ajay Nanda about our hardships and have also submitted a memorandum to him so that he can make an appeal to Lt-Governor GC Murmu to announce a financial package for the affected businessmen and give them relaxation in paying electricity bills, GST and other taxes.

In Jammu, Raman Gupta of Bahu cold storage and Ice factory told *The Pioneer*, "dry fruit sellers from Katra have stocked up around 50,000 boxes, bags containing dry fruits inside his cold storage complex in Narwal".

He said he has a total capacity to stock 6000 tonnes of material. At present, I am using 60 percent of my capacity, he added.

According to him, the total capacity of different cold storages in Jammu is 25,000 tonnes.

Raman Gupta said, "several dry fruit sellers stock up their routine supplies in their cold storage but this year due to complete lock down shopkeepers from Katra decided to shift their entire stocks including running stocks to their cold storage". He said, during normal days we keep rotating supplies. Fresh supplies come and old stocks are lifted from the

cold storage. But for the last three months we have blocked our storage capacity. we cannot accommodate more customers due to less storage capacity".

Referring to their own hardships, Raman Gupta said, we incur power and salary bills but in the absence of any financial support from the Government of India we are running huge losses. Gupta appealed to the Government of India to devise a package for businesses affected in Jammu and Kashmir from August 2019. He said, immediately the government should pass necessary directions to the banking institutions to waive off interest component on loans raised by them for the lockdown period.

FACTOID

- ◆ Dry fruits worth 300 crore stocked up in different cold storages in Jammu
- ◆ Due to complete shutdown, each day Katra is losing business worth 10-12 crores (all sectors)
- ◆ Average truck load of 4 to 6 trucks is stocked up by each dry fruit seller
- ◆ There are around 400 dry fruit shops in Katra but only 128 are registered
- ◆ Total cold storage capacity available in Jammu is 25,000 tonnes

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Office of the Dy. Commissioner (RP Cell)
Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre (25th Floor),
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002, Ph. No. 011-23227514
E-tender NOTICE
Bids are invited on behalf of Commissioner/SDMC from eligible bidders for Allotment of Authorized Multilevel Parking Sites under the jurisdiction of SDMC on monthly license fee basis in two bid system (Technical and Financial bids) for a period of three years (extendable further upto two more years) vide e-tender No. 65 dated 22.06.2020. Last date of bid submission is 15.07.2020. The tender documents could be downloaded from the SDMC's websites www.mcdonline.nic.in or www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHMCDTENDER.
All the revisions, clarification, corrigendum, addendum, time extension etc., if any, in respect of the above tender will be uploaded only on the aforesaid SDMC websites.
Any bid not accompanied with the tender fee and EMD is liable to be summarily rejected.
Assistant Commissioner
RPC/SDMC
R.O. No. 22/DPI/South/2020-21

विज्ञापन
श्रीमत्: हरियाणा राज्य के सभी जिलों में उच्चतम योजना के संवाहन हेतु वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 के लिये योग्य इच्छुक स्वयं सेवी संस्थाओं के द्वारा प्रस्ताव प्राप्त करने से संबंधित।
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा उच्चतम नामक एक केन्द्र प्रायोजित योजना का कार्यान्वयन किया जा रहा है। हरियाणा राज्य में इस योजना का संवाहन हरियाणा, महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के तत्वावधान में किया जायेगा।
उच्चतम तकरीफ और नवाव, पूर्वावस्था एवं पुनः एकिकरण, वाणिज्य यौग शोषण के तकरीफ के शिकार की संरक्षण के लिए एक व्यापक योजना है।
उच्चतम स्तरीय के संवाहन हेतु आवेदक योग्यताएं एवं प्रासंगिक अनुभव को स्रोतधारणा@gmail.com पर 0172-2560249/349 पर उच्चतम उच्चतम योजना की मार्गदर्शिका में देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक स्वयं सेवी संस्थाएं उच्चतम योजना की मार्गदर्शिका (http://srcwry.org/adv.html) में दिये गये निर्देशों के अनुकूल आवेदन भर सकती हैं।
हरियाणा राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों में उच्चतम योजना के संवाहन हेतु योग्य इच्छुक स्वयं सेवी संस्थाओं के द्वारा प्रस्ताव जिला उपायुक्त को जमा किये जाने हैं एवं प्रस्ताव की एक प्रती जिला कार्यक्रम अधिकारी, महिला एवं बाल विकास को जमा की जानी है।
वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 के लिये योग्य इच्छुक स्वयं सेवी संस्थाएं 15 दिन के भीतर अपने प्रस्ताव जमा कर सकती हैं। निश्चित वित्ति के परन्तु प्राप्त प्रस्तावों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
निदेशक
महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग
पंचकुला, हरियाणा
RO NO. 81384 Dt. 22-06-2020

Rathyatra challenge

Even after keeping devotees indoors, managing a people's festival is a big task. Will Odisha lay template for similar events?



Faith and wisdom, both are God-gifted virtues and do not need to be in collision with each other. In fact, we need both of these ennobling faculties even more during the pandemic for the sake of our spiritual and holistic well-being. That is the larger purpose of religion. Practitioners and devotees do not need to follow rituals if they pose a threat to humanity itself like congregations and mass gatherings would at this point. Most world religions, ours included, have adapted to the times where assembly of the faithful at a shrine could itself become a super-spreader of the disease, considering no filtering is possible without recording

a COVID-free status of each seeker. Be it online prayer services, no-touch rituals or diverting contribution to pandemic management, temples, churches and mosques around the world have redefined the way divine will can be translated on earth. But the row over the Puri rathayatra, where the idols of Lord Jagannath, brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra are taken out in chariots for their annual vacation to their aunt's place, thereby allowing the masses to avail divine benediction for the last 300 years, has again posited reason before a collective heave of emotion. Though devotees regularly seek audience before the Lord at his shrine in Puri, the rathayatra has been a sort of divine endorsement of a massive public spectacle and celebration that has become a socio-cultural icon of Odisha and fuelled the economy of the temple town. Each year, a group of specialist craftsmen are hired to carve the three chariots. The very act of taking out a procession would expose the temple administration and the State Government to an unprecedented logistical challenge of conducting ceremonies with clinical precision and crowd management. It was foreseeing a possible public health and safety crisis that the Supreme Court had called for a total prohibition of the festival last week. "Lord Jagannath will not forgive us if we allow it," Chief Justice SA Bobde had ruled. But following protestations by Puri seer Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, who claimed he was not consulted about the cancellation, the court has now left it to the temple administration and the State Government to manage the yatra on a limited scale. Servitors believe that stopping the yatra, which is considered a transformative moment in nature's cycle, would not be apt when humanity was suffering the most and that once broken, it could not be held for the next 12 years. Of course, the temple authorities depend on this yatra and its fervour to plan their calendar of activities and some servitors singularly dedicate themselves to preparations. Much money has already been spent and more so for testing all the 372 labourers engaged in building the chariots in isolation. Temple authorities also claimed that thousands of people in Puri municipality had gathered on the road connecting Puri Jagannath temple to Gundicha temple on May 30 by maintaining social distance for singing the state anthem. So they now want the yatra to be performed by 500-600 servitors, maintaining a social distance on the 3-km road stretch, and the temple police to ensure discipline and provide back-up. They won't allow congregation of devotees who can watch the procession live on TV. Would this mean that the servitors themselves will have to go through testing and screening protocols before being in close proximity to each other while pulling the chariot and taking turns on the rope? Would the police be able to hold off an unexpected swarm of devotees, given the emotional surge the event inspires each year? Let us not forget the stampedes associated with the event each year, when even the most meticulous drill has not been able to tame devotees wishing to pull the chariot for a few moments. Also, given that a minimum of 4,000 people are required to pull the three chariots, even a scaled down number could be big enough to monitor on the ground.

The Naveen Patnaik Government, which has its hands full with arresting the spiral of COVID-19, has quite a challenge in conducting a crowdless yatra. According to data, around six to seven lakh people gather on the first day of the festival. On the return journey, the crowd swells to almost double, numbering well over 10 lakh people. The State Government's challenge will be to keep people indoors on the day by way of an administrative curfew of sorts if it wants to uphold tradition and set an example of how festivals can be managed in the post-pandemic era. Certainly Patnaik would not want to risk a protocol which has aggressively contained the virus. Odisha is a low incidence State thanks to his proactive containment measures and preparedness in setting up COVID facilities even before the predictive figures came in. So he certainly would not want to spill water on the hard work he has done until now. Or he could well lay the template for the mass festivals that will follow, like the Ganesh Utsav in Maharashtra. Indeed, community festivals need a new common protocol in the post-pandemic era that shouldn't be seen as being in competition with religiosity or diluting faith itself. It should be about treasuring God's creation called life.

Insurgent incumbent

While Democratic challenger Biden is picking up in the polls, ruling out Trump is a mistake that few should make



When Donald Trump won the 2016 US presidential poll, he didn't just shake up the American polity but visibly the entire world. As political commentators in India and elsewhere tried to figure out the nuances of the US' bizarre electoral college system and how the winner of the popular vote actually lost an election, the world prepared for Trump. It has been a roller coaster ride since January 2017 when Trump took office. From his market-moving Twitter tirades to the many self-aggrandising press briefings, Trump has said a lot of things to a lot of people.

But as the US heads into the next presidential election cycle later this year, can Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden, who was also former President Barack Obama's Vice President, defeat Trump? Biden has maintained low profile during the Coronavirus pandemic. Even during the racial protests that engulfed certain American cities, he maintained studied silence, possibly in order to avoid his legendary gaffes. This is in sharp contrast to Trump's bombastic statements. By all accounts, Biden is leading Trump in the polls across several important American "battleground" States where the 2020 election will be won and lost. The average of national surveys has put Biden up over Trump. However, this discounts the latter's extremely good ground game; last time his team knew they had an upper hand even before the election. This is why they allowed the mainstream media to portray him as weak, which doubled the surprise of his victory. It has been 28 years since an incumbent US President lost re-election. Putting Trump on the backfoot might actually spur him to revitalise his base. The riots now, with their senseless and wanton destruction, will actually play into Trump's core support base of White voters. Trump likes playing the insurgent card when it comes to electioneering. And with the media and analysts sitting in their ivory towers in America's coastal cities, they forget how electorally important this base is. For Biden to ensure victory, he will have to reach out to Trump's core voter base. While he has the polling lead for now, he has not started that outreach. Keep in mind that as the first votes were counted on that fateful November night in 2016, Hillary Clinton had a 96 per cent chance of being the US' 45th President.

China's BRI trap

As its domestic strain increases, Beijing may turn more aggressive abroad to show that it is unperturbed by the pandemic or slowdown. That its chutzpah is unparalleled



SANDHYA JAIN

The unbearable tragedy at the Galwan Valley has little to do with territorial claims and is instead a distraction "with Chinese characteristics" to cover the fact that Chinese President Xi Jinping's flagship project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is floundering. At the National People's Congress in May this year, Beijing announced a military budget of \$178.6 billion for 2020 and said it would grow by 6.6 per cent year-on-year, while foreign affairs spending was cut by 11.8 per cent. The military budget stood at \$175 billion in 2018 and \$177.5 billion in 2019. Helena Legarda, analyst at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) mused, "Beijing clearly does not feel safe enough domestically or internationally to slow down its military buildup and modernisation, even at a time when the economy is suffering."

China's outstanding debt claims are estimated at \$5.5 trillion, that's 40 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to the Institute of International Finance. The institute estimates that China's debt-to-GDP ratio rose by 11 percentage points in 2019 and is now pegged at 317 per cent. It could be higher as the calculations do not include all categories of debt. Moreover, China's reported GDP seems too high and the excess of liabilities over assets of China's financial institutions has not been factored in.

Data for the first quarter of 2020 showed a hike in bad loans, defaults and delayed repayments as the Coronavirus hit the economy and first-quarter GDP shrank for the first time in China's recorded history. The rise in defaults was despite lenders agreeing to delay \$124 billion in repayments from smaller companies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts the Chinese economy would grow only 1.2 per cent in 2020-21 as against 6.1 per cent in 2019-20. However, at the National People's Congress in May 2020, Premier Li Keqiang said China would not set a target for GDP growth for 2020-21. He announced a stimulus of \$672.4 billion, which many considered inadequate but China cannot afford more debt.

China's economic slowdown began before the Coronavirus pandemic derailed the world economy. After the second Belt and Road Forum meeting in Beijing in April 2019, several Western think-tanks scrutinised BRI finances from public records and found an opaque web of reckless lending, restructured loans, renegotiated loans, debt forgiveness, refinancing and deferrals. Now, Zou Jiayi, Vice Minister at the Finance Ministry, who repeatedly warned about the debt risks from the project, has been asked to make the BRI "more manageable and financially practical." Observers expect it to be sharply downsized, with viable projects



getting priority and the rest ignored. The objective is to somehow avoid a massive default.

The BRI has become fiscally unsustainable because China's policy banks gave huge loans to fragile States and then extended and even expanded credit lines. The Washington-based consultancy, RWR Advisory, notes that around \$461 billion has been given for transport and energy projects from the Horn of Africa to Central Asia from 2013 under the BRI umbrella.

China's total lending to African Governments, firms and State agencies is around seven per cent of its external debt, valued at \$2.06 trillion at the end of 2019 by China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange. Ernst & Young estimates that Chinese firms invested \$72.2 billion in Africa between 2014 and 2018. Herbert Poenisch, former senior economist, Bank for International Settlements, put the total outstanding lending by Eximbank in all countries at \$285 billion. Hong Kong-based bankers believe that possibly the Government "does not know how much it is owed or by whom."

Lending slowed down even before the COVID-19 shock. Logan Wright, director of China markets research at Rhodium Group, reported that net out-banking lending has been negative since 2019; lending by mainline policy banks to Africa dropped after peaking at \$29 billion in 2016. Commerce Ministry data

CHINA'S ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN BEGAN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC DERAILED THE WORLD ECONOMY. AFTER THE SECOND BELT AND ROAD FORUM MEETING IN APRIL 2019, SEVERAL WESTERN THINK-TANKS SCRUTINISED BRI FINANCES FROM PUBLIC RECORDS AND FOUND AN OPAQUE WEB OF RECKLESS LENDING, RESTRUCTURED LOANS, RENEGOTIATED LOANS AND DEBT FORGIVENESS

showed that the number of overseas contracts signed by Chinese construction firms for BRI-related lending fell sharply in 2018, reflecting the growing unease in Beijing that the BRI was "way out of control." A Hong Kong banker said that by 2019, China had exhausted its ability to maintain the momentum. Beijing's solution to fund BRI by lending in renminbi did not work as most borrowers only wanted dollars.

