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**AVENUES 10**  
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11 SPORT

## Mission strength with Pak halved

India asks Pak to comply in 7 days, to do same in Islamabad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Engaged in a military stand-off with China in the eastern Ladakh, India on Tuesday opened a diplomatic front against Pakistan, asking Islamabad to reduce its Delhi High Commission staff by half within the next seven days and announced a reciprocal reduction of Indian strength in Islamabad.

The downgrading of diplomatic ties came after two officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi were last month arrested for engaging in espionage activities. At the same time, several Indian High Commission staff were aggressively 'tailed' by Pakistan intelligence agencies in Islamabad and two of them were briefly detained last week.



The Ministry of External Affairs said the Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan High Commission was summoned and informed about the decision which was based on instances of the alleged involvement of Pakistani officials in "acts of espionage" and dealings with terrorist organisations.

In a statement, the MEA also cited the recent abduction of two Indian officials in Islamabad and the "barbaric treatment" meted out to them by Pakistani agencies as reasons for downgrading of the diplomatic ties.

"The behaviour of Pakistan and its officials is not in conformity with the Vienna Convention and bilateral agreements on the treatment of diplomatic and consular officials. On the contrary, it is an intrinsic element of a larger

policy of supporting cross-border violence and terrorism," the MEA said.

Therefore, it said, India has taken the decision to reduce the staff strength in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi by 50 per cent. "It would reciprocally reduce its own presence in Islamabad to the same proportion. This decision, which is to be implemented in seven days, was conveyed to the Pakistani Charge d'Affaires," it added.

The MEA said the Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan High Commission was summoned to the Ministry and informed that India had repeatedly expressed concern about the activities of officials of his High Commission.

"They have been engaged in acts of espionage and main-

tained dealings with terrorist organisations. The activities of the two officials caught red-handed and expelled on May 31 was one example in that regard," it said.

It said Pakistan has engaged in a sustained campaign to "intimidate" the officials of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad from carrying on their legitimate diplomatic functions.

"The recent abduction at gunpoint of two Indian officials and their severe ill-treatment underlines the extent to which Pakistan has gone in that direction... These officials who returned to India on 22 June 2020 have provided graphic details of the barbaric treatment that they experienced at the hands of Pakistani agencies," the MEA added.

## India, China to pull back troops from face-off points

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China have agreed to disengage from various stand-off sites on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and make concerted effort to "cool down" situation at the border. The two sides will now work out modalities of pulling back troops, which could take months. Many more rounds of talks are likely to take place to end the face-off at the Pangong Tso (lake) where the Chinese have intruded into the Indian zone with massive force levels.

The two countries arrived at a "mutual consensus" to de-escalate during the nearly ten hour talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin in Moldeo on Monday.

Meanwhile, Army Chief General MM Naravane is on a two-day visit to Leh starting Tuesday and took stock of the situation in the aftermath of the June 15 bloody skirmish leaving 20 Indian Army personnel dead in the Galwan valley.

Naravane met and interacted in the military hospital there with soldiers injured in the clash.

The Army Chief is likely to visit some forward locations on the LAC during his tour, sources said. This is his first visit since the brawl.

Naravane had earlier visited Leh in mid-May to review the operational readiness of the army in the wake of ongoing face-offs. IAF chief RKS Bhaduria had visited Leh late last week to review operational readiness of his force in the aftermath of the free for all leading to tension all along the LAC.

On the marathon parleys at the Corps Commander level on Monday ending late evening, sources said on Tuesday that the talks were held in "a cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere."

"There was a mutual consensus to disengage. Modalities for disengagement from all friction areas in Eastern Ladakh were discussed and will be taken forward by both the sides," sources said.

## Military leaders plan ways to cool down situation at LAC in E Ladakh

Many more rounds of talks are likely to take place to end the face-off at the Pangong Tso (lake) where the Chinese have intruded into the Indian zone with massive force levels

Army Chief General MM Naravane is on a two-day visit to Leh from Tuesday and took stock of the situation in the aftermath of the June 15 bloody skirmish leaving 20 Indian army personnel dead in the Galwan valley

Talks were held in "a cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere"

At present, the confrontation is at least four points, including in Galwan valley, Hot Springs and two places at the Pangong Tso

This was the second Lt General level meeting to end the stalemate at the LAC



Indian army personnel dead in the Galwan valley

They have advanced between "Finger 4" and "Finger 8" points whereas India has constantly maintained that these fingers or mountain spurs are part of its territory.

Continued on Page 2

## Sellers must mention 'country of origin' on goods on Govt portal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government procurement portal GeM has made it mandatory for sellers to mention "country of origin" on products they wish to sell through the platform, a move aimed at promoting Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India), a senior official said on Tuesday.

Government e-Marketplace (GEM) has also enabled a provision for indication of the percentage of local content in products with a view to promote Make in India.

"GeM has taken a significant step towards Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and has made it mandatory for sellers to enter the country of origin while registering all new prod-

ucts on GeM," the portal's CEO Tallen Kumar told PTI.

Sellers, who had already uploaded their products before the introduction of this new feature on GeM, are being reminded regularly to update the country of origin, with a warning that their products will be "removed" from the platform if they fail to update the same, he said.

"With this new feature, now, the country of origin as well as the local content percentage are visible in the marketplace for all items. More importantly, the Make in India filter has now been enabled on the portal. Buyers can choose to buy only those products that meet the minimum 50 per cent local content criteria," he said.

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## Respect partners' legitimate interests: India at RIC meet

Jaishankar calls for conforming to international law for durable world order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop violent clashes leaving 20 Indian Army personnel dead on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday urged countries to respect international law and recognise legitimate interest of partners to build a durable world order.

He made these crucial marks in the virtual Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministerial meeting. This was the first time Jaishankar was interacting face to face with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Incidentally, the two Ministers

had talked to each other on the phone last week to find ways to defuse tension at the LAC after the bloody skirmishes.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said India and China do not need outside help in resolving long-standing issues between the two countries.

"I don't think India and China need any help from outside. I don't think they need to be helped, especially when it comes to country issues. They can solve them on their own," Sergei Lavrov said, adding, "this means recent events".

Incidentally, US President Donald Trump had also offered to mediate last month to resolve the face-offs at the LAC. However, India declined the offer and said it was a bilateral issue with China.

Continued on Page 2

## Rajnath won't meet Chinese counterpart, New Delhi denies Chinese media claim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, now on a visit to Moscow, will not be meeting his Chinese counterpart there on Wednesday. Both the Ministers besides many others will take part in the Victory

Day Parade there to mark the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Interestingly, a tri-Service contingent of the Indian Armed forces led by the Sikh Light Infantry will take part in the parade.

Continued on Page 2

## China warns India for free hand to troops, says it can aggravate conflict

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

China has warned that if its troops are shot at with firearms following India's decision to grant "complete freedom of action" to the Army deployed along Line of Actual Control (LAC) then the border dispute can potentially turn into a military conflict.

The warning came through an editorial in the state-run Global Times that has undertaken a psychological warfare and propaganda overdrive against India through a series of write-ups

harping on the economic and military strengths of Beijing and at the same time seeking to downgrade New Delhi's capabilities on these two fronts.

India on Sunday granted "complete freedom of action" to the Army deployed along LAC with China, implying that the troops can resort to use of firearms when faced with a violent situation from Chinese soldiers like the Galwan incident in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed by the PLA troops.

Continued on Page 2

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

## India crosses 4.5 lakh count

**TOTAL CASES: 4,55,859**  
**DEATHS: 14,483**  
**RECOVERED: 2,58,523**  
**ACTIVE: 1,82,798**

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,39,010	6,531	69,631
Delhi	66,602	2,301	39,313
Tamil Nadu	64,603	833	35,339
Gujarat	28,429	1,711	20,521
Uttar Pradesh	18,893	588	12,116
Rajasthan	15,627	365	12,213
West Bengal	14,728	580	9,218
Madhya Pradesh	12,261	525	9,335
Haryana	11,520	178	6,498
Andhra Pradesh	9,834	119	4,592
Karnataka	9,721	150	6,004
Telangana	9,553	220	4,224
Bihar	8,050	54	6,027
Jammu & Kashmir	6,236	87	3,642
Assam	5,853	9	3,763
Odisha	5,470	24	3,988



## Covid Ayurvedic drug safe, Ramdev convinces Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After claiming to have found an Ayurvedic cure for the coronavirus, Yoga guru Baba Ramdev is now trying to convince the Modi Government that his product is "safe" and "clinically tested" and hopes that soon he would be marketing it across the country.