This compelled China to increase its dollar-denominated external debt. The COVID pandemic put Beijing in the unenviable position of being asked to forgive some, or even all, of its loans. At the G20 in April 2020, China offered to freeze all debt repayments for the world's poorest countries until end-2020, the first time Beijing joined a global debt relief initiative. But it refused to include distressed loans disbursed by Eximbank or China Development Bank in the G20 programme. Analysts expect massive downscaling of the project. A few new and viable projects will be launched; the rest sidelined. Lending to Africa will be tightly controlled, but gaps could be met by "new actors" such as technology firm Huawei.

The Coronavirus has made it impossible to ignore the warnings. The Bank for International Settlements warned in 2016 that excessive credit growth in China posed the risk of a banking crisis within three years. In December 2017, the IMF

warned that China's growing debt-dependency could trigger a new global financial crisis as credit growth had outpaced GDP growth, corporate debt was 165 per cent of GDP and household debt had risen by 15 percentage points of GDP over the past five years.

Columnist Gordon G Chang believes that China's foreign exchange reserves could be less than claimed as there have been derivative transactions to hide the quantum of dollar selling to support the renminbi and stuffing of non-liquid investments into its reserves. The increased budget of the People's Liberation Army (officially by 6.6 per cent) is an extra burden though debt management has marginally increased foreign exchange reserves to \$3.09 trillion in April 2020 from \$3.06 trillion in March 2020.

As its domestic strain increases, Beijing may turn more aggressive abroad — Ladakh (India), South China Sea, near Taiwan — to show that it is unperturbed by the pandemic or slowdown. Its chutzpah is unparalleled. In June 2020, Naypitaw discovered to its chagrin that China is covertly building a Hong Kong-size city in Shwe Kokko fishing village in Kayin State, on the banks of Moei river, its border with Thailand. Possibly it would be used to leverage Myanmar debt at a future date.

(The author is a senior journalist. Views are personal)

SOUNDBITE

India does not want escalation but if there is any action from China, the forces have been given the freedom to give a befitting reply.



Union Minister —Rajnath Singh

Due to the lockdown, people have been watching web shows. That's how people in London started recognising me. I often have people waiting outside to get a glimpse of me.



Actor —Radhika Apte

We are fighting two wars against China — at the border and against the virus. Our 20 brave soldiers didn't back down. Even we won't retreat and win both the wars.



Delhi Chief Minister —Arvind Kejriwal

The only place through which I can give an answer is through IPL even if I play for India. I want to face the fear and that's the only way to live life.



Indian cricketer —S Sreesanth

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Foreign policy test

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Bare facts" (June 22). India has always been unduly accommodative of and friendly with China while the latter has proved to be just the opposite. The story goes back to the great betrayal of 1962 when former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's bonhomie was returned in the form of an invasion by the Chinese. The recent India-China face-off along the Galwan Valley has proved once again that tension-free relations with expansionist China is wishful thinking. New Delhi needs to be practical. India's China policy and also that with Taiwan needs a reset. New Delhi must also think of extending strategic support to Tibet and Hong Kong.

MC Joshi
Lucknow

Reset terms

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Bare facts" (June 22). Ladakh has shown China's aversion to existing peace arrangements. It is under the impression that it is

Are we prepared for a Chinese boycott?

In the aftermath of the India-China face-off at the border, there has been a growing chorus to boycott Chinese products and understandably so. Interestingly, the call has elicited little response. The pros and cons of whatever India does on the diplomatic and economic fronts in the context of seriously strained relations with China must be weighed upon. In retaliation to China's military aggression, economic gains and not losses should follow any measure taken. We should not get carried away by the nationalistic pitch. We need to recognise our strengths and weaknesses without getting downbeat. Frankly speaking, India does not have enough economic muscle to flex around. Undeniably, Chinese products occupy much of the space on the shelves of shops and stores in India. China has not just developed a niche market; it has diversified into all products and overwhelmed the Indian market. Whatever their quality, Chinese products are relatively cheaper and more affordable and face no serious competition. Experts are divided on the issue of imports from China. While some endorse the boycott call, others favour more tariffs. We should think twice about the advisability of indiscriminately cutting down on trade with a neighbouring country that has a strong footprint bordering on



monopoly in the manufacturing industry and global supply chains. For people to shift their brand loyalty, they have to have an option. To what extent the boycott will moderate Chinese behaviour towards India is not clear. Whether the threat to boycott Chinese products can be used as a bargaining chip at the negotiating table, too, is not clear. Self-reliance and "Make in India" are worthy goals which we should actualise. We must unlock our full potential and emerge as an economic powerhouse.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Coordinated efforts

Sir — A spike in the number of Coronavirus cases should send alarm bells ringing. Death toll, too, has shown a sharp rise. In particular, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai pose enormous challenges as they account for more than half of the total cases in the country. Faced with a flagging economy, the Union Government was left with no option but to reopen markets. But due to mounting cases, a few States have taken the right decision to extend the lockdown. However, this may not be of much help. Efforts must be on to increase testing and tracing contacts. Testing capacity has been increased to three lakh people daily but this is less than adequate. Central and State Governments, too, need to work in tandem. Given that the spread of the infection is showing different trajectories in different parts of the country, coordination of resources and strategies will be crucial.

Venu GS
Kollam

invincible. But it must not forget the defeat it suffered at the hands of Vietnam. Success is not the property of any country. Likewise, defeat is not a permanent problem of any nation. China is at loggerheads with Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, Japan, Vietnam and more importantly with India. By now it is clear that China attaches more importance to land than good neighbourly relations. The recent Chinese aggres-

sion along the Galwan Valley must prompt India to forge alliances with other countries hostile to it. India will need to set up new terms of peace.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A highly unreasonable request

Granting interest waiver, in addition to deferment, will amount to discrimination among borrowers who decide to avail the RBI's loan moratorium and others who don't



UTTAM GUPTA

The Supreme Court was against burdening customers with a loan trap while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by one Gajendra Sharma, demanding a "waiver on interest charged" by a bank citing the relief given by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the payment of equated monthly installments (EMIs) during March and August 31 due to the pandemic. A three-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court observed: "There is no merit in burdening customers, who have opted for the RBI-approved loan moratorium, with additional interest. Once you fix a moratorium it should serve the purpose desired. We see no merit in charging interest on interest." The Bench, which posted the matter for hearing in the first week of August to allow the Centre and the RBI to review the situation, asked the Indian Banks Association (IBA) to examine whether they could bring new guidelines on the issue of loan moratorium. From this, it would appear that the apex court may be concurring with the petitioner. It believes that without granting interest waiver on the amount remaining unpaid during the moratorium period, the very act of granting it is rendered meaningless. This is reinforced by another observation by the Bench, "On the one hand, you are granting moratorium (on loans) but continuing with interest. It is more detrimental." As we await the court's order we need to address some pertinent questions.

What did the RBI offer to the borrowers? What did it cost the banks and how will interest waiver impact them? How will bank depositors be affected? Let us check a few facts. On March 27, the RBI Governor announced a comprehensive action plan to resuscitate the economy. Among other things, the plan sought to ease the stress of loan repayments on businesses and individuals and this included a three-month moratorium on payment of installments in respect of all term loans outstanding on March 31.

As the lockdown continued much longer than it was initially envisaged on May 22, the Governor announced extension of the moratorium for another three months till August 31. He also allowed those who availed of working capital facilities to convert accumulated interest for the deferment period (March 1 – August 31) into a Funded Interest Term Loan (FITL) which can be paid by March 31, 2021.

The RBI also eased asset classification norms for all accounts coming under the moratorium. These accounts will be treated as non-performing assets (NPA) from 270 days overdue instead of 90 days overdue as per extant rules. It has also extended the 210-day resolution period for all large, stressed accounts under its June 7, 2019 circular. On its expiry, if banks are not ready with a resolution plan, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) comes into play by a further 180 days.

The RBI has thus taken all necessary steps to shield COVID-19 affected businesses and individuals from going into default and negative consequences such as a loan becoming a NPA or proceedings under the IBC that go with it. It has also eased the burden of paying back accumulated interest for the moratorium period. There could not have been a more generous relief package. This has come at the cost to banks who will be required to make additional 10 per cent provision on these so-called "standstill" accounts (albeit borrowers who decide to avail of the moratorium) over three quarters ending March, June and September. Yet, borrowers are dissatisfied and are demanding waiver of interest, too, arguing that the latter is meaningless without the former. The apex court is concurring with this interpretation.

However, this interpretation may not hold ground because the moratorium is actually a "deferment" of existing and current liabilities. It means that for now, keeping in view the prevailing excruciating circumstances, the borrower need not pay for the specified period. But, it does not alter any of the other covenants in his loan agreement with the bank. If, he decides not to pay interest during the moratorium period, "the interest accrued on the unpaid interest amount" will have to be paid by him.

Granting interest waiver (in addition to deferment) will amount to discrimination among borrowers who decide to avail of the moratorium and others who don't. There are a large number of borrowers in the latter category as can be seen from the following numbers reported by the largest Public Sector Bank (PSB) viz. the State Bank of India (SBI). According to the SBI, over 80 per cent of its retail borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for two out of the first three months initially allowed by the RBI. Further, 90 per cent of such borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for one month. In other words, they continued to pay the EMI. If, the Supreme Court grants interest waiver, are we then to infer that those who have already paid their EMIs will get refund of the "interest on interest" from the bank? If they don't (very likely) then we will end up with two sets of borrowers viz. one who availed of moratorium and got interest waiver too and the other, who got neither just because he decided to pay.

Plus, loans worth ₹40,00,000 crore are eligible for the six-month moratorium allowed by the RBI. Taking the average lending rate at one per cent, the interest cost for six months works out to about ₹2,00,000 crore. This will be the loss to banks if the court allows interest waiver for the moratorium period. But, the buck does not stop here. The banks give loans using depositors' money. If, the former suffer a loss, this will impact the latter by way of reduction in the deposit rate. There are millions of depositors who depend solely on interest income for their survival. Already, in a declining rate scenario (this was even before the Corona crisis), they have suffered heavily. The interest rate on the Senior Citizen Saving Scheme, which is normally kept immune from market-driven variations, too, has declined by over two per cent in the last couple of years. The crisis has aggravated their woes. To give relief to a certain section of society at the cost of another will be discriminatory.

To argue that deferment of an existing liability per se is not relief is untenable. If, someone is passing through a difficult phase (say, in case of this petitioner whose shop remained closed during the lockdown) and he is exempted from having to pay the EMI during this period, which is what the RBI has done, this by itself is unquestionably a big relief. While he will be happy to get interest waiver as well, that does not take away from the fact that he got a huge relief.

What if the Centre decides to pay for interest waiver? It can do so for PSBs only and this won't be possible in case of private banks. This will lead to an anomalous situation whereby someone who has taken loan from a private bank won't get the benefit of interest waiver. That apart, the Government needs to decide whether it can afford this when it needs to keep its scarce (and dwindling) resources for the basic needs of the poorest only. Hopefully, the apex court will see the inherent flaw in allowing interest waiver for the moratorium period and dismiss the demand made by the petitioner.

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

MODI MUST ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS WORDS AND DECLARATIONS ON OUR NATION'S SECURITY AS ALSO TERRITORIAL INTERESTS.

—FORMER PRIME MINISTER
MANMOHAN SINGH

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



DR SINGH CAN CERTAINLY SHARE HIS WISDOM ON MANY SUBJECTS BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER ISN'T ONE OF THEM.

—BJP PRESIDENT
JP NADDA

Necessity spawns invention

The resourcefulness and resilience of our workmen should not be underestimated. This is especially true for services and goods for which there is a non-discretionary demand



SHOBHIT MAHAJAN

The handwritten sign on the shuttered *paan* shop in my neighbourhood had just a phone number on it. I had, on a whim, gone to the market to see if there was any possibility of getting some cigarettes. With nothing to lose, I tried the number. A man named Tiwari answered the phone and when I asked him about the possibility of getting cigarettes, he said he could deliver them the next morning. Not just that, Tiwari also asked me if I wanted the "imported" or "Indian" variety of that particular brand. The price was finalised at a 50 per cent mark-up to the maximum retail price (MRP) and promptly at 10 am the next morning, Tiwari was there on his Scooty.

Surprised, I asked him how he had managed to reach me during a complete lockdown in our neighbourhood where the policemen were not just stopping people but actively demonstrating their penchant for using force.

Apparently, Tiwari was helped by serendipity. Several months ago, to make an extra buck, Tiwari had started selling bread and eggs from his *paan* shop. Now, he was allowed to open his shop as part of essential services and that is how he was managing to move around freely. Of course, there were few people buying eggs and bread from him, since these were easily available, but cigarettes and *paan* masala were another matter altogether.

Though the pandemic-induced lockdown wreaked havoc on the livelihoods of millions of hawkers, the street vendors were the worst-hit since they were surviving from day-to-day even before the shutdown began. But there are other small shopkeepers, mechanics and service personnel, who are still suffering immense hardships due to the lockdown, even though much of the economy has been opened up in a graded manner now by the Government in a bid to start up the growth engine.

However, the resourcefulness and resilience of our workmen should not be underestimated. This is especially true for services and goods for which there is a non-discretionary demand.

A few days into the lockdown, I noticed that suddenly the number of vegetable vendors who peddle their wares on carts in our neighbourhood had increased significantly. This seemed odd and so I hypothesised that these were people who ordinarily work other trades but were now forced to do this to earn a livelihood. This nebulous hypothesis was confirmed and the details fleshed out by Krishna, whom I accosted while he was on his rounds selling vegetables near my house.

It turned out that Krishna was otherwise a daily wage labourer — the kind that throng "labour chowks" in any city in the morning in the hope of being picked up by a contractor to work on a building site. With the construction business being shut and being a resourceful man, he struck a deal with his neighbour, Ahmad. Ahmad is a *kabadiwala* (scrap collector) who has a rickshaw which he uses. But *kabadiwalas* are not allowed to ply their trade now. So Krishna offered to rent Ahmad's rickshaw at ₹50 a day. Now Krishna goes at 3 am to the wholesale vegetable market and gets vegetables to hawk through the day. The iron law of markets makes both of them better off during the lockdown.