Hours after Patanjali launched drugs on Tuesday what Ramdev claimed was the "first ayurvedic medicine" to cure coronavirus disease, the Centre asked the company to stop advertising the anti-Covid drug and sought details about it to verify the claims.

Talking to a TV channel in

## Reaction comes after AYUSH Ministry asked Patanjali to provide drug details



the evening, Ramdev claimed he has written back to the Ayush Ministry on the verification of the medicine and ruled out that it could be banned.

"There has been some confusion. I carried out clinical trial on 270 persons and all of them recovered from Covid-19. What more do you want," he said, adding, "I've submitted all the papers to the Ministry."

Ramdev said he has spent time and energy to come out with a cure that has been tested under strict medical condition and proven effective. "Why would I lie? I'm doing this to help the world," he said.

Acharya Balkrishna said on Twitter, "This Govt provides encouragement and pride to Ayurveda. Communication gap has been done away with and we have 100 per cent fulfilled all standard parameters for Randomised Placebo-con-

trolled clinical trials. We've given info for the same to Ministry of AYUSH."

Launching the medicine in Haridwar, Patanjali claimed that "Coronil" and "Swasari" had shown 100 per cent favourable results during clinical trials on affected patients in 7 days. "This is not an immunity booster but a coronavirus cure," Ramdev said.

The corona kit for 30 days will be made available at ₹545, said Acharya Balkrishna, the MD of Patanjali Ayurved. However, the AYUSH Ministry said facts of the claim and details of the stated scientific study are not known to the Ministry.

## CAPSULE

**ALL SLAM TRUMP ADMIN OVER H-1B, WORK VISAS**  
Washington: Top US lawmakers, corporates and human rights bodies working among the immigrant communities have slammed the Donald Trump Administration for suspending H-1B and other foreign work visas till December 31 to help millions of Americans hit by job losses during the coronavirus pandemic.

**DJOKOVIC TESTS +VE FOR CORONAVIRUS**  
Belgrade, Serbia: Novak Djokovic tested positive for the coronavirus on Tuesday after taking part in a tennis exhibition series he organised in Serbia and Croatia.

**PETROL HIKED 20 PAISE A LITRE, DIESEL 55 PAISE**  
New Delhi: Petrol price on Tuesday was hiked by 20 paise per litre and diesel by 55 paise as the oil companies increased prices for the 17th day in a row that took the cumulative increase to a steep ₹8.5 and ₹10.01 per litre, respectively.

**DECISION TO SCRAP REST XII EXAMS TODAY**  
New Delhi: The Centre and the CBSE informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that an expert body is in the process of taking the final decision "very shortly", hopefully by Wednesday, on whether to scrap the remaining exams of Class XII scheduled from July 1-15 in view of soaring Covid-19 cases.

**MONSOON TO HIT DELHI IN 48 HOURS: IMD**  
New Delhi: Southwest Monsoon on Tuesday further advanced in some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and likely to hit Delhi in 48 hours, said India Meteorological Department.

## Delhi sees 3,947 +ve, tops in test/lakh ratio

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Tuesday recorded the highest single-day spike with 3,947 fresh infections to take the coronavirus tally in the Capital to 66,602. It also reported 68 new deaths in the same period, taking the death toll to 2,301 since the outbreak of the disease. This is the biggest single day surge seen in any part of the country in 24 hours. Officials said 39,313 patients have recovered and 24,988 cases are active.

Delhi has 261 containment zones. A health bulletin issued by the State Government said 6,264 beds are occupied and 7,125 are still vacant, while 12,963 patients are home quarantined.

carried out 19,415 tests for every 1 million people. This is much higher than many other States in the country.

The last one week has seen massive surge in new cases due to doubling of tests. The number of new infections has grown by an average of 7 per cent every day during this period and mortality rate climbed to 3.45 per cent.

Delhi seems to be catching up with Mumbai very fast, and could soon even overtake it. Officials said that number of cases have increased due to higher number of testing in Delhi. According to the Delhi Government's health bulletin, the Capital has also crossed 4 lakh tests conducted in the city to track Covid-19 patients.

Continued on Page 2

## Kejriwal writes to Shah seeking doctors, nurses from ITBP, Army to run 10K-bed Covid facility

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding doctors and nurses from the ITBP and the Army to run a 10,000-bed Covid-19 care facility being set up in South Delhi, sources said.

## STUDY: ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT MAY REDUCE COVID TRANSMISSION INDOORS

London: Using ultraviolet (UV) light to inactivate the SARS-CoV-2 virus may be an efficient, easily deployable, and economically affordable method to reduce Covid-19 transmission in indoor spaces, according to a study. The study, published in the journal ACS Nano, analysed the currently available UV-C sources, such as fluorescent lamps, microcavity plasmas, and LEDs.



The annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri sees a thin crowd, complying with the Supreme Court order, on Tuesday. AP

## China occupies Nepal land, Oli Govt keeps mum

IAN ■ NEW DELHI

China has occupied a village of Nepal and allegedly removed the boundary pillars to legitimise its annexation, top Government sources said on Tuesday. It has also been learnt that China has gradually made inroads into several Nepalese territories with an ulterior aim to seize complete control. But so far KP Sharma Oli's Nepalese Government is tightlipped about it.

The latest in the line is Rui village in Gorkha district, which is now in total control of China. It has also occupied strategic lands at 11 places across Nepal. Around 36 hectares of land in four districts of Nepal, which border China, have been occupied by China.

Continued on Page 2

# India-Russia ties special: Rajnath

**PTI ■ MOSCOW**  
The relations between India and Russia are one of "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" and the ongoing military contracts between the two sides will be maintained and in a number of cases will be taken forward in a shorter time, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

Singh, who arrived here on a three-day visit on Tuesday at the invitation of the Russian Ministry of Defence to attend the 75th Anniversary of Victory Day Parade, said his visit to Moscow is the first foreign visit from India of an official delegation after the COVID pandemic.

"This is a sign of our special friendship. Despite all the

difficulties of the pandemic, our bilateral relations are keeping good contacts at the various levels," Singh said while addressing the media here.

"India-Russia relations are one of Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Our defence relationship is one of its important pillars," he said.

The minister reviewed bilateral defence relationship with Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov who visited him in his hotel, despite the restrictions of the pandemic.

"My discussions were very positive and productive. I have been assured that ongoing contracts will be maintained and not just maintained, in a number of cases will be taken forward in a shorter time. All our proposals have received

positive responses from the Russian side.

"I am fully satisfied with my discussions," Singh said, indicating the timely delivery of the S-400 missile defence systems to India.

In October 2018, India had signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

Last year, India made the first tranche of payment of around USD 800 million to Russia for the missile systems.

Moscow was to begin the delivery of the system by the second half of next year.

Russia has been one of India's key suppliers of arms

and ammunition.

However, it has been a long-standing grievance of armed forces that supply of critical spares and equipment from Russia takes a long time affecting maintenance of military systems procured from that country.

"I can say with confidence that the traditional friendship between India and Russia remains strong. Our mutual interests are solid and we look to future cooperation in the spirit of our special friendship," Singh said.

Singh said he was looking forward to participating in the 75th Victory Parade wherein an Indian Military contingent will be marching in the Red Square on Wednesday.

"It is a great honor. This is a sign of everlasting friendship

between the armed forces of both our countries," the minister said.

"I convey my greetings to the friendly people of Russia, especially the veterans, who have contributed so much to our common security," Singh said as he paid tribute to the sacrifice of the Russian people for victory in the Second World War. He said Indian soldiers participated in the war effort in the millions and suffered immense casualties.

"Many of them were part of the war efforts to provide assistance to the Soviet Army," he added.

Singh also said that he was looking forward to the visit of President Vladimir Putin to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this year.

# Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra held in Puri under curfew



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik watches the live telecast of Rath Yatra from his chamber, at Lok Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, on Tuesday

**PTI ■ PURI**  
For the first time in living memory, the gigantic chariots of Lord Jagannath and his celestial siblings rolled on the streets of Puri on Tuesday, a pale shadow of the grand spectacle, with the pilgrim town under curfew and the sea of devotees missing.

The annual chariot festival, which in normal times attracts lakhs of devotees from across the world, was held "smoothly and peacefully", a day after the Supreme Court modified its earlier order and cleared the decks for the yatra, an emotive issue for Hindus in several parts of the country. The elaborate rituals, which commenced early in the morning, concluded after the three wooden chariots of Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Goddess Subhadra reached their destination at Gundicha Temple from Sri Mandir well before evening.

The chariots were pulled by the servants of the Lord Jagannath Temple and police personnel, who had to clear the COVID-19 test before joining in the subdued festivities.

The Grand Road, the usual site for the celebrations, was forlorn in the absence of devotees. Rituals like "Mangla Arati" and "Mailam" were held before the presiding deities set out from the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.

# 12 trainee sailors on board INS Shivaji test +ve

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

As many as 12 out of 157 sailors undergoing training at the Navy Training Establishment "INS Shivaji" have tested positive for Covid-19.

"Twelve out of 157 trainee sailors have been found Covid positive as on date. Since the infection is contained to one particular quarantine block, the possibility of spread of infection to other areas/personnel of the Establishment is negligible, however, all precautions have been instituted to obviate further spread," a defence ministry statement said here late on Tuesday night.

INS Shivaji is a training establishment of the Indian Navy, entrusted with the responsibility of imparting training in the domain of Marine Engineering to Officers and Sailors of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and other friendly foreign navies. "After the easing of lockdown as per Unlocked 1.0 in the first week of Jun 2020, a batch of 157 trainee sailors who were undergoing training at this Establishment and were on extended leave view lockdown, reported back," the statement said.

# DELHI SEES 3,947 +VE, TOPS IN...

**From Page 1**  
As many as 16,952 tests were carried out in the last 24 hours. Delhi is tasked with a major challenge to ramp up its medical infrastructure in the wake of the rising Covid cases, expected to cross 5.5 lakh by the end of July by one estimate, requiring close to 90,000 beds.

Taking note of increasing cases, the Centre on Tuesday said that the centre erected at Radha Swami Beas facility in south Delhi will be run by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

After Delhi, Maharashtra recorded 3,214 fresh cases and 248 deaths (75 in the last 48 hours and 173 in the previous period in a single day, taking the total tally to 1,39,010 and 6,531 deaths.

The corona tally in Tamil Nadu mounted to 64,603 on Tuesday as 2,516 more people tested positive in the last 24 hours while 39 died of the disease taking the toll to 833. Of the fresh cases, Chennai accounted for the maximum of 1,380, followed by neighbouring districts of Chengelpet

**Rajnath won't...**  
**From Page 1**  
The Chinese marching contingent will also be there besides many others. These developments take place in the backdrop of more than a month long stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and

the brawl on June 15 leaving 20 Indian Army personnel dead. The Defence Ministry denied reports about Singh's meeting with his Chinese counterpart after Global Times, the Chinese mouthpiece, reported the possibility of such a meeting. "Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe will attend Russia's

Victory Day parade in #Moscow on Wednesday, and likely hold a meeting with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh over resolving border tensions: sources," tweeted Global Times.

A spokesperson of the Defence Ministry, however, said there has been no meeting planned between the two.

# China occupies Nepal land, Oli Govt keeps mum

**From Page 1**  
"In a massive departure from its diplomatic stand of non-interference, the Chinese have completely occupied Rui Village and the residents comprising around 72 houses are fighting for their original identity. This also shows how Nepal's current regime has surrendered to China and is now making anti-India statements and resorting to anti-India activities," top sources told IANS.

The occupation of Rui village has been done systematically by China in the last two years.

Since the village figures in the map of Nepal and is part of the Himalayan nation, the residents have always been asso-

ciated with the country's identity. But the Nepal government, at the behest of China, is more engaged in creating artificial disputes with India over boundaries and three villages that belong to India.

Nepal has recently come out with a new map that claims parts of Indian territory in Pithoragarh district. India has rejected this new map of Nepal saying it is not based on historical facts or evidence. The new political map of the country features parts of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which are in Indian territory.

The new political map was authenticated by Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari last week. India-Nepal relationship came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharcula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Nepal immediately

protested, saying the road violated the status quo of the region, which it described as "unresolved".

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava had said the amendment amounts to "artificial enlargement of claims that are not based on historical fact or evidence and is not tenable".

Last year, sources said, Nepal government realised China had been annexing their land however they preferred to remain silent.

"Even after realising that China's aggressive nationalism and military expansionism are a reality, the policies fashioned by headline Communist Party of China (CPC) leaders, Nepal communist government prefers to remain silent," said the sources. Nepal has occupied six hectares of land near Bhagdare Khola (River) area and four hectares near Karnali River in

Humla district.

They also found that China has illegally occupied two hectares near Sinjen Khola (river) and one hectare of Bhurjuk Khola (River) in Rasuwa district. It has also captured land adjacent to Lamde Khola and three hectares near Jambu Khola in Rasuwa district.

China has also illegally occupied seven hectares of land in Kharane Khola and four hectares near Bhote Koshi of Sandhu Pal Chok district in Nepal, three hectares of Samjung Khola, two hectares near Kam Khola and four hectares of land from Arun river bed in Sankhuwasabha district of Nepal.

The term khola means river in local Nepali language. But, instead of objecting to Chinese illegal occupation and growing infiltration into the Nepalese boundaries, the KP Sharma Oli government is looking to unnecessarily inter-

# Respect partners'...

**From Page 1**  
Meanwhile, interacting with his Chinese and Russian counterparts, Jaishankar urged the powerful countries in the world to be exemplars in every way.

Without mentioning the ongoing border standoff, he also said the countries should respect international law and recognise the legitimate interest of partners.

"The leading voices of the world must be exemplars in every way. Respecting international law, recognising the legitimate interests of partners, supporting multilateralism and promoting common good are the only way of building a durable world order," Jaishankar said.

"This special meeting reiterates our belief in the time-tested principles of international relations. But the challenge today is not just one of

concepts and norms, but equally of their practice," Jaishankar said.

He also said India did not get its due recognition in the global order post World War II and that the historical injustice remained "uncorrected" for the last 75 years.

"When the victors met to fashion the ensuing global order, the political circumstances of that era did not give India due recognition. This historical injustice has stood uncorrected for the last 75 years, even as the world has changed," he said in his initial remarks.

The External Affairs Minister also spoke about the need for reforms within the United Nations for it to be able to represent the current reality of the globe.

The RIC meeting, which was chaired by Russia, was called for a special session to mark the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, P.W.D. KASGANJ**

**Short Term Notice inviting E-Tender** दिनांक 12.06.2020

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P.P.W.D. Kasganj on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, P.W.D. Road work. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work	Category
1	Kasganj	Renewal of Pahra Rudayan Road to Bilasbars Road (VR) Km 1.2,5(600)	19.50	1.95	500+300+ GST 144= 944	3 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division, P.W.D., Kasganj	Class 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D'
2	Kasganj	Renewal Dhanum Paliyali Road to Gadhni Madsua Road (VR) Km 1.2(900)	15.50	1.55	500+300+ GST 144= 944	3 Month		
3	Kasganj	Renewal of Mohanpur Sidpura Road to Pihikuni Road (VR) Km 1.2,3(850)	21.50	2.15	500+300+ GST 144= 944	3 Month		
4	Kasganj	Renewal of Sahawar Sidpura Road to Km 10 to Thathi (VR) Km 1.2,3(100)	15.50	1.55	500+300+ GST 144= 944	Month		

**Cost of Bid documents (Tender Fee)** as indicated in Column No 6 & non-refundable to be deposited Online in the account of <http://etender.up.nic.in> in portal by Internet Banking only. All bidders please note that the bidding process will not move forward if the bid document cost (Tender Fee) is not paid through E-Tender portal by Internet Banking. No other form of Tender fee shall be applicable.