The resourcefulness of people slightly up the social ladder is also quite in evidence these days. Some at the top of the pecking order have used

“SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, TO MAKE AN EXTRA BUCK, TIWARI HAD STARTED SELLING BREAD AND EGGS FROM HIS PAAN SHOP. NOW, HE WAS ALLOWED TO OPEN HIS SHOP AS PART OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND THAT IS HOW HE WAS MANAGING TO MOVE AROUND FREELY. OF COURSE, THERE WERE FEW PEOPLE BUYING EGGS AND BREAD FROM HIM, SINCE THESE WERE EASILY AVAILABLE, BUT CIGARETTES AND PAAN MASALA WERE ANOTHER MATTER ALTOGETHER



their "contacts" in the administration to get COVID-19 passes on their cars, which allow them to travel in the city way past the curfew hours and also cross State borders that till now remain firmly shut for the common man.

The not so fortunate ones have found other ways to manage the police roadblocks. For instance, I noticed that there is a sudden increase in the number of people who are socially-inclined and are thus providing relief to stranded migrants and daily wagers. Their cars have got home printed signs that read "COVID-19, Relief Material" and always seem to be filled with bags and cartons. Except somehow, I never see them going out to distribute this material to the needy.

Wikipedia lists at least 12 languages with the phrase "Necessity is the mother of invention." This is certainly the case nowadays. A friend shared a picture of how he has carefully marked his cigarettes so that he can smoke them over time — one third in the morning, one third after tea and so on. The *paan* shops in his area haven't opened up as yet and he obviously hasn't heard of his neighbourhood "Tiwari."

People who never tasted any other alcohol except for Scotch whisky are making do with whatever they can lay their hands on — in a friend's case, a bottle of cheap vodka.

My own case was a bit more prosaic. Of all things, the strap of my chappals broke early on in the lockdown. Since one was home-bound, this item of footwear was the one used most of the time. Clearly something had to be done. So I went to the neighbourhood *kirana* (grocery) store, got some adhesive and used it liberally on the strap to fix it. Thankfully it is holding up and hopefully will last me till the "non-essential" shoe shops open.

Social distancing, a phrase which

has entered common parlance, thanks to its constant use in the media, has been internalised by most people who can afford to distance themselves. Except that the distancing is mostly from the *hoi polloi* and that, too, only when it can be done without any discomfort.

In my neighbourhood, initially no maids or gardeners were being allowed. The residents, inspired by videos of celebrities on social media doing *jhaadoo-pochaa* (sweeping and mopping), decided that they, too, could do it. Alas, this lasted only for a few days and soon the maids were called back. However, now quite a few of the maids, having lost their livelihood, had gone back to their villages. Thus, the few who remained were cajoled and implored to take on work at extra houses.

The one thing which didn't involve any social distancing was of course buying fruits and vegetables. This is one activity in which every household in India excels. In the initial days of the lockdown, as soon as the fruit/vegetable hawkers would call out, women from the colony would come out and crowd around him.

No masks of course were worn by any of them possibly taking the initial World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations of masks not being needed seriously. More importantly, every single apple, mango, tomato, potato and okra was hand-picked from a pile and then the usual haggling over price happened.

Now, of course, with the pandemic spreading like wildfire and the WHO recommending masks and gloves as a means of escaping infection, the ladies of the colony and even the fruit/vegetable vendors are sporting masks. That they hang loose most of the time is another matter.

Yet another thing which happened

during the forced lockdown was an increased interest in sports. This, in effect, meant playing the one game which is easiest to play on the road, in your garden, driveway or even your terrace — badminton. It was vaguely touching to see couples, who last possibly picked up a racket 20 years ago, suddenly bonding over a game of badminton on their terrace. Board games also became all the rage for families forced to stay indoors and, of course, their prices skyrocketed thanks to the opportunism displayed by online toy vendors.

The children continued riding their bicycles as well as playing other games, blissfully unaware of the need for social distancing. While ordinarily they would play inside the house since the roads had traffic, the lockdown meant that the roads were almost empty and so they could play in the streets.

Incidentally, it also meant that the roads were taken over by dogs, birds, stray cattle and in our case, several horses — I am not sure where they came from — maybe because no weddings were taking place, the *ghodi walas* (wedding mare providers) had let them loose to feed on whatever they could find.

Now with the Unlock 1.0 in force and our leader telling us to unlock, unlock, unlock, things are changing. For instance, since there is a gradual increase in construction activity as well as street hawking, the number of fruit/vegetable sellers has decreased to almost pre-lockdown levels.

Tiwari now opens his *paan* shop as usual but what is curious, continues to sell his wares at a mark-up. When I asked him why he is doing this now, he conspiratorially whispers — "Sir, banned *hai na*."

(The writer is Professor, Department of Physics and Astrophysics, DU)

Strengthen Essential Commodities Act

By deregulation, we are copying the US' failed post World War-II farm policy which led to the creation of agri-commodity giants



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

As agri-business celebrates the removal of pulses, oilseeds, cereals and so on from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), Indian farmers and consumers don't have reason to celebrate. The Government's advisors, in an attempt to bring in more "agri-dollars", may have misled the Narendra Modi Government by opening doors for cartelisation of these commodities, while at the same time dismantling the consumers' and farmers' only defence against monopoly. For evidence, we need to look no further than 2015. Modi 1.0 was complet-

ing one year in office as prices of pulses skyrocketed to over ₹200 a kg. After the Income Tax Department investigated the matter, a ₹2.5 lakh crore dal scam was unearthed. The I-T Department's *Appraisal Report in the Case of Pulse Importers and Traders Group* said, "The abnormal price situation in India was created by a coordinated collusive activity orchestrated by a few trading and financial entities." They found that "physical stocks of pulses (were) cornered in domestic and international markets. Significant long positions on the future were taken on exchanges to create an artificial scarcity at the wholesale and retail levels."

International agri-business and grain traders had shrewdly circumvented the ECA by leveraging their overseas presence and created a monopoly by procuring and hoarding stocks of pulses in national as well as overseas markets." They manipulated domestic dal prices to plummet so that they gained maximum from the stocks bought at low prices. The super profit earned in this

manner was not offered to tax and was siphoned off either abroad or converted into unaccounted cash through entry operators. It was then that the Government, using the ECA, raided and seized over 70,000 metric tonnes (MT) of pulses from hoarders and traders and broke the cartel. The entire supply chain was complicit in the scam and in fact the IT Department investigated the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) too, for its role in aiding this crisis. It turned out that the feat was jointly managed by the international agri-business, local suppliers/traders and agri-commodity brokers at the NCDEX.

Now, the Government's advisors have removed all barriers to stocking limits. The people responsible for the dal scam can now legally operate and even be absolved of their past crimes.

A curious case: Cotton is not only a fibrous cash crop for Indian farmers but is also an oilseed. Many experts have raised bio-safety concerns on GMO Bt cottonseed being blended freely into our

edible oils. Nevertheless, the demand for cottonseed oil is ever-growing. Much like pulses, oilseeds were removed from the ECA, too. There are unconfirmed reports of cottonseed being removed from the ECA as it is also an oilseed. Interestingly enough, the Modi Government has had a taste of Bt Cotton monopoly, where it used ECA to prevent unfair business practices and control prices of cottonseed in 2015. This was done because illegal trait value was being charged.

To the rescue: The ECA had repeatedly come to the aid of the Indian Government, legal traders, farmers and consumers. Of late, it helped break the cotton seed and dal cartels. However, the safeguard measures of emergency control laid out by the Government in the Ordinance for protecting different stakeholders is not strong enough. The Government must keep all seeds for sowing under the purview of the ECA and add clauses to strengthen this law. India's cotton farmers are already highly indebted and 84 per cent of farmers'

suicides are reported from the cotton-farming belts. No illegal trait fees and royalties should be charged and cotton seed should remain under the ECA.

Don't ape the US: The Government needs to study the dal scam and the IT Department's findings. We need to bring pulses and oilseeds back under the ECA. By deregulation, we are blindly copying the US' post World War-II farm policy, which has failed for US farmers and led to the creation of agri-commodity giants. The liberalisation of farm-gate has destroyed farmers not just in the US, but in Mexico, Brazil and elsewhere, too. Indian farmers will be the biggest losers and consumers won't be far behind either. Consumers will gradually feel the burn of such deregulation, too. The Centre must tread carefully. Before dismantling the ECA, the Government must revisit the dark history of the East India Company, which was the world's first agri-business trans-national corporation.

(The writer is Director, Policy and Outreach, NSAI)

WHO reports largest single-day increase in virus cases

Geneva: The World Health Organisation on Sunday reported the largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases by its count, at more than 183,000 new cases in the latest 24 hours. The UN health agency said Brazil led the way with 54,771 cases tallied and the U.S. Next at 36,617. Over 15,400 came in in India.

Experts said rising case counts can reflect multiple factors including more widespread testing as well as broader infection.

Overall in the pandemic, WHO reported 8,708,008 cases — 183,020 in the last 24 hours — with 461,715 deaths worldwide, with a daily increase of 4,743.

More than two-thirds of those new deaths were reported in the Americas.

In Spain, officials ended a national state of emergency after three months of lockdown, allowing its 47 million residents to freely travel around the country for the first time since March 14. The country also dropped a 14-day quarantine for visitors from Britain and the 26 European countries that allow visa-free travel.

But there was only a trickle of travelers at Madrid-Barajas Airport, which on a normal June day would be bustling.

"This freedom that we now have, not having to justify our



Commuters wearing protective face masks to help curb the spread of the new coronavirus line up to board a bus at a bus terminal in Beijing on Monday. AP

journey to see our family and friends, this was something that we were really looking forward to," Pedro Delgado, 23, said after arriving from Spain's Canary Islands.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez urged people to take maximum precautions: "The virus can return and it can hit us again in a second wave, and we have to do whatever we can to avoid that at all cost." At a campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Trump said Saturday the U.S. Has tested 25 million people, but the "bad part" is that it found more cases.

"When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more people, you're going to find more cases," Trump said.

Seoul mayor fears S Korea losing control over 2nd virus wave

Seoul: The mayor of South Korea's capital fears the country is losing control over a virus resurgence and said Seoul will reimpose stronger social distancing measures if the daily jump in infections doesn't come below an average of 30 over the next three days.

"If Seoul gets penetrated (by the virus), the entire Republic of Korea gets penetrated," Park Won-soon said on Monday in a televised briefing, referring to South Korea by its formal name.

He also lamented what he described as complacency of citizens in social distancing, citing an increase in public transportation usage that he says has been approaching last year's levels in recent weeks.

Citing research by health experts, Park the country could be possibly reporting as much as 800 new cases a day a month from now if it fails to stem current trends in transmissions.

He said the basic repro-

duction number of virus carriers, which measures the number of infections caused by an individual, has reached nearly 1.8 for the period between April 30 and June 11. Any number above 1 indicates a growing epidemic.

In a separate briefing, Jeong Eun-kyeong, director of the Korea Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, acknowledged that the country was now going through a second wave of the virus, following a surge in late February and March centred around the southeastern city of Daegu.

The country has been reporting around 40 to 50 new cases per day since late May, mostly from the Seoul metropolitan area, where about half of South Korea's 51 million people live.

South Korea was reported around 500 new case per day in early March but managed to control the outbreak with an active testing and contact tracing campaign. AP

WHO chief warns world leaders not to 'politicise' pandemic

Dubai: World leaders must not politicise the coronavirus pandemic but unite to fight it, the head of the World Health Organization warned on Monday, reminding all that the pandemic is still accelerating and producing record daily increases in infections.

The comments by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who has faced criticism from US President Donald Trump, comes as the number of reported infections soared in Brazil, Iraq, India and southern and western US states, straining local hospitals.

In New York City, once the epicentre of the US outbreak, Monday was a key day for lifting many coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

It took over three months for the world to see 1 million virus infections, but the last 1 million cases have come in just eight days, Tedros said during a videoconference for the Dubai-based World Government Summit.

Tedros never mentioned Trump's name or the fact that he is determined to pull the United States out of the UN



WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned world leaders not to politicise the pandemic.

health agency but warned against "politicising" the pandemic.

"The greatest threat we face now is not the virus itself, it's the lack of global solidarity and global leadership," he said. "We cannot defeat this pandemic with a divided world."

Trump has criticized the WHO for its early response to the outbreak and what he considers its excessive praise of China, where the outbreak began, as his administration's response in the US has come under scrutiny. In response, Trump has threatened to end all US funding for the WHO.

Nearly 9 million people have been infected by the virus worldwide and more than 468,000 have died,

according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say the actual numbers are much higher, due to limited testing and asymptomatic cases.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that, indeed, the world was not prepared," Tedros said. "Globally, the pandemic is still accelerating."

Companies around the world are racing to find a vaccine to counter COVID-19 and there is a fierce debate about how to make sure that vaccine is distributed fairly.

Speaking later in the conference, WHO's special envoy on COVID-19, Dr David Nabarro, said he believed it would be "2 1/2 years until there will be vaccine for everybody in the world".

"Even if there's a candidate by the end of the year, the safety and efficacy tests will take some time," the British physician said. "And then the effort has to be put into producing large amounts of vaccine so everyone in the world can get it and then organising the vaccination programmes." AP

Around the Globe

Berlin: German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman said "everything needs to be done" to contain an outbreak of the coronavirus linked to a large slaughterhouse where over 1,300 people have tested positive for COVID-19.

Kathmandu: The coronavirus cases in Nepal neared the 10,000 mark with the detection of 535 new infections in the last 24 hours, the health ministry said on Monday.

Lahore: As many as 65 medics, most of them doctors, in Pakistan have died of coronavirus and around 5,000 infected so far while battling on the frontline against the deadly disease, a government report said on Monday. The report prepared by the National Institute of Health said, "some 65 health professionals, including 42 doctors, have lost their lives to the coronavirus. Of them, 30 doctors belong to Punjab province."

Black candidates tap protest energy to challenge Democrats

New York: Amy McGrath and Eliot Engel live hundreds of miles apart in states with dramatically different politics.

Yet they're the preferred candidates of the Democratic Party's Washington establishment as voters in Kentucky and New York decide their congressional primary elections on Tuesday.

And both may be in trouble.

On the eve of their elections, Engel, a 16-term House incumbent who represents parts of the Bronx and New York City's wealthy suburbs, and McGrath, a former military officer and fundraising juggernaut running in her first Kentucky Senate campaign, are facing strong challenges from lower-profile Black candidates.