Bids must be accompanied with bid security (EMD) of the amount specified for the work in the table as per column No. 5 Bid security will be deposited Online in the account of <http://etender.up.nic.in> in portal by Internet Banking only. All bidders please note that the bidding process will not move forward if the bid security (EMD) is not paid through E-Tender portal by Internet Banking. No other form of EMD shall be applicable.

Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season.

Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 26-06-2020 to 02-07-2020. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 05:00 PM on 02-07-2020. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 03-07-2020 at 11:00 AM.

The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.

Valid only under G.O. No. 836/23-7-17-176(General)/06 Dt 08-06-2017 and 14/2017/2170/23-7-17-176(General)/06 Dt 13-12-2017

Contractor should Quote their rates without G.S.T. which shall be paid extra as per applicable at the time of payment.

The cost of Tender has been inclusive of bitumen/emulsion cost as per schedule 'C' which will be issued from CD, P.W.D., Kasganj Store as per Schedule 'C' and its cost will be recovered from bills of contractor.

(Sudhir Kumar)  
Executive Engineer  
Construction Division, P.W.D., Kasganj

UP 152681 Date 19.06.2020  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

# Sellers must mention 'country of origin' on goods on Govt portal

**From Page 1**  
Kumar said that since its inception, GeM is continuously working towards promoting "Make in India" initiative and the portal has facilitated entry of small local sellers in public procurement.

Earlier this month, the government modified public procurement norms to give maximum preference to companies whose goods and services have 50 per cent or more local content, a move aimed at promoting "Make in India" and making the country self-reliant.

The revised public procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017, has introduced a concept of Class-I, II and non-local suppliers, based on which they will get preference in government purchases of goods and services.

GeM is also coming up with a more dynamic, transformational and vibrant portal by adding advanced features such as powerful search engine, revamped brand and product approval process and faster creation of categories for goods and services through tender analysis.

Government e-Market (GeM) portal was launched in August 2016 for online purchases of goods and services by all the central government ministries and departments.

Government departments, agencies and public sector units can now procure products made by tribal communities from the GeM portal as it has added over 4,000



such items, including paintings, handmade showpieces and statues.

Currently, government departments, ministries, public sector units, state governments, and Central Armed Police Forces are allowed to carry out transactions through this portal.

The portal provides a wide range of products from office stationery to vehicles. Automobiles, computers and office furniture are currently the top product categories. Services, including transportation, logistics, waste management, web casting and analytical, are listed on the portal. So far, 3,94,461 sellers and service providers are registered with the portal to sell 18,30,688 products and several services.

# India, China to pull back troops from face-off points

**From Page 1**  
In fact, the first bout of fisticuffs had taken place at the Pangong Tso on May 5 leading to the stand-off.

This was the second Lt General level meeting to end the stalemate at the LAC. In the first round on June 6, both the sides agreed to mutually pull back troops gradually from the face-offs and operational areas. India also insisted that situation be restored status quo ante de pre My 5 positions.

The first round also saw 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.

However, the situation took a dramatic turn after the June 15 clashes.

**AMCO INDIA LIMITED**  
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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the Regulation 29 & 33 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirement) Regulations, 2015, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020 at the Corporate Office of the Company situated at C-53/54, Sector-57, Phase III, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, inter-alia to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter & financial year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020.

As per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading under SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 the "Trading Window" for dealing in the equity shares of Company shall remain closed for all directors, officers and designated employees of the Company from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 till 48 hours after the declaration of financial results for the quarter / financial year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 in view of the Board Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

This information is also available on the Company's website at [www.amcoindia.com](http://www.amcoindia.com) and on the website of SEBI Limited at [www.sebiindia.com](http://www.sebiindia.com).

For Amco India Limited  
Sd/-  
Place : Noida, U.P. Subrat Mohan Gupta  
Dated : 23.06.2020 Company Secretary

# Sisodia for rollback of new Covid rules

Writes to Shah, L-G to scrap mandatory system for patients to visit Govt facility for clinical assessment

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal seeking rollback of new rule under which every Covid-19 positive patient has to visit quarantine centre for clinical assessment, said, "it is causing inconvenience to people."

"I have written a letter to the Hon'ble L-G requesting him to rethink about the new quarantine rules and bring back the earlier rules and urged L-G to restore the previous system of the check-up by the medical team visiting each patient's home and to call an SDMA meeting," Sisodia said.

Citing people's grievances evolving suffering due to lack of understanding of new rules set by the centre pertaining to home isolation, Sisodia said people are in major confusion regarding the new Home Quarantine rules, adding, "L-G's decision to first get a compulsory check-up of every Covid patient at quarantine centres has made people perplexed."

Explaining further, he said that if a person chooses not to go to Covid centres for a check-up then police and administrations are harassing him or her. People are not anxious about the disease but for the inconvenience of waiting



in queues outside the quarantine centres," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said, "This new rule is putting humungous pressure on the already overburdened ambulance services."

Sisodia observed that the biggest problem the people are facing is that once they test positive for Covid-19, they have to get a check-up done at a Quarantine Centre, even in the absence of any symptoms.

## With biggest single-day jump, Delhi's Covid count 66,602

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Tuesday broke all its previous records of single-day corona spike with 3,947 new cases registered in the last 24 hours, taking the count to 66,602.

So far, 39,313 patients have recovered as per State health department's database.

"With 68 more fatalities in past 24 hours, the death toll has touched 2,301," an official from

"If a person chooses not to go to the centre, then he is harassed by repeated phone calls from the police or the administration prodding him to visit a nearby quarantine centre and get a check-up done. People are in a state of fear that if they refuse to go to a quarantine centre, then the police would come to their place and take them there," said Sisodia.

It may be recalled, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal initially had passed an order scrapping home isolation but a day after he rolled it back after AAP leader raised concern in the DDMA meeting.

"This new rule is putting humungous pressure on the already overburdened ambulance services," said Sisodia.

Delhi State Health Department said.

24,988 cases are active, he added. The official said, "16,952 tests have been done in past 24 hours, in total, 4,01,648 tests have been conducted in city with 21,139 test per million."

Delhi has 261 containment zones. 6,264 beds have been occupied and 7,125 are vacant and 12,963 patients are home quarantined.

## NDMC seals office after four employees test positive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After four employees of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) tested positive for Covid-19 this week, the civic body has sealed the building housing its office in Gole Market for 48 hours.

This is the second time the building was sealed due to a surge in positive cases of Covid-19. "At least 10 cases have been traced from the same building till now. The decision to seal the building was taken to prevent further spread of the virus," a senior official said.

"One official from the commerce department, one from tax and two non-medical employees of Palika Kendra dispensary was tested positive on Monday," he 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 covid19 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.

## Gurugram plans to start rapid antigen test for faster results

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

For faster Covid-19 test results, the Gurugram district is going to start using the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-approved rapid antigen kit test soon.

Gurugram Health Department has received 8,000 kits and with this kit, the entire testing process took about 15 minutes to produce a test report.

"Rapid Antigen Detection Test Kit will examine potential patients of corona infection in 15 minutes and if any patient report comes negative via this kit we will again conduct a sample test by RT-PCR method to confirm that the test report. The biggest advantage of this kit that we will detect corona positive patients in just 15 minutes," Civil Surgeon Dr Virendra Yadav.

Meanwhile, a several teams have been appointed by the district Health Department in separate shifts. Duty of 7 Lab Technicians, a pathologist, a microbiologist, Covid microbiologist and data entry operators have been engaged for this task.