The challengers have tapped into the wounded pro-

gressive movement's desire for transformational change suddenly animated by sweeping civil rights protests across America.

Engel's challenger, 45-year-old former public school principal Jamaal Bowman, and McGrath's opponent, 35-year-old state Rep. Charles Booker, speak openly about their personal experience with police brutality and racism as they promote progressive plans to transform the nation's health care system and economy. And both accuse their white opponents of being absent from the front lines of the civil rights debate.

Bowman and Booker have also won the endorsement of Bernie Sanders, among a growing list of progressive leaders trying to influence the races from afar. The Vermont sena-

tor failed to win the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, but he continues to shape congressional primaries — even if it puts him at odds with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who's backing Engel, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, who helped recruit McGrath.

"There is no question the momentum is with us," Sanders said in an interview.

But the story of Bowman and Booker's rise extends well beyond the years-long tug-of-war between the progressive and pragmatic wings of the Democratic Party. They didn't gain traction until after George Floyd's death last month triggered nationwide outrage about racial inequality. Hours before polls open, however, it's far from certain their bids will be successful. AP

China to Canada PM: Stop 'irresponsible remarks' on spy case

Beijing: China told Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday to "stop making irresponsible remarks" after he said Beijing's decision to charge two Canadians with spying was linked to his country's arrest of a Chinese tech executive.

The spying charges are "completely different" from the case of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, a foreign ministry spokesman said. Meng was arrested on U.S. Charges connected to possible violations of trade sanctions on Iran.

Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor were detained in what was widely seen as an attempt to Canada after Meng's December 2018 arrest in Vancouver. Charges against

them were announced Friday after a Canadian judge ruled Meng's extradition case can proceed to its next stage, moving her closer to being handed over to American authorities.

Trudeau, speaking to reporters in Ottawa, said Chinese authorities "directly linked" the cases of Kovrig and Spavor with Meng. He called on Beijing to end their "arbitrary detention." "There is no such thing as arbitrary detention," said the ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian.

"China urges the relevant Canadian leader to earnestly respect the spirit of the rule of law, respect China's judicial sovereignty and stop making irresponsible remarks," Zhao said. AP

S Korea urges North not to send leaflets amid high tensions

Seoul: South Korea on Monday urged North Korea to scrap a plan to launch propaganda leaflets across the border, after the North said it's ready to float 12 million leaflets in what would be the largest such psychological campaign against its southern rival.

Animosities on the Korean Peninsula rose sharply last week, after North Korea destroyed an inter-Korean liaison office on its territory in anger over South Korean civilian leafletting against it. North Korea said it will fly propaganda leaflets and take other steps to nullify 2018 deals that were meant to ease military tensions at the border. Yoh Sangkey, a spokesman at Seoul's Unification Ministry, told reporters that North Korea

must suspend its plan to send anti-Seoul leaflets that "are not helpful to South-North (Korea) relations at all." Earlier Monday, North Korea said it had manufactured 12 million propaganda leaflets to be floated toward South Korea aboard 3,000 balloons and other unspecified delivery equipment.

"Our plan of distributing the leaflets against the enemy is an eruption of the unquenchable anger of all the people and the whole society," the North's official Central News Agency said. "The time for retaliatory punishment is drawing near." Some observers say ongoing weather conditions aren't favorable for North Korea to fly balloons into the South so it may use drones to deliver the leaflets. AP

Al-Qaeda-linked group in Syria detains rebel ex-commander

Beirut: The main al-Qaeda-linked group in Syria on Monday detained one of its own former commanders who had defected and set up his own hard-line outfit earlier this year after coming out against a cease-fire, opposition activists said.

The activists said a big force from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, raided the house of Jamal Zeina, better known as Abu Malek al-Tali, on the outskirts of the northwestern city of Idlib and detained him.

Al-Tali was behind major operations for the group that used to be known as Nusra Front, including the December 2013 kidnapping of 12 Orthodox nuns from Maaloula, a Christian village in Syria that insurgents controlled for few months during the country's nine-year conflict.

Nusra Front exchanged the nuns four months later with women held in Syrian government prisons.

In 2014, militants under al-Tali's command briefly stormed the Lebanese border town of Aarsal and captured more than two dozen Lebanese soldiers and policemen. Nusra Front exchanged the troops it was holding with prisoners held in Lebanon.

Al-Tali, a Syrian citizen, is known to be a hard-liner who is opposed to a truce reached in March between Russia and Turkey that stopped a Syrian government offensive on Idlib province, the last remaining rebel stronghold in the country.

The three-month offensive under the cover of Russian airstrikes killed hundreds and sent a million people fleeing toward the Turkish border. AP

Lanka orders probe into ex-LTTE deputy leader's claim of killing 2K-3K troops

Colombo: The Sri Lankan police has ordered a probe into an alleged statement by former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) deputy leader Karuna Amman, claiming that he had murdered over 2,000 security forces on behalf of the Tamil separatist group, the government said on Monday.

The acting police chief Chandana Wickremaratne has directed the Crime Investigation Department to launch an immediate probe into Amman's statement, according to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Defence.

Speaking at a political rally last week for the upcoming parliamentary elections in the country, Amman alias Vinayagamurthi Muralitharan

reportedly said that he had murdered over 2,000 government troops during the LTTE's separatist war which lasted for over 3 decades.

"When I was a member of the LTTE, I killed some 2,000 to 3,000 Sri Lankan Army personnel in one night at Elephant Pass. I have killed more in Kilinochchi. That is certainly higher than the number of lives the coronavirus has claimed in Sri Lanka," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

He made the statement in response to a comment made by the Chairman of the Karathivu local government body that "Karuna Amman is dangerous than the coronavirus", a report in the Colombo Page said on Sunday. Reacting to Amman's state-

ment, former state Minister of Defense Ruwan Wijewardene said that his comments cannot be taken lightly and they pose a serious challenge to the rule of law in the country, the report said.

The twice-postponed parliamentary elections in the country will be held on August 5.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on March 2 dissolved Parliament, six months ahead of schedule, and called for snap polls on April 25. However, the election commission in mid-April postponed the elections by nearly two months to June 20 due to the coronavirus outbreak in the island nation.

Amman was the deputy to the LTTE supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran. PTI

UK knife attack terror suspect was on spy radar

London: A Libyan asylum seeker currently in custody in relation to the knife rampage in a British park that killed three people was known to the MI5 intelligence service, UK media reports said on Monday.

Khairi Saadallah, 25, has been arrested under the UK's Terrorism Act after the deadly incident in a busy park in the southern English city of Reading on Saturday evening was declared a terrorist attack by counter-terror officials.

It has now emerged that the refugee, who arrived in Britain from war-torn Libya in 2012, had been on the radar of security spies as they monitored him for suspected extremist activities.

Security sources told the BBC that the suspect came to the attention of the security services in 2019 after they received information he had aspirations to

travel abroad — potentially for terrorism.

"When the information was further investigated, as the first stage of looking into a potential lead, no genuine threat or immediate risk was identified. No case file was opened which would have made him a target for further investigation," the sources were quoted as saying.

Johnson, who has held discussions with security officials following the attack, said that "if there are lessons that we need to learn about how we handle such cases, how we handle the events leading up to such cases then we will learn those lessons".

Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has said that "people are united in their grief" following the attack, and that he wants to speak to the prime minister to discuss how to "learn from this". PTI

Protesters daub French colonial-era statues in red paint

Paris: Two Paris statues related to France's colonial era were daubed with red paint on Monday amid a global movement to take down monuments to figures tied to slavery or colonialism.

One statue was of Hubert Lyautey, near the gold-domed Invalides monument that houses Napoleon's tomb. Lyautey served in Morocco, Algeria, Madagascar and Indochina when they were under French control, and later was France's minister of war during World War I. The other figure drenched in red shows Voltaire, a leading thinker and writer of the French Enlightenment, who owed part of his fortune to colonial-era trade. AP

Gunmen hit car in Kabul, killing 5, including 2 prosecutors

Kabul: Gunmen opened fire at a car belonging to the Afghan attorney general's office on Monday morning in eastern Kabul, killing five people inside, including two prosecutors, an official said.

The driver of the car and two other employees were among those killed, said Kabul police spokesman Ferdaws Faramarz. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but recently violence has spiked in Afghanistan, with most of the attacks claimed by the Islamic State group's affiliate in the country.

The IS in Afghanistan is headquartered in eastern Nangarhar province. AP

EU lags behind on climate, gender equality goals

Brussels: The European Union's statistical office says the 27-nation bloc is lagging behind its goals in the fight against climate change and to promote gender equality.

In a report published Monday assessing the EU's progress in reaching the United Nations' sustainable development goals, Eurostat noted improvement in reducing poverty and improving health over the past five years of data.

But only slow progress, or no overall progress at all, was achieved toward environmental objectives. As for gender equality, the report noted that the EU has "moved away" from the goals.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development, which contains 17 goals, was adopted in 2015 at the UN General

Assembly. "Progress towards the EU's climate and energy targets has in part stalled, as has the shift towards a circular economy," Eurostat said.

"Pressures on ecosystems and biodiversity have therefore been increasing in some areas."

Commenting on the data during a press conference, European Commissioner for economy Paolo Gentiloni pointed to efforts to reduce the gender pay gap, but the report noted a widening gap between men and women in acquiring education and on the labor market. Gentiloni expressed concerns that the situation could worsen because of the lockdown measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

The stringent measures have plunged the EU into a recession of colossal propor-

tions. "We'll have to look at the consequences of the months behind us," he said.

"We should (pay) particular attention to gender gap in our activity."

Looking at the political side of inequalities, Gentiloni took satisfaction in the increase in female lawmakers in national parliaments but insisted "there is still a long way to go." EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, who was elected last year, has made a priority of the fight against climate change.

She also insists that gender equality is a key element of economic growth and has set up a gender-equal team of commissioners in charge of implementing her policies.

As part of her Green Deal project aiming at making

Europe the world's first carbon-neutral continent by 2050, von der Leyen also wants to dedicate a quarter of the EU's budget to tackling climate change.

"Yes, we took very good decisions. Yes, we are committed. Yes, we are at the forefront on the goals for 2020 and 2030, but we still have the consequences of climate change in place," Gentiloni said.

"That's why the Green Deal is even more important." According to the Eurostat report, the bloc's CO2 emissions were reduced by 2.7 percent from 2013 to 2018 but temperatures kept rising. The period from 2009 to 2018 was the hottest on record in Europe with an average temperature deviation of 1.6 to 1.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times. AP



Demonstrators hold flares during a protest against racism, the policies of President Jair Bolsonaro's Government, and to defend democracy amid the new coronavirus pandemic at the Ministries Esplanade, in Brasilia, Brazil on Sunday. AP

Another fiscal stimulus of 1% GDP likely: Fitch

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is very likely to come out with another round of fiscal stimulus package, worth about 1 per cent of GDP in the coming months, Fitch Ratings said on Monday.

Fitch, which last week lowered India's sovereign rating outlook to negative from stable, said it has factored in the outgo for additional fiscal stimulus while deciding on the rating action.

Fitch Director Sovereign Ratings Thomas Rookmaaker said Covid-19 is still in India and it is very likely that the government will have to spend a bit more on fiscal measures to support the economy.

In our forecast we have factored in a larger stimulus package, not just 1 per cent of GDP of fiscal measures that have been announced so far. You may recall that Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 10 per cent of GDP as measures, but 9 percentage points were non-fiscal in nature. There was also an announcement of bond



issuance, borrowing requirement of government and that was 2 percentage points of GDP.

That could give an indication that another 1 percentage points could come in the months ahead to provide relief for those who need it, Rookmaaker said while addressing a Fitch Ratings webinar.

The Rs 21 trillion economic package announced last month, includes government measures and RBI liquidity.

The Central Government has also raised the estimated gross market borrowing to Rs 12 trillion from Rs 7.8 trillion as per the Budget Estimates for 2020-21. Fitch has projected India's economy to shrink by 5

per cent in the current financial year. It expects growth to rebound, to 9.5 per cent next year, mainly due to low base.

The international rating agency expects the potential GDP growth rate of India in the medium term to be a little bit lower than the previous estimate of 6.5-7 per cent.

The medium term growth outlook will come down a little bit. But it is too early to say by how much. We will know more by the situation in financial sector, when the moratorium (on loan repayment) gets lifted, where the financial sector basically is after the pandemic, he said.

Fitch said while reforms will help boost growth going ahead, it would depend on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on businesses and financial sector.

The question is to what extent the businesses and financial sector is scarred by pandemic. The SMEs have been hit by a number of shocks in the past couple of years and the big question is to what extent the financial sector will be able to

Fitch revises outlook on 9 Indian banks to -ve

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

After downgrading India's outlook to negative from stable, Fitch Ratings on Monday revised the outlook on nine Indian banks to negative. The outlook on the Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDR) was revised to negative from stable due to the banks' high dependence on the Centre to re-capitalise them.

Accordingly, the IDR outlook of the Export-Import Bank of India, the State Bank of India, the Bank of Baroda,

the Bank of Baroda (New Zealand), the Bank of India, the Canara Bank, the Punjab National Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank Ltd have been downgraded to negative.

"At the same time, Fitch has affirmed IDBI Bank Limited's (IDBI) IDR while maintaining the outlook at negative," Fitch said in a statement. The rating actions follow Fitch's revision of the outlook on the 'BBB-' rating on India to negative from stable on June 18, due to the

impact of the escalating coronavirus pandemic on India's economy.

"The IDRs for all the above Indian banks are support-driven and anchored to their respective SRFs," the statement said. "They are based on Fitch's assessment of high to moderate probability of extraordinary state support for these banks, which takes into account our assessment of the sovereign's ability and propensity to provide extraordinary support."

According to the statement, the negative outlook on India's sovereign rating reflects an increasing strain on the state's ability to provide extraordinary support, due to the sovereign's limited fiscal space and the significant deterioration in fiscal metrics due to challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The rating action does not affect the banks' Viability Rating. EXIM does not have a VR as its role as a policy bank makes an assessment of its standalone credit profile less meaningful."

Fitch revises outlook on Airtel to negative from stable; affirms at 'BBB-'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings has revised the outlook on Bharti Airtel Limited's (Bharti) long-term foreign-currency (FC) issuer default rating (IDR) to negative from stable, affirming it at 'BBB-'.

The rating agency said the outlook change is sovereign-driven, and that projected that Bharti's 2020-21 revenue and Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) will remain robust, fuelled by improvement in the wireless market and continued growth momentum in African markets, despite the effect of the coronavirus pandemic.

Fitch, last week, lowered India's sovereign rating outlook to 'negative' from 'stable', saying the coronavirus pandemic has significantly weakened the country's growth outlook. It, however, retained the lowest investment grade rating of 'BBB-'.

"Fitch Ratings has revised the outlook on India-based Bharti Airtel Limited's (Bharti) long-term foreign-currency (FC) issuer default rating (IDR) to negative from stable, and affirmed the IDR at 'BBB-'," it said in a statement on Monday.

Fitch said it has also affirmed Bharti's senior unsecured rating and Bharti Airtel International (Netherlands) BV's senior unsecured guaranteed bonds at 'BBB-', and Network i2i subordinated perpetual bonds at 'BB'.

"The negative outlook follows our revision of the outlook on India's Long-Term Foreign and Local-Currency IDRs to negative from stable on June 18, 2020. Bharti's FC IDR and senior issue ratings are not directly constrained by India's sovereign rating but cannot exceed the country ceiling (BBB-), which reflects the transfer and convertibility

risks associated with FC obligations," the statement said. It added that should the sovereign IDRs be downgraded, the country ceiling may also be revised down in tandem, which would constrain Bharti's FC IDR and senior issue ratings to 'BB+'.

"The change in the outlook does not indicate a change in our view of Bharti's underlying credit profile, but rather reflects the heightened probability that India's country ceiling could be lowered to 'BB+', which would then constrain Bharti's FC IDR and senior issue ratings," it said.

The rating agency forecast that Bharti's FY21 revenue and Ebitda growth will remain robust at around 10-15 per cent, driven by improvement in the Indian wireless market and continued strong growth in African markets, despite the effect of the coronavirus pandemic.

Indices scale over 3-month highs riding on financial stocks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Monday settled at over three-month highs led by financial counters despite concerns over the mounting Covid cases in the country and the second wave of infections in some parts of the world.

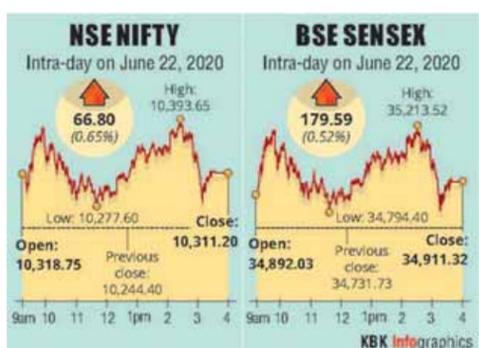
After rallying 482 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared gains to end 179.59 points, or 0.52 per cent, higher at 34,911.32 - its highest closing level since March 11.

The NSE Nifty too rose 66.80 points, or 0.65 per cent, to close at 10,311.20 - a level not seen since March 11.

The intra-day rallies on both indices were attributed to gains mainly in pharma stocks due to domestic regulatory approvals to manufacture COVID-19 drugs.

The risk appetite of investors also improved with the resumption of talks between the Indian and Chinese armies after the last week's violent clash on the border.

On the Sensex chart, Bajaj Auto was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging around 7



per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Bank, PowerGrid and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, HDFC, ONGC, TCS and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

Sectorally, BSE power, metal, healthcare, bankex, telecom and utilities indices jumped up to 3.02 per cent. Broader midcap and smallcap indices rallied up to 2.02 per cent.

"In spite of renewed global concerns regarding the second wave of coronavirus infec-

₹ recovers 17 p to close at 76.03 on forex inflows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Monday appreciated by 17 paise to close at 76.03 against the US dollar in line with positive equity markets amid sustained foreign fund inflows.

Weak US dollar against major global currencies also aided the rupee's upward movement, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened strong at 76.16 and it further rushed to touch a high of 75.98 during the trade. The domestic currency finally settled at 76.03 against the US dollar, registering a rise of 17 paise over its previous close of 76.20.

"Rupee traded strongly on the back of FII buying in local stocks, mainly banking and NBFCs, helping the rupee scale towards 76.00 after touching a low of 76.19 in morning opening trades," Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst (Commodity & Currency) at LKP Securities said.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market, as they bought equity shares worth ₹1,237 crore in the previous trading session on Friday, according to provisional exchange data.

During the afternoon session, benchmarks sustained their positive trend amid buying in stocks of banks, financial services, metals and midcap stocks.

Indian markets ended positive," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

He further said that markets chose to focus on regulatory approvals to domestic pharma companies to manufacture COVID-19 treatment drugs and the expectation that this would lead to faster recoveries.

During the afternoon session, benchmarks sustained their positive trend amid buying in stocks of banks, financial services, metals and midcap stocks.

Reliance Industries becomes first Indian firm to hit \$150 bn market cap

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries Ltd on Monday became the first Indian firm to hit a market valuation of \$150 billion during the day.

In the morning trade, the company's market valuation jumped ₹28,248.97 crore to ₹11,43,667 crore (\$150 billion) on the BSE. However, it failed to continue the momentum and at the close of the trade, the company's market valuation remained at ₹11,07,620.56 crore (\$145.68 billion). The heavy-weight stock surged 2.53 per cent to a record high of ₹1,804.10 during the day on the BSE. However, lag-end selling emerged at the counter and it declined 0.70% to close at ₹1,747.20.

On the National Stock Exchange also, it erased all early gains and closed at ₹1,752.50, 0.39% lower after rising 2.54% to an all-time high of ₹1,804.20 during the day. RIL, the country's most-valued firm, on Friday became the first Indian company to cross the ₹11-lakh crore market valuation mark. Its market valuation crossed ₹11 lakh crore in the previous session as its share price rallied over 6 per cent after its Chairman Mukesh Ambani announced that the oil-to-telecom conglomerate has become net debt-free.

Ambani announced that RIL has become net debt-free after raising a record ₹1.69 lakh crore from global investors and a rights issue in under two months. The company raised ₹1.15 lakh crore from global tech investors by selling a little less than a quarter of the firm's digital arm, Jio Platforms, and another ₹53,124.20 crore through a rights issue in the past 58 days.

Cipla shares gain over 3% as co launches generic remdesivir for Covid-19 patients

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Cipla Ltd on Monday gained over 3 per cent after the company announced the launch of its generic version of remdesivir, which has been authorised by the USFDA for emergency use for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, under its brand name Cipremi.

It rose 2.94 per cent to close at ₹655.80 on the BSE.

During the day, it jumped 9.24 per cent to a one-year high of ₹696. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), it gained 3.10 per cent to close at ₹655.95.

The USFDA had issued an Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) to Gilead Sciences Inc for remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Remdesivir is the only USFDA-approved EUA for

IT ROSE 2.94 PER CENT TO CLOSE AT ₹655.80 ON THE BSE

treatment for adult and paediatric patients hospitalised with suspected or laboratory-confirmed coronavirus infection. In May, Gilead Sciences Inc extended a voluntary non-exclusive licence to Cipla to manufacture and market generic version of remdesivir called Cipremi.

Cipla said it has been granted regulatory approval by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for restricted emergency use in the country as part of the accelerated approval process considering the urgent and unmet medical need.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found in unconscious condition at Patri Bharat Ram Road, Near Hindi Park, Daryaganj, Delhi and admitted in Lady Harding Medical College & Hospital, Delhi on 18.06.2020, where Doctor declared brought dead. In this regard a case GD No. 77A, Dated 18.06.2020 has been Registered at P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi. The Dead body has been preserved in Mortuary of LHMC Hospital, Delhi for 72 Hrs for identification. The description of the dead body is given as under:



Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown Age: About 55-60 Yrs, Height: 5'6" Feet, Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Build: Thin, Hair: Small, White & Black, Black & White small beard and moustache, ID Mark: A cut mark on flank region, Wearing: Black and White Colour Dharidar T-Shirt, Black Colour Lower, Bare footed.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi Ph: 011-23274683, 23279331 DP/160/CD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Rohan, S/o Rajbir Singh, R/o H.No. 229, Village Holambi Khurd, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Hair: Black, ID Mark: Old scar mark on left side forehead, wearing Red colour Printed Shirt and Blue Jeans, has been missing since 06.06.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 279/20 u/s 363 IPC, dated 07.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/283/ON/2020

S.H.O P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi Ph: 011-27752534, 27751949

Glenmark Pharma shares soar 27% after Covid drug launch

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Monday rallied 27 per cent after the company said it has launched antiviral drug Favipiravir, under the brand name FabiFlu, for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19. The scrip jumped 27.06 per cent to close at ₹519.80 on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 39.99 per cent to ₹ 572.70 - its 52-week high. On the NSE, it gained 26.96 per cent to close at ₹ 519.75. In terms of volume, 46.33 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and 8.92 crore on the NSE. Its market valuation rose by ₹3,124.1 crore to ₹14,667.10 crore on the BSE. The drug firm on Saturday said it has launched antiviral drug FabiFlu for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 at a price of about ₹103 per tablet.

Gold retreats from record high amid economic uncertainty

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Gold futures shed gains to grade in the red after hitting a record high on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the August contract of gold surged ₹33 to hit an all-time high of ₹48,289 per 10 grams.

Currently it is trading at ₹ 47,904.00, lower by ₹33 or 0.07 per cent from its previous close. Gold prices in India saw an increase following the jump in international markets.

Adani Power board approves delisting of shares

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The board of Adani Power on Monday approved the delisting of its shares from the exchanges at the floor price of ₹33.82. On Monday, its shares on the BSE closed at ₹38.20, higher by 0.53% from its previous close. Last month, Adani Power had said that it received a letter from Adani Properties, a member of its promoter group, whereby the latter has expressed its intention, to acquire all equity shares of the Adani Power held by its public shareholders, either by itself or together with other members of the promoter group.

The board on Monday

authorised the company to obtain approval of the stock exchanges in accordance with the provisions of the SEBI Delisting Regulations as well as any other regulatory approval as may be required in relation to the delisting proposal.

Adani Power Ltd (APL), a part of the diversified Adani Group, is the largest private thermal power producer in India, according to the company website. The company has a power generation capacity of 12,450 MW comprising thermal power plants in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh and a 40 MW solar power project in Gujarat.

Sebi slaps a fine of ₹1.55 crore on two entities for fraudulent trading activities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday imposed a total penalty of ₹1.55 crore on two entities for indulging in fraudulent trading in illiquid stock options on the BSE. Sebi levied a fine of ₹ 84 lakh and ₹71 lakh on Ashlar Commodities Pvt Ltd and Ashlar Securities Pvt Ltd, respectively, in 2 separate orders. After observing large-scale reversal of trades in the illiquid stock options segment of the BSE, the Securities and Exchange Board of India conducted a probe between April 2014 and Sep 2015. The investigation showed that over 81% of all the trades executed in the segment involved reversal of buy and sell positions by the clients and counter-parties that resulted in generation of artificial volumes.

Aro granite industries Ltd.
CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510
Regd. Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025
Ph.: 011-41861693; Fax: 011-26941984; Email: arodelhi@arodelhi.com; Website: www.arodelhi.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulations 29 & 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 26th June, 2020 intra-alia to approve the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ending 31.03.2020 and to consider recommendation of Dividend, if any, on the Equity Shares of the Company for the year 2019-20.
The above details of the said meeting are also available on the website of the Company www.arodelhi.com and also at the website of the Stock Exchanges www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.
For **Aro granite industries Ltd.**
Sabyasachi Panigrahi
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer.
Place: New Delhi Date: 22.06.2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location	30-Elect-11-T-2020-21-E3 Electrical work for replacement of lever frames with electronic interlocking of KIY-KLE-PHWR stations of NRW-KKDE section.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 22.22 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs. 44500.00
Date & time of submission of tender	14.07.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	14.07.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

Serving Customers With A Smile 1402/2020

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE
Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 289th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on 30th day of June, 2020 at 12.00 PM at Corporate Office - 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110 025 to inter-alia approve the following:
1. Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended on March 31, 2020.
For **Modi Rubber Limited** Sd/-
(S. K Bajpai)
Place : New Delhi Date : June 22, 2020
Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

Young Friends CGHS Ltd.,
Plot 47, Sector - 9, Rohini, Delhi- 110 085
Offers are invited from reputed companies/entities for structural strengthening of the building of the society. Interested may visit the society for inspection with prior appointment. Offers to be submitted to Management Committee within 10 days of the publication of the notice.
Sangeeta Gupta
President, Mob 9013852906

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN
This is to inform the General Public that following share certificate of Bharat Rasayan Ltd. having its Registered Office at 1501, Vikram Tower, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008 registered in the name of the following Shareholders have been lost by them. Name of the Shareholders: Purushottam Goel. Folio No. 003095, Certificate No. JS 12731 and Distinctive No. 2599441-2599540, No. of Share 100. The public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in anyway with the above referred share certificates. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificates should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Infine India Pvt. Ltd., Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot No. 305, 3RD Floor, Near Savitri Market, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110056 within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate. Place : Delhi Name of share holder: Purushottam Goel Date : 23.06.2020 Purushottam Goel

SPARKLING (INDIA) FINSHARES LIMITED
CIN: L24000DL1994PLC006222
Registered Office: 3RD Floor, Aggarwal Kondli Plaza Plot No. 8, 13C-1, Kondli Ghari, Mayapuri Vihar New Delhi DL 110096 IN. Email: sparklingindia@gmail.com. Website: www.sparklingfinshares.com. Tel. No. +91-9582178451

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 & Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of Sparkling (India) Finshares Limited (the Company) will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 2:02 PM, SBR gateway, opp cyber gateway, madhapur, Hyderabad 81 at 1:00 PM, inter-alia, to consider and approve the following:
1. Audited Standalone Financial Results and Audited Accounts along with the Auditors Report thereon, of the company for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020.
2. To declare dividend, if any.
3. Any other Business with the permission of the chair. Further details are also available on the website of the Company i.e. www.sparklingfinshares.com and also on the website of BSE Limited i.e. http://www.bseindia.com and The Calcutta Stock Exchange Limited at www.cseindia.com where the shares of the company are listed.
For Sparkling (India) Finshares Limited Sd/-
(CHERUKU SAGARIKA) Director
Date : June 22, 2020 DIN: 07167996
Place : New Delhi

SUPRA INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES LTD.
Regd. Off: 805, E-Block, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
CIN: L65999DL1985PLC019987
Website: www.supraindustrialresources.in
E-mail: supra1985@gmail.com / supraexchange@gmail.com

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015 the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, the 30th June, 2020 at 11:00 am at its Registered Office at 805-E Block, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi- 110019 to consider and take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2020.
Pursuant to this and as per the amended SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018, the Trading Window for dealing in shares of the Company for all its Designated Persons and their immediate relatives is closed from Wednesday, 1st April, 2020 and trading window will open after 48 hours from the announcement of the Audited financial results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March 2020 to the Stock Exchange, i.e. 6:00 p.m. on 2nd July, 2020. You are requested to take a note of the closure of the Trading Window as above.
By order of the Board For Supra Industrial Resources Limited, Sd/-
CS Anuradha Malik (Company Secretary)
Place: New Delhi Date: 22.06.2020 M.No. AS0626

Trend Blazer

'Kabir Singh was an emotional arc'

Actor **SHAHID KAPOOR** scored a blockbuster *Kabir Singh* last year. The actor said it was not just a film for him but an emotional arc that was raw, bare and fearless.