Also, around 250 samples of suspected corona patients are being taken by the government health staff on a daily basis. "Testing is also being done in the private labs authorised in the district, whose rates have recently been reduced to ₹2,400 by the state Government," Yadav added. Apart from this, Three more coronavirus patients died on Tuesday in Gurugram, taking the district's total death toll to 69, the highest in any district in Haryana. Besides, 133 new cases were reported in the district while 117 patients were recovered on Tuesday.

Gurugram has registered 4,645 cases so far in areas falling under different locations, including 39 who died due to comorbidities and remaining 30 without comorbidities.

"In the district around 2,743 patients have been cured and discharged. Gurugram

now has 1,833 active cases, including 1,255 in-home isolation. Remaining 409 patients are admitted in private, government and Covid care centres in the district," Yadav said. The Health official said that a majority of corona cases are coming from containment zones where the situation remains precarious.

Meanwhile, Gurugram now has 108 containment zones and an equal number of buffer zones in the district after a review meeting at the Mini-Secretariat which was chaired by District Magistrate Amit Khatri.

The number of containment zones in the district has increased to 108 from 98. In which 100 containment zones have been set up in Gurugram block, 4 in Pataudi and 3 in Sohna and one in Farrukhnagar. Thus a total of 98 containment zones have been made in the district.

"We have 36 hospitals in the district where Covid patients are admitted. We have since added seven more hospitals to the list. Each private hospital has 25% beds reserved for Covid patients," Yadav added.

## Woman raped inside Rouse Avenue court, staffer held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old woman was allegedly raped inside a room of the Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court by a staffer. Police said that the incident was reported on Monday following which the accused was also arrested.

According to a senior police official, on June 22, a police control room (PCR) call was received that a woman had been raped on Rouse Avenue Court premises by a person who is a court staff.

"In her statement, the woman alleged that the accused, who is a court staff, raped her inside a room of the Rouse Avenue Court," said the senior police official adding that a medical examination has been done.

"A case has been registered at the IP Estate police station and the accused has been arrested," said the senior police official.

## Man working at Metro construction site killed as streetlight falls on him

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 44-year-old supervisor was killed after a streetlight allegedly fell on him while he was working at a Delhi Metro construction site in Jagatpur area on Tuesday. Police said that the man was employed with one of DMRC's contractors, working on the Majlis Park-Maujpur metro corridor of Phase-4.

The deceased, identified as Dilip Kumar Chowdhary, who was working as a site supervisor. Meanwhile, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), in a statement said, it will inquire into the incident.

According to a senior police official, police received a call at around 12.02 pm from Trauma Centre about the case.

"The incident took place when the man, along with a few others, were conducting a survey for the project when the light mast fell on him. He was rushed to the Trauma Centre

near Kashmere Gate, where he was declared brought dead," said the senior police official.

Meanwhile, Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district said that an FIR under section 304 A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and further investigation is underway.

In the statement, the DMRC said Chowdhary passed away today, after a light mast placed on the median of the road near Jagatpur village fell on him.

He was working as a site supervisor and was overseeing the barricade fixing work, as the contractor was cordoning off the site for start of viaduct work.

"Prima facie, the light mast seems to have fallen on its own, the DMRC officials said in a statement," adding it will enquire into the matter to ascertain the reasons behind the mishap.

## N-E DELHI VIOLENCE

### Jamia's student Safoora gets bail

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted bail to Safoora Zargar, the pregnant Jamia student who was arrested under anti-terror law UAPA in a case related to communal violence in northeast Delhi during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta did not oppose the court's decision on humanitarian grounds.

At the outset, Mehta, representing Delhi Police, submitted that Zargar can be released on regular bail on humanitarian grounds and the decision has not been taken on merits of the case and should not be made a precedent.

Justice Rajiv Shukdhher, who conducted the hearing through video conferencing, released Zargar, who is 23-week pregnant, on bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 10,000 and surety of the like amount.

The court said she shall not indulge in any activity for which she is being investigated and shall not hamper or interfere

with the on-going investigation or influence the witnesses.

It also said that in case Zargar needs to travel, she has to seek permission from the trial court and will remain in touch with the investigating officer of the case over mobile phone once in 15 days.

Mehta, who was briefed by advocates Amit Mahajan and Rajat Nair, said the order which is based on concession shall not be cited or treated as a precedent in any other case.

"Without in any manner conceding to the factual assertions and legal submissions made by the petitioner and without in any manner diluting the contents and submissions made in the reply filed thereto and without making it a precedent either in on-going investigations or any other investigation, purely on humanitarian ground, the prosecution agrees if the petitioner is released on regular bail," said the statement read out in the court by Mehta and Additional Solicitor General

Aman Lekhi. Mehta also urged the court to impose certain bail conditions on the accused woman.

Advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, representing Zargar, said she has no difficulty with the statement made by the Solicitor General.

The court made it clear that the order is not passed on merits and it be not treated as precedent.

On Monday, Mehta had sought a day's time to take instructions on the issue.

Delhi Police, in its status report, opposed Zargar's bail plea saying a clear and cogent case has been made out against her as such she is not entitled to bail in view of grave and serious offences which have been meticulously and surreptitiously planned and executed by her.

The police said there is strong, cogent, reliable and sufficient material available proving the direct involvement of Zargar, M Phil student of Jamia Millia Islamia University. **PTI**

## HC gives AAP Govt 4 more weeks to file reply to plea challenging DMC Act

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave the AAP Government four more weeks to indicate its stand on a PIL alleging that the Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) Act was unconstitutional.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan granted the additional time sought by the Delhi government and listed the matter for hearing on July 30.

The high court on May 21 had given the Delhi government time till June 22 to file a reply to the challenge to the constitutionality of the DMC Act.

On Tuesday, the Delhi government counsel sought more time saying law department was functioning at low strength due to COVID-19 pandemic and therefore, the reply could not be finalised.

While granting time to the Delhi government to file its reply, the bench made it clear that the prayer, in the petition, for removal of DMC chairperson Zafarul Islam Khan from his post was dealt with on May 21 and disposed of with a direction to the Delhi government to take a decision within two weeks.

The court said it was now only concerned with the challenge to the constitutional vices of the DMC Act.

Advocate Dhananjai Jain, appearing for petitioner Vikram Gahlot, said the two weeks given by the court were long over and no action has been taken by the Delhi government.

The Delhi government counsel told the bench that Khan's replies, in relation to an

allegedly objectionable social media post by him, have been received by the law department where it is pending consideration.

The Lieutenant Governor had on April 30 directed the administrative department of the Delhi government to initiate action against Khan under Section 4 of DMC Act in connection with the social media post.

The section provides for removal of the DMC chairperson after giving him a proper hearing.

Khan, a social worker, had contended that the Delhi Legislative Assembly did not have the powers to enact the DMC Act and therefore, the statute be declared ultra vires of the Constitution and struck down. **PTI**

## Dengue cases in Capital reach 54

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With twenty fresh cases reported last week, the number of people suffering from dengue in the national Capital has reached 54. Two new cases of malaria also reported in a week, taking the total number to 52 this year.

According to data provided by municipal corporations out of total dengue cases, 20 patients who diagnosed with the disease belong to Delhi while 23 patients traced here were from different states and other 11 patients did not provide their address.

Meanwhile, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 8312 households in Delhi and 7715 legal notices have been issued this year, according to data released by the South

Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC). The dengue breeding checkers have checked 6270989 houses and also issued challans to 90 numbers of office and residential premises till June 21.

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

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mosquito thrive even in dirty water. Doctors have advised people to take precautions and ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae around them.

## 2 held for firing at man in Shaheen Bagh over rent

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly opening fire at a man after a quarrel broke out between them over non-payment of rent in southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh area.

Police said that the incident, which took place on Sunday, was a result of an ongoing dispute between Faizan Ali, who is a landlord, and his tenant Mohsin over non-payment of rent, they said.

Faizan Ali's two sons Shadiyab Ali and Faizyab Ali and their friends and Mohsin's four friends and a brother were also involved during the scuffle, police said.

One of Mohsin's friends, identified as Mussamin, was injured after Faizyab Ali allegedly opened fire at him, police added.

Police said that the landlord's son, Shadiyab Ali, and his associate, identified as Saif

(20), were arrested for their alleged involvement in the scuffle from their residence on Monday, while other accused are absconding.

According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, the incident took place at a house in Nai Basti, Abul Fazal Enclave in southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh area.

"Mohsin had been staying on rent at their flat for about two years and since last three-four months, he had not been paying the rent. The exact amount of pending rent was not known," said the DCP.

"Around 8 pm on Sunday, Faizan Ali's two daughters went to meet Mohsin at the rented flat and told him to either clear the rent or vacate the room. On this, Mohsin called his friends and a brother. In the meantime, the landlord's two sons Shadiyab Ali and Faizyab Ali, who is absconding, along with their

friend Saif also reached there," said the DCP.

"During a heated argument, a scuffle broke out between the two parties, in which, Faizyab Ali, who had a country-made pistol, opened fire at Mussamin," said the DCP.

Mussamin was taken to Holy Family Hospital for treatment and his condition is stable, he said.

An FIR was registered under section 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (acts done by several people in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 27 of the Arms Act, the DCP added.

While accused Shadiyab Ali is a graduate in Hotel Management, his associate Saif is a first year student of pharmacy, police said, adding that both of them have no previous involvements. Police is trying to trace the other absconding accused.

## City to get new mayors for three civic bodies today

New Delhi: The mayoral elections for the three municipal corporations in Delhi are slated to be held on Wednesday, officials said.

However, the exercise will be a mere formality, as the three BJP candidates for the posts of mayors and deputy mayors are set to be elected unopposed.

Jai Prakash (North Delhi), Nirmal Jain (East Delhi), Anamika Mithlesh (South Delhi) are the candidates for the mayoral posts of the three corporations.

This is perhaps the first time when the mayoral elections for three civic bodies NDMC, SDMC and EDMC, would be held on the same day. Prakash is currently the chairman of the standing committee of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

The last date to file nominations for the elections was June 17.

For a new South Delhi mayor the exercise will take place in the morning, for North Delhi mayor in the afternoon and then for East Delhi mayor.

All safety protocols will be followed, a senior civic official said.

Seats in the main House have been marked to signify social distancing and media-persons shall sit in the visitors' gallery, the official said. **PTI**

## WCD Min conducts surprise inspection of all shelter homes



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Women and Child Development Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam conducted a surprise inspection of all shelter homes and observational homes on Tuesday.

During inspection, the minister found that children are getting good facilities in all the homes. Special attention is being given towards cleanliness.

"Isolation ward was also made in Nari Niketan, where 13 girls are being kept now," the government said in a statement.

"The Children's Home for Girls currently houses 90 girls. Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam said "To ensure that incidents like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar don't happen, regular checks and surprise inspections, is mandatory in all the institutions. Strict instructions have been issued to all senior officers to keep strong vigilance on anyone

coming inside the home, especially males," the minister said.

Gautam also said "I am very happy to see that children are making such a huge contribution in fighting this pandemic. They are making masks for our Corona warriors such as our police personnel and BSF jawans who are at the frontline in our fight against COVID-19. They are also making good quality surgical masks for corona warriors."

"The children living in our shelters are provided with a home-like atmosphere by the Delhi government. Their health, hygiene, food and entertainment all are being taken care of by the staff," he added.

The cabinet minister also inspected the quality of food in all the homes. He tasted the food and found the quality up to the mark. Overall, the minister was satisfied with all the arrangements in the shelter homes, it said.

## Man held for planning to kill wife's paramour

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 36-year-old man for allegedly planning to kill a person whom he suspected to have a relationship with his wife and held him responsible for his spouse leaving him.

The accused has been identified as Raj Kumar, a resident of Najafgarh. Police said that Rajkumar is found previously involved in several criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder, robbery, car-jacking, Excise Act, in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (UP).

According to Anto Alphonse, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka, on Sunday, information was received that Rajkumar will come to meet his associate at Vipin Garden around 4 pm. Later, a trap was laid and he was apprehended at 4.05 pm.

"Interrogation revealed that Rajkumar

had strained relationship with his wife who left him in January. He suspected his wife of having a relationship with one Sachin Dahiya. Rajkumar held Dahiya responsible for his wife deserting him," the DCP said.

"He planned to kill Dahiya and roped in Joginder, Sandeep, Naveen and his brother Pradeep. Jaggu procured weapon for them and a car was robbed from Rohtak in Haryana," said the DCP.

"Before executing their plan, a quarrel took place between Jaggu and others, in which he was killed on February 14 in Najafgarh area. Sandeep and Pradeep were already arrested in this case, but Raj Kumar and Naveen were absconding," said the DCP.

"Police has recovered one country-made pistol and one live cartridge from the possession of the accused," the DCP added.

## Cop welcomed by colleagues after recovering from virus

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Tuesday welcomed Madhu Vihar SHO Rajeev Kumar after he recovered from COVID-19 infection, officials said.

He was received at the police station by Assistant Sub-Inspector, Madhu Vihar, Vijay Kumar, along with other staff members, they said.

A red carpet was placed at the entrance of the police station and 'dhols' were beaten to welcome Inspector Raveev as he reported for duty, the officials said.

The flower members then presented him staff bouquets and garlands, they said.

According to police, Kumar had tested COVID-19 positive on May 27, after getting exposed to the virus at a screening centre in west Vinod Nagar.

gave sample which came positive for the virus on May 27. I was in home quarantine and have joined my duty today," Rajeev told PTI.

Later, the SHO tweeted: "#life brings #tears, #smiles, and #memories: the tears dry, the smile fades, but the memories #Live on #Forever. Today I joined the duty along with 5 other #CoronaWarriors of PS #MadhuVihar defeating #coronavirus."

Total 10 staff members — one inspector, three assistant sub-inspectors, three head constables, two constables and one-woman constable — of Madhu Vihar police station had tested for the virus.

Out of them, seven joined duty on Tuesday and three others — one ASI and two head constables — are yet to resume their duties, a senior police officer said. **PTI**

# Covid, LAC crisis result of Govt's mishandling: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Noting that the people have upped the ante against the Narendra Modi Government over his grave mishandling of economic, social and security aspects of the country, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said that while the future is yet to unfold, she hoped that mature diplomacy and decisive leadership will guide Centre's actions in protecting the country's economic, social and territorial integrity.

At the virtual Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, Sonia also noted that the mismanagement of the pandemic will be recorded as one of the most disastrous failures of the Modi Government. Sonia held Modi and team mismanagement responsible for the widespread misery, fear, and danger to the security and territorial integrity of the country.

While former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who has been taking on Modi every-

day, again hit out at Prime Minister over the India-China face-off, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh echoed the party's view on China saying that the situation can turn serious if not tackled properly.

"The pandemic is not being tackled with the courage and magnitude and effort needed to tackle the crisis. Another instance is the crisis on the border, which if not tackled firmly, can lead to a serious situation. I also endorse Soniaji's remarks," Singh, who had attacked the Centre a day earlier on the China LAC crisis, said.

Rahul said that PM Modi destroyed our position, "betrayed our Army" by accepting China's stand that they occupied no Indian land.

Sonia highlighted the issues pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economy, saying "Misfortunes do not come singly."

"India has been hit by a terrible economic crisis, a pandemic of huge proportions and, now, by a full-blown crisis on the borders with China.

## Sonia, Rahul plotting to bring down forces' morale: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Making a pincer attack against top Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, the BJP on Tuesday accused them of engaging in a "conspiracy" to bring down the morale of the armed forces even as the country "stands unitedly" against Chinese moves on the Line of Control (LAC).

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that "not a single inch" of land has been surrendered, BJP national spokesman Sambit Patra said "I want to make it clear that while India has not surrendered even one inch of"

land on the border, Congress has surrendered its shame."