He took to Instagram, where he shared a motley of photographs from the film and the set.

"To all those who gave so much overwhelming love to such a complex, conflicted character. Thank you. #kabir Singh was never just a film to me.. it was an emotional arc that was raw, bare, unabashed, honest, fearless, real," he wrote.



'Shiddat is a beautiful story of love and the strong bonds between people. It is

pure and intense and also very relatable. I am usually not a love story kind of person, but when I heard the script, it moved me a lot. It has been a pleasure working with Mohit, Radhika and Sunny, as well as Kunal (Deshmukh) who has brought this story to life.'

—Diana Penty

It's been 30 years since **MADHURI DIXIT NENE** paired opposite **Aamir Khan** for the first time in Indra Kumar's film *Dil*.



Recalling the shoot of the film, Madhuri took to Instagram and penned a post, sharing how much fun she had working with Aamir.

"Working with @_aamirkhan was so much fun! I remember how #IndraKumar gave us an earful every day for joking around and playing tricks on the sets. Thanks to the team's hard work & your love, the film did well and I also won my first Filmfare award," she wrote.

Anxiety is rampant: Pink

Singer **PINK** says she suffered a "panic attack" when her son Jameson was battling the novel Coronavirus, because she was

stressed that something might happen to him.

"I think this is really important for people right now with Coronavirus — you know anxiety is rampant and panic attacks and just... we feel like the rug is being pulled out from under us a little bit right now and different people on different levels," Pink said on an Instagram live with therapist Vanessa Inn.



SHE HAS THE CUTTING EDGE NOW

AYUSHI SHARMA speaks to a few experts to find out how the pandemic is amplifying opportunities for women in the technology sector

If you ask anybody, regardless of his/her technical background, who is the CEO of Google or Microsoft, you would hear the names of Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella being tossed about without so much as batting an eyelid. But ask about a single woman leader, who is dominating the tech industry completely, and silence would be the only answer. Ever wondered why? Well, women might have outvoted men in every field but they still continue to face massive barriers of disparity in the tech industry. But now that "work from home" is the new normal in the pandemic era, it is amplifying opportunities for them.

From a statistical point of view, Dipali Mathur Dayal, co-founder of Super Smelly, tells us that though 65 per cent of the educated female population have well-paid jobs, only 11 per cent of them own senior management and leadership roles. She feels it is very important for women to have an equal representation if we want our economy to not just survive but also to thrive. "If there is unrecognised, untapped talent, employable resources, and we overlook it just because of gender, we might even be losing on the opportunity to grow as businesses. And this stands true for all industries, especially tech and digital companies as in this phase of the global pandemic, technology and digital media platforms have emerged as saviours," says she.

Agreeing with Dipali, Meghna Suryakumar, founder and CEO, Crediwatch, highlights the need for generating confidence among customers. "We need to understand that women are as much a consumer as men. So women's representation in technical roles across industries would be a great value addition if we look at a comprehensive and a more inclusive buyer's persona."

Today, only 26 per cent of women figure in engineering departments across India. Companies such as Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Twitter — all of which are shaping our current and future lives — employ less than 20 per cent of women. What's worse is that nearly 50 per cent of them drop out after eight years and move into non-core engineering roles, and only seven per cent manage to reach the C-suite, a dismal trend when compared to the rise in men's tech careers.

According to a poll conducted by JobsForHer, of more than 3,000 women tech aspirants, 33 per cent said they were



looking for opportunities to upskill in the latest technologies while 29 per cent said they were not given enough challenges to showcase their skills. Approximately 22 per cent of women felt the need to network with other techies and 15 per cent shared that they wanted mentorship from big tech leaders.

The tech industry as a whole is encashing work-from-home policies during the lockdown amid the Coronavirus pandemic because most companies are looking at ramping up their gig workers to reduce costs and enable business continuity. Hence there is a greater demand for skilled women which is redefining their space in the job market. One of the key reasons for women dropping out or being denied a top slot, Meghna believes, was the lack of a support system in helping women manage personal and professional fronts. "With COVID creating a much more wider market for work-from-home, many women are getting back to work," says she.

The need to digitise and automate has become critical to the survival. Neha Bagaria, founder and CEO, JobsForHer, believes that this is the time for women in technology to shine by using their skills to shape the future that they want. And to facilitate this, she has launched 'HerTech', a platform for women in technology across globe, offering opportunities to upskill, take challenges, network, search for jobs and explore resources for career growth. To increase the percentage of women in



leadership, there is a members-only club where women become leaders together — professionally and personally.

She says, "We have seen the number of work from home job openings on the rise — over 30 per cent increase in March and April 2020 — and 50 per cent increase in the number of women applying for the same. Some of the popular remote working roles are Content Writer, Tele-Caller, Sales and Business Development, Back-Office Operations and Customer Services, Recruiters and Quality Analyst Testers."

"While workplaces may offer ample

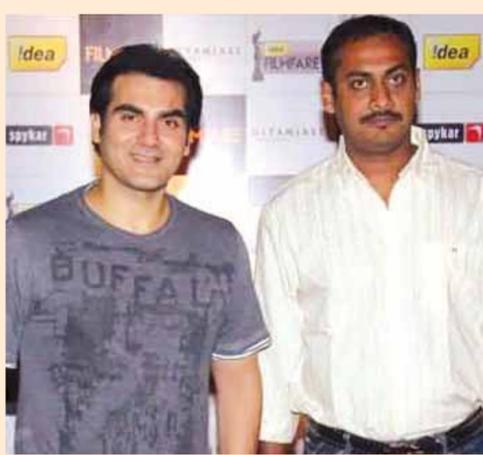
opportunities for women in tech, unless they explore more business options, build stronger and wider connections, they will not be able to advance in their careers quickly. This is where platforms like HerTech comes into the picture," adds Neha.

As more and more industries step into the digital age, technology will be used in every sector of our economy. And for women, the old roadblocks and concerns should dissipate. Rajashree Rao, Head, Partnerships and Ecosystem (APAC), R2 Data Labs at Rolls-Royce, shares, "The pandemic is an opportunity for women to scale up. The physical

restrictions that were earlier a part of the working world are non-existent now. The understanding and the belief in remote working is at its peak. More women should and will take up challenging roles and there will be a rise in the percentage of women in tech companies."

While every working professional, irrespective of gender, should always work on personal and professional growth, this sometimes becomes more difficult for women. Says Dipali, "Changing cities and thus jobs at the time of their marriage, no matter at what stage of their career they are, taking a break during and post maternity while handling over their projects to someone else, juggling between family and work while bearing the expectation to excel in both — there are just a few transactional roadblocks that women in all industries face. If we talk specifically about tech business, regular upskilling and being updated with industry knowledge is a must. With all the roles and expectations mentioned above, this sometimes is a big challenge women face and thus become unemployable or redundant in their skills."

The top three roadblocks, according to Meghna, are the lack of a formal structure for women to upskill their abilities, challenging projects that will act as a great platform to showcase their skills and more support in terms of mentorship from tech leaders. But there's an opportunity in every crisis. And for women, it is time to claim their rightful place in the digital age.



The star war

In a Facebook post recently, filmmaker Abhinav Kashyap has alleged that actor Salman Khan's charitable trust — Being Human, is a mere show off. He also alleged that money laundering is being done in the name of the charity.

"Janaab Salim Khan ka sabse bada idea hai Being Human. Iski charity mahaj ek dikhava hai... Dabangg ki shooting ke dauran meri ankhone ke samne panch cycle banthi thi... Agle din akhbaron mein chhapat tha danveer Salman Khan ne 500 cycle gareebon mein baantii... Saari koshish Salman Khan ki gunde mawali wali chhabhi sudharne ki thi taaki inke tamaam criminal court cases mein media aur judge inpar thodi riyayat barte (Being Human is the biggest idea of Salim Khan. The charity of Being Human is just a show off. During the shooting of *Dabangg*, five cycles were distributed in front of my eyes. The next day it would be out on the newspapers that Salman Khan

has distributed 500 cycles among the poor. This was an attempt to change Salman Khan's image as a goon, to influence the media and judge in his criminal court cases," Kashyap posted.

He further wrote: Today Being Human sells a ₹ 500 jeans for ₹ 5000. I don't know in what other ways money laundering is happening in the name of charity. Innocent common people are fooled into paying money. They don't intend to give anything to anyone, they just want to take. The government should investigate Being Human too. I will completely assist the government from my end."

Now, Arbaaz Khan has reacted strongly against these allegations. He told an English-daily newspaper, "We have taken legal action and have also complained to the film association. We would like to go that way, not interested in fighting this any other way... We are doing what we think is the best way to address this."

Little did his teachers in school know that the little boy who came to school from Jamia would one day become a famous bonsai maker. Faisal Waheedy from London travels the world with his bonsais. If, for ordinary mortals, the name bonsai rhymes with orient, it is worth going a little further.

Waheedy says: "When I started going for competitions, I realised that the whole world is interested in bonsai as an art in its own right. The horticultural techniques that apply to bonsai trees make it possible to obtain beautiful bonsai trees that will age ... and survive us!" But beyond the technique, an artistic eye is essential to succeed in making a bonsai a living work of art which evolves with the seasons and transcends the passing of time according to him.

GROWING A BONSAI

Bonsai trees are living organisms whose functioning must be learned to provide them with the best conditions in terms of soil and the environment. There are different styles of bonsai trees characterised by varied habit that the size will help to draw. But above all, you must choose the pot suitable for "good" sai — "good" meaning "pot" in Chinese! ... A compromise between aesthetics and horticultural needs. You can't grow a bonsai if you don't have a zen spirit. Bonsais go back to the days of yore when Japanese gardens were inspired by Buddhism and Shintoism, often created by scholars, poets, and artists.

QUIESCENT TRANQUILITY

To glimpse Waheedy's bonsais is to follow a language of quiescent tranquility. The bonsai has such a strong power that it really makes us enter these spaces of illusion. Obviously, he works with variable but ideal combinations of soil, minerals, and different tools. A bonsai is a summary of a story, report, techniques, and personal journeys/memories. Like a Japanese garden, the art

Every tree tells a story

FAISAL WAHEEDY from London travels the world with his bonsais as he feels an artistic eye is essential for making them a living work of art, says **UMA NAIR**



of bonsai is a recreation of the world order, a sublimated evocation of nature that influences character and spirit of the one who contemplates them. Waheedy contemplates bonsais with flowers and fruits. But to create a bon-

vening often and little at a time: this is the secret of success!

THE PREFERRED SPECIES FOR A BONSAI

The bonsai being an outdoor plant, choose it according to the climate of your region, as well as according to your technical level because some species are more demanding than others. For example, opt for a species that is both easy to train and monitor while being able to become splendid: let us quote for example the cotoneaster, the elm or the Chinese juniper. Conifers have the advantage of having year-round foliage that varies with the seasons. Others, such as bougainvillea, are at their aesthetic climax seasonally.

"Little by little, with the help of chess, the dwarf trees begin to take shape through hard work and manipulation. We work with life, in a report absolutely. It is a true philosophy of existence, a perfect communion of ideas with the living forces of nature, in a relation to the absolute. To look at these bonsais is to acknowledge that bonsai "artists" claim new levels of concentration, a zen-like meditation, and the odyssey of nurturing and seeing a plants in fruition undoubtedly mesmerizing. Bonsai is an absorbing hobby for the elderly, and makes a healthy desk accessory, drawing us (and ideally anyone else) into the profound microcosmic reality of caring for a small tree.

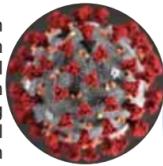
According to Waheedy, tending to a bonsai requires calm, focus, patience — and a set of miniature tools. "If you don't understand the science and the discipline and devotion to keep them alive, there's no point in understanding the art to make them beautiful," says he as he begins work on his next set of maples which will glow in grandeur. Every tree tells a story but some are beyond eloquent, holding memories, embodying belief, marking sorrow telling us life moves on.

Photo: Faisal Waheedy

HEALTH

SpikeFactor

A team of scientists has produced first open source all-atom models of full-length COVID-19 Spike protein that facilitates viral entry into host cells — a discovery that can facilitate a faster vaccine and antiviral drug development. The S protein plays a central role in viral entry into cells, making it a main target for vaccine and drug development



DOCYARD

DR RAMANI RANJAN
Consultant Pediatrician & Neonatologist
MOTHERHOOD HOSPITAL, NOIDA



GIVE TIME TO YOGA

June 21 was International Yoga Day. Experts tell you how adding yoga in your daily routine can help keep several ailments at bay



MAKE WAY FOR MODERN MEDICINE



The time has come when an alternative medicine needs to be in the driver's seat, more so when Allopathy is struggling to find a cure for Coronavirus, says KAMAYANI NARESH

The name to the modern medicine Allopathy was given by Samuel Hahnemann, a German who founded Homeopathy. Allopathy is made of two words 'allos', which means opposite and 'pathy', which means suffering. This name was given by the founder of Homeopathy because homeopathy was doing a similar job whereas allopathy was doing an opposite job on the ailments. It is said that if the quantity of drugs is given to a normal healthy person then he will get the same symptoms as that of the person suffering from the disease. From the beginning, the allopathic system of medicine was meant only to control the symptoms, and the drugs used for controlling the symptoms always cause some side effects. With time, Allopathy became the ruling medicine system because in 1927 they discovered Penicillin and antibiotics which prove to be very effective against the devastating ailments like cholera and chick-enpox.