"It is very unfortunate", Patra went on to add. BJP spokesperson said Congress has been "chanting" every morning about surrender of land by India when China has "not seized our land". He was quick to remind the Congress that "there are legacy issues like surrender of 43,000 Sqkm of land to China during Congress rule."

"You are very bitter, why does Congress derive a sadistic pleasure in saying that Indian army has surrendered, PM is weak and surrendering... Congress is feeling sadistic pleasure... it is a conspiracy", charged Patra and went

hammer and tongs to attack Sonia and Rahul.

"ek Hindi serial hain Sas, bahu aur sajjish..", he said referring to a popular Hindi television soap portraying family drama and then went on comparing that with the 10, Janpath, saying "Ma, beta aur sajjish... ma, beta aur China". Patra said the current stance of Congress is an attempt to "relaunch the falling career of Crown prince Rahul" by encashing what Congress leaders keep repeating as "unfortunate developments".

BJP spokesperson also quoted late Arun Jaitley as calling Rahul a "clown prince".

On Congress Working

Committee's comment that "misfortune do not come singly", Patra said "Soniaji, Congress plays politics on misfortunes, you attacked Prime Minister on Coronavirus pandemic and on China...you are breaking morale of coronavirus warriors like you are doing of army personnel", he alleged and asked whether "surrender of 43,000 sqkm land to China was not a misfortune?"

He accused the Congress president of "playing politics on National Security".

BJP leader said post-corona Modi-Government's economic package was 10 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product.

2020. Instead of a resolution, the situation deteriorated rapidly and there were violent clashes on June 15-16," said the Congress president, remarking that the prime minister was called out when he announced that "no one had intruded into Indian territory in Ladakh".

After the BJP accused Congress of politicising the LAC issue following responses by senior party leaders including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the Congress chief said, "On matters of national security and territorial integrity, the nation has always stood together and this time too, there is no second opinion. The Congress party was the first to offer its total support to the Armed Forces and the Government."

She also attacked the Government over the increase in prices of petrol and diesel, saying it had added insult to injury by raising the petroleum rates for 17 consecutive days at a time when world prices of crude have fallen.

"The result is that a sliding economy is now hurtling towards a recession for the first time in 42 years," she said, adding that this would lead to high unemployment, falling incomes and wages, and lower investment.

Criticising the Government's handling of the pandemic, Sonia Gandhi said that within weeks of the imposition of the lockdown, it was apparent that the government was totally unprepared to manage its fallout.

"The result was the greatest humanitarian crisis witnessed since 1947-48. Millions of migrant or guest workers, daily wage earners and self-employed were devastated. 130 million jobs are estimated to have been lost. Crores of MSMEs have been shut, perhaps forever," she said.

"The promised 'peak' is nowhere in sight. The Centre has passed the buck to the state governments, but given them zero extra finances. Actually, the people have been left to protect themselves as best as possible," Sonia said.

## 44% of 62 new RS MPs facing charges, says ADR survey



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Tuesday said that around 44 per cent of the 62 Rajya Sabha members elected this year have different criminal cases registered against them, including 11 (18 per cent) who are accused of serious crimes like murder, attempt to murder, rape, dacoity and theft and are connected to leading parties like the BJP, Congress, NCP, YSRCP and TMC.

Of the 62 MPs, 16 (26 per cent) have declared other criminal cases against themselves, 11 MPs facing serious charges, one has declared a case of murder against him, two have declared attempt-to-murder cases, and three face cases of crimes against women. Out of these three MPs, one has declared rape charge against him.

The ADR has analysed the self-declared affidavits of 62 newly elected Rajya Sabha members. Those with criminal cases include two (11 per cent) out of 18 BJP MPs, three (33 per cent) of the nine Congress MPs, two (100 per cent) of the 2 Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MPs, two (50 per cent) of four YSRCP MPs, one MP each from AITC (25 per cent), BJD (25 per cent), DMK (33 per cent), RJD (50 per cent), JDU (50 per cent), RPI-A (100 per cent) and Independent (100 per cent).

Those facing criminal charges state-wise are four of the seven (57 per cent) MPs from Maharashtra, two out of

5 (40 per cent) MPs from Bihar, one out of six (17 per cent) MPs from Tamil Nadu, one out of five (20 per cent) MPs from West Bengal, two out of four (50 per cent) from Andhra Pradesh and one out of four (25 per cent) MPs from Gujarat.

The figures for other states are: One out of four (25 per cent) MPs from Odisha, one out of three (33 per cent) MPs from Madhya Pradesh, one out of three (33 per cent) MPs from Assam, one out of three (33 per cent) MPs from Rajasthan, and one out of two (50 per cent) MPs from Jharkhand.

Out of the 62 newly elected MPs, 52 (84 per cent) are crorepatris. Alla Aayodhya Rami Reddy of the YSR Congress with assets valued at ₹25,77,75,79,180 is the richest.

Parimal Nathwani of the YSR Congress with assets valued at ₹3,96,83,96,198 is the second richest, while Jyotiraditya Scindia of the BJP with assets valued at Rs 3,79,03,29,144 is the third richest.

Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba of the BJP has the least assets pegged at Rs 5,48,594. Ashok Gasti of the BJP with assets of Rs 19,40,048 is the second-lowest in the list, while Arpita Ghosh of the TMC with assets totalling ₹23,89,913 is the third-lowest.

As many as 30 (48 per cent) MPs are aged between 31 and 60 while 32 (52 per cent) MPs are aged between 61 and 90.

The oldest MP is Janata Dal-Secular leader from Karnataka and former Prime Minister H.D. Devegowda at 87. The youngest MP is Mausam Noor, aged 40, from West Bengal. Out of the 62 newly elected MPs, only 8 (13 per cent) are women.

## Biologists to study lockdown impact on fauna

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Unusually-reduced human mobility triggered by Covid-19 pandemic is prompting the wildlife world into behaving unusually: like lions prowling on the streets in Gujarat or dolphins showing up on the harbour of Trieste, Italy.

Now, wildlife biologists will keep a track on their movements, behaviour and stress levels, before, during and after the Coronavirus-induced lockdown with the aid of electronic gadget biologists to be attached on them.

Global wildlife biologists have joined hands to form the "Covid-19 Bio-Logging Initiative" to investigate and integrate results from a wide variety of animals, including

fish, birds and mammals, in an attempt to build a global picture of lockdown effects.

In an article published in Nature Ecology & Evolution, the biologist noted that in some areas, there not only seem to be more animals than usual, but there are also some surprising visitors like lions have been spotted prowling the streets and dolphins recently showed up in untypically calm waters in the harbour of Trieste, Italy.

"For other species, the pandemic may have created new challenges. For example, some urban-dwelling animals, like gulls, rats or monkeys, may struggle to make ends meet without access to human food."

The article's lead author, Professor Christian Rutz, a

biologist at the University of St Andrews, UK, and President of the International Bio-Logging Society, explained: "All over the world, field biologists have fitted animals with miniature tracking devices. These biologists provide a goldmine of information on animal movement and behaviour, which we can now tap to improve our understanding of human-wildlife interactions, with benefits for all."

Dr Francesca Cagnacci, Senior Researcher at the Edmund Mach Foundation in Trento, Italy, and Principal Investigator of the Euromammals research network, says: "The international research community responded quickly to our recent call for collaboration, offering over

200 datasets for analysis."

So, what do the scientists hope to learn? Dr Matthias-Claudio Loretto, a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior in Radolfzell, Germany, explains that it will be possible to address previously intractable questions: "We will be able to investigate if the movements of animals in modern landscapes are predominantly affected by built structures, or by the presence of humans. That is a big deal."

These insights will in turn inspire innovative proposals for improving human-wildlife coexistence, according to Professor Martin Wikelski, Director of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior in Radolfzell, Germany.

## ED conducts searches at multiple locations of suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations, including at the premises of suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, in a money laundering probe relating to the Delhi riots earlier this year.

Officials said at least six premises in the national capital and adjoining Noida and few other locations in the national capital region were searched during the day.