No doubt, Allopathy is the best system in controlling symptoms but it is certainly not curing any ailment in the human body. The development in the field of science has almost reached the zenith.

The time has come, when allopathy needs to be at the back foot and some other new system has to take over as the medicine system. The only answer to this is Ayurvedic system of medicine. Ayurveda came into existence thousands of years back and it evolved majorly for curing the ailments which happened because of Vata, Pitta, and Kaafa.

Ayurveda as a system has been suppressed for thousands of years and there is no new research and development in this sector for years. Although the Ayurvedic herbs and its properties mentioned in the Ayurvedic books are an excellent source of material and knowledge for the development of the material, it is not sufficient for the present time. Although the government has given a boost and a lot of people are talking about Ayurvedic medicines, but it requires more.

Zyropathy, is a new modern Ayurvedic, which has been developed using the properties of ayurvedic herbs along with modern science for eliminating the root cause of the ailments. Zyropathy believes that most of the ailments are caused because of low immunity. Zyronaturals, the byproduct of Zyropathy uses the extracts of Ayurvedic herbs to eliminate the root cause of diseases.

In present time, Allopathy has miserably failed in curing Coronavirus. Therefore, there is a possibility that Zyropathy can help in eliminating this virus. If experts are to be believed, the only thing that can support humanity against corona is sustained immunity for which we have to have to look back at our herbs and greens, exercise for 30-60 minutes, sleep for six to eight hours daily, & live a stress-free life. It is likely that these activities will boost immunity.

The writer is Founder Zyropathy



Don't ignore your kids' vaccination

The deadly coronavirus infection has made people skeptical to step out of their homes even it's about their health. They will self-medicate or go for tele-consultation but they will not visit a doctor. However, experts suggest that hospitals especially single-specialty are safe now and people shouldn't ignore their health in such unprecedented times. One such major health requirement is getting your child vaccination done where services are available because they protect them from serious diseases. World Health Organisation also warned us, saying immunisation is an essential health service which may be affected by the current Covid-19 pandemic and disruption of immunisation services, even for brief periods, will result in increased numbers of susceptible individuals and raise the likelihood of outbreak-prone vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) such as measles.

A recent report by the World Health Organisations showed that upto 80 million children under the age of one year around the world are missing out on essential vaccines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the lockdown is lifted now, one should not delay their child's vaccination. This outbreak has already cautioned us how valuable vaccines are. It shows us that when there is a vaccine available for a disease, we should keep our children and ourselves up to date with that vaccination.

Delaying babies' vaccination without informing the doctor is not advisable as it weakens the already established immunity. The extent of the problem depends on how long vaccinations get pushed back and whether children who have missed a dose get their doctors' calendars before returning to school

Without the protection of vaccines, diseases can spread quickly and with terrible consequences. For example, measles, hepatitis and other diseases remain a constant risk. We are so fortunate to have the protection of vaccines against these diseases.

- Basic vaccinations needed to be given to newborns and children:
- Measles
- Hepatitis A & Hepatitis B
- Polio (oral and injectable)
- DTP
- Chicken pox
- Typhoid
- Influenza
- Rotavirus

Delaying babies booster vaccination without informing the doctor is also not advisable as it weakens the already established immunity. The extent of the problem depends on how long vaccinations get pushed back and whether children who have missed a dose or two can get on their doctors' calendars before returning to school or daycare. The classic disaster of not following the vaccination calendar was measles re-appearance in the US. The country was dealing with isolated outbreaks of preventable diseases as states saw a decline in the number of vaccinated young children due to misinformation and fear of inoculations.

Importance of Vaccine calendar

Parents sometimes worry about giving several vaccines at once, something that the schedule calls for, especially at the 6, 10 and 14 weeks visits. Not only is it safe, but when parents spread out the schedule it takes longer before the child is protected. One needs to follow a schedule for the vaccination to protect children from vaccine-preventable disease. Paediatricians schedules the visits so that children can get protection when they need it — and the doses are timed so the vaccine itself can have the best effect. When parents don't follow the schedule, their children may not be protected. So it is very important to maintain vaccine calendars for newborns, infants and grown up children as well.

SUMMERCoolERS

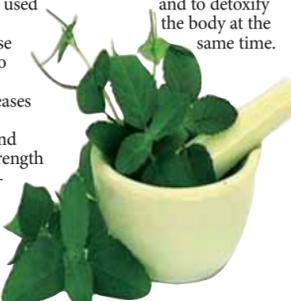
BASIL: Also known as *tulsi*, basil leaves are a good source of Vitamin A and C, calcium, zinc and iron.

Basil is also known for its antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal and anti-inflammatory properties. It can be also used as an analgesic.

Some people even use holy basil after surgery to heal and protect their wounds. Holy basil increases your wound's breaking strength, healing time, and contraction. Breaking strength refers to how much pressure or weight a wound can take before it breaks. Basil also helps in reducing sugar levels and thereby preventing various symptoms of

Diabetes like weight gain and excess in insulin in the blood. It also acts as a stress and anxiety buster and helps fight depression.

One can also add basil in diet to promote a healthy gut and to detoxify the body at the same time.



Work stress is one of the biggest culprits behind poor health. The adverse effects range from depression and premature aging to hypertension and increased risk of heart attacks. The sedentary lifestyle that is the mainstay of most office jobs is equally dangerous and not talked about as often. Research has indicated that it increases the risk of chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease, among other lifestyle diseases.

Sitting hunched over a keyboard for hours on end can cause tightness in your legs and hips, in addition to back, shoulder and neck pain. Camping out at the desk can also lead to postural problems that can be very harmful in the long run. Yoga postures help target tension areas that are a great antidote to most desk-job ailments. On top of that, the mind-body practices that form the core of yoga help address the stress that results from high-pressure jobs. Let us take a look at some asanas that can help you undo the damage caused by a desk job.

Adhomukhasvanasana: If you have time to do just one pose after a long day at work, go with this one. It helps you strengthen all the muscles in your body. It reduces the tension in your shoulder blades, relaxes your neck, and increases blood flow to the brain. It also stretches the legs, making it an excellent option for people who are inactive all day. If your hands and wrists become tired or sore from spending hours at the keyboard, practicing this pose can give them much needed relief.

Uttanasana: The standing forward bend stretches the hamstrings, hips, calves, knees and thighs. It keeps your spine flexible and strong, reduces anxiety, stress, fatigue and depression. It relieves the tension in the neck, spine and back, calms the mind, soothes the nerves. Staying glued to the laptop can also slow down the digestive process and practicing this pose can activate the abdominal muscles, stimulate your liver, kidneys and spleen, and improve your digestion.

Tadasana: If you have the habit of hunching or slouching, practicing this pose will be of great help. If you

Fight cancer with yoga

Yoga is an ancient Indian science and has evolved over thousands of years. It deals with the physical, mental, moral, and spiritual well-being of an individual. Though it is not scientifically proven but it has been observed that, when practised daily, yoga and meditation significantly helps in reducing stress, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, loss of appetite and fatigue in some cancer patients and in addition yoga also enhances quality of life, immune status and will to fight among patients as well.

Yoga helps in patients with cancer to cope up with symptoms and side effects induced due to treatment they are receiving. Relaxation can be attained through yoga by using different breathing exercises, different body postures, and relaxation techniques.

Matsyasana: Known as the destroyer of diseases, this pose is an excellent tension reducer and can be therapeutic for anxiety and fatigue. Since it is a form of the backbend, it gives strength to your back muscles and spine. As you hold your upper body weight using the muscles in your back, the spine gets stabilised and strengthened. The abdominal muscles also get strengthened in the process. The elevated hip version of the pose provides much-needed stretch to the gluteal muscles, making them more toned in the process.

Bhujangasana: To draw your body into a comfortable backbend, the support muscles in your spine need to be engaged. Developing them can help you maintain the health of your spine. The core muscles that are used to draw your body into the cobra pose are the same as the ones used to maintain an alert or upright posture while standing and sitting. By stretching out the body, it also helps increase blood flow throughout the abdomen and chest. Combined with the spinal stimulation, it can be quite exhilarating.

If you practise the poses regularly, you will start to see a marked improvement in your posture and fitness levels. However, it is highly recommended that you practise them under the guidance of a trained and qualified yoga teacher until you master them.

Patients with cancer have revealed that yoga helped them in calming their mind to cope better with their cancer and its treatment. Few other revealed, it helped in reducing symptoms and side effects

The writer is Dr Harsha Agarwal, Head Psycho Oncology, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre

such as pain, tiredness, sleep problems and depression.

The effects of yoga intervention have been moderate to large in various settings. Cooling *pranayama* such as *sheetali*, *sheetakari*, and *sadanta* have been useful in managing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting long with *pavana-muktasana* (supine knee-chest) and *uttana padasana* (straight leg raise). Loosening exercises, gentle stretches, *Yogasanas* (stretching postures), *sudarshan kriya*, and relaxation techniques have been shown to be effective in managing fatigue, pain, and sleep problems.

The writer is Prapat Dash, Senior Yoga Teacher, Jindal Naturecure Institute

DadiKaKehna

A cough today can give you a scare. But it is not necessary that one should go for over-the-counter medicine. There are several home remedies that can help. ROSHANI DEVI shares tips that can soothe the throat



With the monsoon days only a couple of weeks away, the change in the weather is on its way and with the usual problem of cough. But it is not necessary to treat all cough-related problems with over-the-counter medicines. There are several home remedies that one can follow.

A word of caution, in these times of COVID-19, if there is no relief in a day, visit the hospital immediately.

We all know the benefits of turmeric (*haldi*). While not all can stomach *haldi* and *doodh*, it is one of the best cures for a cough. Put half a teaspoon of turmeric in a glass of warm milk. Stir and drink.

Drink twice a day for immediate relief.

Try giloy juice. Put two tablespoons of this juice with water in the morning. There are dual benefits — it builds immunity and has anti-allergic and thus, helps in treating cough caused due to allergic reactions.

Pudina or mint leaves have healing properties. The menthol soothes the throat.

Drinking mint tea or inhaling its vapours. Add three or four drops of peppermint oil in 150 ml of hot water. Drape a towel over your head, and take deep breaths directly above the water.



Brush-up on dental care

Taking proper care of oral health is important. DR GUNITA SINGH shares tips that can help

It is time that we focus on our health more than ever. While we all are struggling to adapt to the new normal, oral problems can be quite challenging as we can't visit our doctor when in severe pain.

Here are a few things to keep in mind to maintain oral hygiene.

Don't forget to brush twice a day: Whether it's morning or night, brushing is must. Due to busy schedules, people usually forget to brush in night or take it for granted, but this is the biggest mistake that they do. For maintaining oral hygiene, brushing twice is the key.

Gum massages: We all are quarantined at our places and this is the best time to take care of ourself. Spend some time with your gums as they are the foundation of our teeth. Healthy gums are equal to healthy teeth. Massaging in a circular motion for 5 mins in morning and evening with the oil of your choice can do wonders for your gums.

Tongue cleaning should be on priority: Once a day, tongue



cleaning with glycerine and cotton pad can prove to be magical not only for the lovely pink tongue but also bacteria-free oral cavity.

Desensitising toothpaste: They are a variety of them available at the chemist now a day's good to keep one at home and apply on the tooth in pain and keep for 15 mins might get some relief.

Avoid in between unhealthy snacking: One of the worst thing we can do to our oral health is in between snacking not only it

leads to poor oral hygiene maintenance, unwanted food particles stuck all over the oral cavity and bad breath this can be one of the major reasons for weight gain too. Substitute sticky junk food with raw crispy fruits and vegetables as they help keep oral cavity clean.

Limit sodas: All sodas erode tooth surfaces and harm the enamel as a result teeth attrition happens. Soda also leads to acidity. Acid reflux again leads to erosion of tooth surfaces.

The writer is Director, Dentem

SLIMLINE

Soul's Connect, a platform to heal relationship issues, founded by Dr Saurav Das with an aim to help married, unmarried couples & kids from broken families going through relationship disputes like divorce and pre-marital break-ups and help them in expressing themselves to someone who will be willing to hear them out.

The webinar is organising a webinar on healing relationship marking its official launch on June 24, 2020 from 3 pm to 4 pm. To register for the webinar, one can contact the 24*7 helpline number: 9324135640.

The webinar will begin with an interesting panel discussion on pressure cooker lives featuring prominent personalities like Aditi Sinha International recognised clinical psychologist and psychotherapist also a well-known life coach and child counsellor, Dr Saurav Das, Founder of Soul's Connect, Anaida Parvaneh, a holistic healer, producer, director & playback singer and Manish Nagdev, TV actor who has acted in shows like *Banoo Main Teri Dulhan*, *Udaan* and *Begusarai*.

VAR real

Two tight decisions in Los Blanco's favour help them beat Sociedad 2-1 & reclaim top spot in La Liga

AFP ■ SAN SEBASTIÁN

Real Madrid knocked Barcelona off the top of La Liga by beating Real Sociedad 2-1 on Sunday as Sergio Ramos rolled in another penalty before being forced off due to injury.

Karim Benzema continued his excellent form by adding a second at Anoeta and while Mikel Merino gave Real Sociedad hope with seven minutes left, Madrid held on to go above Barca on head-to-head.

Real Sociedad were contenders for the top four before the three-month suspension but a draw and two defeats since the restart leaves them sixth, five points adrift.

Ramos scored his 20th consecutive spot-kick in the 50th minute to become La Liga's highest ever scoring defender on 68 goals, overtaking Ronald Koeman on the all-time list.

"He's the best defender in the world," said Zinedine Zidane. "What he has been doing and achieving for so many years is incredible."



Real Madrid's captain Sergio Ramos scores his side's first goal from the spot against Real Sociedad during La Liga match on Sunday

La Liga/Twitter

But Ramos limped off 10 minutes later with what looked like a knee injury, which will be a huge concern for Madrid if the problem proves serious. He was seen sitting with an ice-pack on his left knee in the stands.

"Right now it hurts a lot but that's just the bang I think," said Zidane afterwards. "That's the good news but we'll see."

Madrid also benefitted from two tight decisions after Adnan Januzaj drove in an equaliser for Real Sociedad, only to have it ruled out before Benzema doubled the lead and was adjudged not to have controlled with his arm.

Both calls were close and the fact they fell for Madrid will not have gone unnoticed in Barcelona.

It was Barca's failure to score at Sevilla that presented the opportunity to Madrid, whose victory in one of their toughest fixtures left has shifted the title race back in their favour.

Their defence, which boasts the club's best record at this stage in 32 years, has been key.

Zinedine Zidane will at least hope to have Eden Hazard fresh again after the Belgian was named on the bench. Gareth Bale was also among the substitutes not to be brought on.

His replacement Vini Junior caused Andoni Gorosabel problems with his pace and it was the Brazilian who won the penalty, after nipping inside the defender before his right foot was caught by Diego Llorente.

Ramos made no mistake but seemed to take a bang on his knee shortly after and despite limping on for several minutes, was eventually replaced by Eder Militao.

His removal coincided

with a surge from Real Sociedad, who thought they had equalised when Januzaj drove into the corner only for Merino to be ruled offside, seen to be close enough to Courtois to be interfering with the goalkeeper's line of sight.

Real Sociedad's sense of frustration was compounded when Benzema made it two.

Referee Javier Estrada again consulted VAR but this time allowed the goal to stand, believing Benzema to have controlled with his shoulder before firing in.

Merino set up a nervy finish with a thundering shot in off the crossbar but Madrid held on for an important win.

Derby deadlock

Liverpool's title march delayed by Everton stalemate

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool will need favours from Manchester City to clinch a first Premier League title in 30 years this week after being held to a 0-0 draw by Everton in a Merseyside derby without the usual fervour behind closed doors on Sunday.

Everton came the closest to breaking the deadlock as Tom Davies struck the post and Alisson Becker saved from Dominic Calvert-Lewin to deny the Blues a first derby win in 10 years.

Liverpool remain well on course to win the league with a 23-point lead over City at the top of the table.

The Reds could clinch the title on home soil against Crystal Palace on Wednesday should Pep Guardiola's men drop points at home to Burnley.

However, if City beat the Clarets and Chelsea on Thursday, Liverpool's next chance will come when they travel to their closest challengers on July 2.

"Both teams showed they understand it is a derby even without fans," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. "Intense, physical, all players were all in."

The visitors began a derby like no other in the unfamiliar surroundings of a Portakabin in the Goodison Park car park before making their entrance from the opposite end of the ground to their hosts as Everton's tight tunnel leaves lit-



Liverpool and Everton players observe a minute silence before the start of play

tle room for social distancing. "Everyone didn't know really what to expect," said Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk. "It was just good to be back out there."

Klopp left Mohamed Salah on the bench for the full 90 minutes due to a minor injury problem.

Without the Egyptian and Andy Robertson's positive runs from left-back, Liverpool lacked their usual dynamism as they struggled to break the hosts down.

"We didn't have enough chances for the possession we had," added Klopp. "We have to be more clear in the right moment."

Roberto Firmino dragged the Reds best chance of the game wide in the first half, while Trent Alexander-Arnold and Fabinho tested Jordan

Pickford with free-kicks. But the longer the game went on, it was Everton who looked the more likely side to score on the counter-attack.

Richarlison fired a warning shot as he blazed over after getting in behind.

Calvert-Lewin's improvised flick then forced Allison into a fine save and Davies's follow-up effort came back off the post.

Calvert-Lewin then headed just wide from the resulting corner and Allison stood tall to deny Richarlison again as Everton scented a first derby victory in 22 attempts.

"We had two or three opportunities to score. We were a little bit unlucky," said Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti.

But both had to settle for a point as Liverpool failed to win in the Premier League for only the third time this season.

Pujara hits nets with Saurashtra mates

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Architects of Saurashtra's Amarendra Ranji Trophy triumph including Cheteshwar Pujara and skipper Jaydev Unadkat are back at the nets more than three months since they won the coveted title in March.

Pujara has been training at his academy, located in the outskirts of Rajkot, alongside Unadkat, batsman Arpit Vasavada and medium pacer Prerak Mankad.

Compared to the bigger cities in India, the Covid-19 case load in Rajkot is on the lower side with 185 infections reported so far.

"It has been close to 10 days now. Though we were working on our fitness during the lockdown, there is no substitute to hitting the nets and it feels great. We are following all the Government guidelines while practising," Vasavada, man of the match in the Ranji Trophy final against Bengal said on Monday.

While all professional cricketers will need four to six weeks for regaining match fitness, the task is a tad tougher for the bowlers, who are at a bigger risk of getting injured after a long break.

"JD bhai (Unadkat) also joined us recently and is grad-



ually increasing his time in the nets just like all of us. He is bowling without using saliva on the ball (recently banned by the ICC).

"As for us (Pujara and I), we started with batting sessions of 10-15 minutes and plan to increase the intensity gradually. We have also some net bowlers who are based out of Rajkot.

"Initially, you need some time to get your reflexes back but now batting feels normal," added Vasavada.

With cases rapidly rising across the country, it is tough to predict when the domestic season kicks off. It is supposed to begin in August but it looks unlikely at this stage.

CSA reports 7 +ve cases

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Monday revealed that seven people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus after mass testing was conducted in the organisation.

CSA conducted over 100 tests throughout the country on affiliate staff and some of the contracted professional players, including the franchise training squads that had been assembled after the

Government announced that non-contact sport could resume in Level 3 of the nationwide lockdown.

"We were definitely going to have people testing positive. Having conducted over 100 tests, seven is actually quite low," CSA's acting CEO Jacques Faul told Sport24.

However, Faul did not reveal if any player returned a positive result. "Our medical ethical protocol does not allow us to share info about people that have tested positive," Faul said.

'Reborn' Atalanta lift crushed Bergamo

AFP ■ BERGAMO

Atalanta, inspired by the message 'I will be reborn, you will be reborn', brought Serie A football back to Bergamo in style on Sunday following the coronavirus lockdown with a 4-1 victory over Sassuolo as Inter Milan enjoyed a 2-1 victory against Sampdoria.

Bergamo was badly hit by the virus, with the city, situated in the northern Lombardy region of which Milan is the capital, at the epicentre of Italy's Covid-19 crisis.

Gian Piero Gasperini's side hosted rivals Sassuolo behind closed doors in their Gewiss Stadium in a match played in memory of the city's thousands of virus victims.

Duvan Zapata scored a



Atalanta's Luis Muriel heads the ball during Serie A match against Sassuolo

brace with Berat Djimsiti also on target as Sassuolo's Mehdi Bourabia turned into his own net, before pulling a goal back deep into injury time.

During a minute's silence before the game, players

formed a circle, with the backdrop of the music 'Rinascero, Rinascerei' (I will be reborn, you will be reborn), a song composed during lockdown by Roby Facchinetti, an Italian musi-

cian from Bergamo.

On the pitch, Atalanta consolidated their hold on the fourth and final Champions League spot, moving six points ahead of fifth-placed Roma.

"It's a very important victory, when you resume after a long time it is inevitable there will be doubts, but we put them to one side by playing an excellent match that led to a great success which was also important for our position in the table," said Gasperini.

Atalanta are six points behind Inter Milan who beat Sampdoria in the San Siro, with goals from Romelu Lukaku and Lautaro Martinez, to close to within six points of leaders Juventus.

"When you have the opportunity, you have to kill

off the game," said Inter coach Antonio Conte.

"But we are six points behind (Juventus) and there are 12 games left in which we will have to give our life."

Lukaku opened the scoring after ten minutes following good work from Martinez and Christian Eriksen.

The Belgian celebrated his 18th league goal this season by taking the knee, and raising his right fist to the sky in memory of George Floyd. Lukaku then powered down the right, pulled the ball back for Antonio Candreva, who crossed for Martinez, to add a second after half an hour.

Norwegian midfielder Morten Thorsby finished off a rebound to get a goal back for Sampdoria who are hovering above the relegation zone.

Vertonghen to stay at Spurs

LONDON: Spurs defender Jan Vertonghen has agreed to extend his contract until the end of the season, the Premier League club announced on Monday.

The Belgian international was due to leave Spurs on June 30. Goalkeeper Michel Vorm has also signed an extension to his deal.

A number of players out on loan, including Danny Rose, will also stay at their respective clubs.

"We can confirm that defender Jan Vertonghen and goalkeeper Michel Vorm have agreed to extend their existing contracts with the club until the end of the 2019/20 season," a Spurs statement said.

"Both players' contracts were due to expire at the end of this month and this extension means they will now be available to play for us for the remainder of the current season." AFP



3 Pak players test virus positive ahead of team's departure to Eng

PTI ■ KARACHI

Anyone would be silly to write us off: Holder on Eng series

LONDON: West Indies skipper Jason Holder warned one and all against taking them lightly when they lock horns against England in a much-anticipated three-Test series.

West Indies had famously beaten England during the previous series in Caribbean.

Holder said it is going to a competitive series and it won't be wise to take them lightly despite England being a powerhouse on home soil.

"Anyone would be silly to write us off. It has happened in the past and we have made people eat their words. I'm confident we will do really well. I think this is going to be a really good series," Holder told Nasser Hussain in an interview as per Daily Mail.

the team out of the three. Rauf has played only two T20Is while highly-rated batsman Ali had received his maiden call-up for the England tour comprising three Tests and as many T20s.

All the squad members are being tested for coronavirus ahead of the team's departure on June 28.

"Imad Wasim and Usman Shinwari, also screened in Rawalpindi, have tested negative and, as such, will travel to Lahore on 24 June.

"The other players and team officials, barring Cliffe Deacon, Shoaib Malik and Waqar Younis, underwent tests at their respective centres in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar on Monday.

"Their results are expected at some stage on Tuesday, which will also be announced by the PCB through its usual channels. Until then, the PCB will not make any further comment," the PCB added.

Former Pakistan cricketer Rashid Latif feels it will be difficult for former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed to sit on the bench during the team's much-anticipated tour of England.

Sarfaraz was included in the 29-member Pakistan squad for the tour with head coach Misbah-ul-Haq saying at the time that the former captain will be the team's second-choice stumper behind Mohammad Rizwan. Latif, however, feels he will keep wickets in the T20I series and will sit on the bench in the Tests.

"Sarfaraz will be Pakistan's first-choice wicketkeeper in T20Is and second-choice in Tests. Rizwan's performances in Test matches have been really good so far. So I don't think Sarfaraz will be preferred over Rizwan in Test cricket," Latif was quoted as saying by Cricket Pakistan.

"The reason for taking Sarfaraz along is because they had to pick a bigger squad as the team will be in quarantine initially due to the pandemic.

"It will be a difficult challenge for Sarfaraz to sit on the bench after leading Pakistan for three to four years and winning titles like Champions Trophy for the country. However, it is not impossible and I expect him to fight and overcome this tough task," he added.

Will be difficult for Sarfaraz to be on bench: Latif

IANS ■ LAHORE

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After Dimitrov, Coric diagnosed with Covid-19

AFP ■ ZADAR

Borna Coric announced on Monday he has become the second player to test positive for coronavirus after taking part in an exhibition tournament in Croatia featuring world number one Novak Djokovic.

"Hi everyone, I wanted to inform you all that I tested positive for Covid-19," the Croatian, ranked 33rd in the world, posted on Twitter.

It follows Sunday's announcement by Grigor Dimitrov that he had also tested positive after pulling out of the exhibition event, which is one of the biggest since the tennis season was halted because of the pandemic.

Coric tweeted: "I want to make sure anyone who has been in contact with me during the last few days gets tested!"

"I am really sorry for any harm I might have caused! I'm feeling well and don't have any symptoms. Please stay safe and healthy! Lots of love to all!"

One of Djokovic's coaches and another member of Dimitrov's entourage have also



Grigor Dimitrov, right, poses for cameras with Borna Coric during their semifinal

After Dimitrov, Coric diagnosed with Covid-19

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One of Djokovic's coaches and another member of Dimitrov's entourage have also

reportedly tested positive for the virus, according to Croatia's N1 television channel.

Coric had beaten Bulgaria's Dimitrov in the second leg of the Adria Tour in Zadar on Croatia's Adriatic coast on Saturday.

Dimitrov withdrew from the Balkans tournament following that match, complaining of feeling unwell.

Sunday's final between Djokovic and Russia's Andrey Rublev was immediately cancelled as a precaution.

Australian star Nick Kyrgios responded to Coric's tweet by describing the staging of the tournament as "bone-headed".

"Boneheaded decision to go ahead with the 'exhibition'," Kyrgios wrote on social media.

"Speedy recovery fellas, but that's what happens when you disregard all protocols. This IS NOT A JOKE!"

Also playing in the tournament were world number three Dominic Thiem, former US Open winner Marin Cilic, seventh-ranked Alexander Zverev and Filip Krajinovic.

Weightlifting fed drops China equipment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming to be saddled with faulty equipment from China, the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) on Monday called for a boycott of sports apparatus made in that country after the killed 20 Army personnel last week.

The IWLF ordered four weightlifting sets, comprising barbells and weight plates, from Chinese company ZKC last year. The body said that the equipment turned out to be faulty and

the weightlifters are no longer using them.

"We should boycott all Chinese equipment. The Indian Weightlifting Federation has taken the decision that it will not use any equipment made in China," IWLF secretary general Sahdev Yadav said.

The IWLF, in a letter, has informed the Sports Authority of India (SAI) about its decision to stop using any equipment made in China.

"In a letter to SAI we have written that IWLF won't be using the Chinese equipment,"

he said. "In future also we will not use made in china sets. We will use sets made by Indian origin companies or any other company but not from China," Yadav added.

National coach Vijay Sharma revealed that the plates were found to be sub-standard when the lifters started training again earlier this month.

"The sets were spoilt. We can't use them now," Sharma said.

"All the weightlifters in the camp are against China. They have stopped using Chinese

apps like Tik Tok. Even while ordering things online, they check where the product has been manufactured," he added.

Asked why the sets were even ordered, Sharma said they had no option as the equipment from China is to be used in the Tokyo Olympics and lifters needed to be familiar with it.

"We had ordered four sets from China for Olympic training a year ago. Now, since we have resumed training post the lockdown we haven't used them. All the lifters are against the use of Chinese equipment," he said.

He said equipment was ordered from China for the first time. "We don't order equipment from China as the quality is very bad. This was the first time we got it"

Calls to boycott China-made goods erupted across India after the Galwan valley clash last Monday. It was the most violent face-off between the troops from the two countries in more than four decades.

The Indian Olympic Association has said it is open to boycotting Chinese products in the wake of the incident.