The searches were conducted in order to gather additional evidence in the case, they said.

In March, the agency had booked suspended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Hussain, Islamist group Popular Front of India (PFI) and some others on charges of money laundering and alleged funding of the riots here in February.

Offices of Hussain located in Northeast Delhi were also searched by the ED. The agency is probing the allegation that Hussain and persons linked to him laundered about ₹1.10 crore, by using purported shell or dummy companies, to fuel the anti-CAA protests and the subsequent riots.

The Delhi Police last week had filed two charge sheets against Hussain in a case related to communal violence during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in Northeast Delhi in February and another in the murder case of Intelligence Bureau (IB) official Ankit Sharma.

The ED filed the PMLA cases after taking cognisance of the Delhi police FIRs against Hussain who is also facing charges under the stringent anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Communal clashes broke out in Northeast Delhi on February 24 after clashes between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 others injured.

The PFI is also under the scanner of the ED for alleged money laundering during the riots.

The PFI is also facing another PMLA case for allegedly routing about ₹120 crore to fuel anti-CAA riots in the country and the agency has questioned about half-a-dozen office bearers of the outfit.

## India has one Covid-19 death per lakh population

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

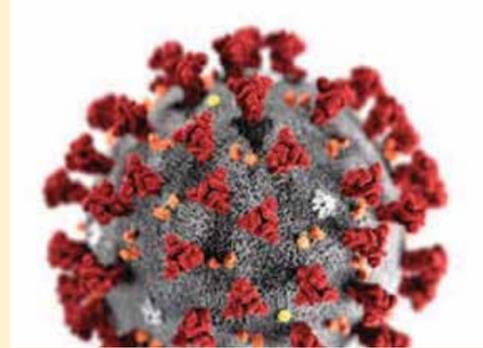
As against the global average of 6.04, India has one Covid-19 death per lakh population, which is one of the lowest mortality rates in the world, the Union Health Ministry claimed on Tuesday attributing it to timely detection of cases, extensive contact tracing and effective clinical management.

Citing the WHO Situation Report 154 dated June 22, the Ministry said the United Kingdom has registered 63.13 coronavirus-related fatalities per lakh population, while in Spain it is 60.60, Italy 57.19, the US 36.30, Germany 27.32, Brazil 23.68 and Russia 5.62. Till date, 14,011 people have died in India due to the viral infection.

The total number of coronavirus cases in India has crossed 4.50 lakh mark with over 2.50 lakh already recovered from the infection.

On Monday, the Government had pointed out that the rate of Covid-19 cases per 1,00,000 people in India is "one of the lowest" in the world despite the high population density, and the recovery rate has now reached almost 56 per cent.

An official from the Ministry said that for every



one 1,00,000 population, there are 30.04 coronavirus cases in India, while the global average is over three times at 114.67, the ministry said.

"This low figure is thus a testimony to the graded, pre-emptive and pro-active approach the Government along with the states and UTs took for prevention, containment and management of

COVID-19," the officer added.

He said Russia has 400.82 cases per 1,00,000 people, while Italy, Canada, Iran and Turkey have 393.52, 268.98, 242.82 and 223.53, respectively.

"The difference between the recovered patients and the active COVID-19 cases continues to widen. Today, the number of recovered patients has crossed the number of active patients by 62,808," the ministry added.

The Covid-19 testing infrastructure is "continuously being ramped up" and number of government labs has been increased to 723 and the private labs to 262, adding up to a total of 985, it said.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, the samples tested in the last 24 hours has further increased to 1,87,223. The total number tested, as on date, is 71,37,716.



BJP president JP Nadra pays tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his death anniversary. Pioneer photo

## Muslims from India will not travel to Saudi Arabia for Haj 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time since Independence, Muslims from India will not travel to Saudi Arabia for Haj 2020 after the kingdom conveyed that pilgrims should not be sent this year in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The Centre will refund the entire amount of Haj applicants through direct benefit transfer mode.

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced the decision on Tuesday after Saudi Arabia's Haj and Umrah Minister Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benteleed telephoned him on Monday and suggested not to send pilgrims from India for Haj this year.

Saudi Arabia said it has barred international visitors from making the Islamic pilgrimage, in a bid to control the coronavirus pandemic.

Naqvi said 2,13,000 applications had been received for Haj 2020 and the process to refund the full amount of money deposited by the applicants without any deduction has been started immediately.

The money will be refunded through online Direct Benefit Transfer mode into bank accounts of applicants, he said.

More than 2,300 women had applied to perform Haj without mehram (male companion) this year and now they will be allowed to go for Haj in 2021 on the basis of their application this year. Besides them, more women, who apply to go for Haj without Mehram next year, will also be facilitated, he said.

A total of 3,040 women have performed Haj after the Narendra Modi Government ensured that Muslim women can perform Haj without mehram in 2018, Naqvi said, adding that a total of 2 lakh Indian Muslims had performed Haj in 2019, about 50 per cent of them being women.

In a statement, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Haj and Umrah said that due to coronavirus pandemic and the risks of it spreading in crowded spaces and large gatherings, it has been decided that Haj for this year will be held whereby a "very limited number"

of pilgrims from various nationalities who already reside in Saudi Arabia, would be able to perform it.

"This decision is taken to ensure Haj is performed in a safe manner from a public health perspective while observing all preventative measures and the necessary social distancing protocols," the statement said.

Naqvi said honouring the decision of the Saudi government because of serious challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and keeping in mind the health and well-being of the people, it was decided that Muslims from India will not go to Saudi Arabia to perform Haj this year.

The entire world is facing challenges from the coronavirus pandemic and Saudi Arabia has also been affected by it, he noted.

Haj 2020 is proposed in the period between late July and early August.

The Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam which every Muslim is required to complete at least once in their lifetime if they are healthy enough and have the means to do so.

हरियाणा सरकार						
TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	33KV SIMPLEX FEEDER C&R PANEL + 1 OTHER WORK	22.06.2020 21.07.2020	EMD 0.54 LACS	https://www.hvpng.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpng.org.in
2	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NARNAUL	DE-SILTING OF 10" I/D PIPE IN SECTOR-1, PART-I & II. IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NARNAUL	29.06.2020	12.00 Lacs	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgep/app	9999740089 eemcnarnaul@gmail.com
3	H.S.A.M. BOARD PANCHKULA	ANNUAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS PROPERTIES IN NGM/NVM SEC.-20, PANCHKULA FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 + 12 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 06.07.2020	EMD 1.06 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2971280 xenpanchkula.hsamb@gmail.com
4	H.S.A.M. BOARD PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF MINI SOIL TESTING LABORATORY IN NGM/NVM AT BARWALA IN DISTT. PANCHKULA + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 30.06.2020	EMD 38312/-	etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2971280 xenpanchkula.hsamb@gmail.com
5	THE ROHTAK CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD. ROHTAK, A UNIT OF HDCC LTD.	1. HIRING OF ROUTE VEHICLE (PICK-UP) FOR 1.5 KL MILK 2. TATA 407 OR EQUIVALENT CHASIS FOR 2.5 KL MILK BARREL	24.06.2020 13.07.2020	50000/- each	www.vitalindia.org.in	vitatorhtak@gmail.com
6	HARYANA LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD PANCHKULA	PURCHASE OF NATURAL PGF2 ALPHA FOR VETERINARY USE	22.06.2020 09.07.2020	EMD 1.20 LACS	http://pashudhanharyana.gov.in	9416172558 hldb@hry.nic.in
7	H.F.D.C., HISAR	PURCHASE OF MATERIAL AND LABOUR WORKS FOR MANUFACTURING OF RCC FENCING POST (PILLAR) COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS	22.06.2020 29.06.2020	85.25 LACS	hfcd.gov.in	9416067122
8	HFDC, AMBALA	CARRYING OUT OF VARIOUS LOGGING OPERATIONS AND ALL RELATED WORKS AS PER SCHEDULE OF RATES (S.O.R.) IN AMBALA DISTRICT AND NEIGHBOURING STATES OF HARYANA	20.06.2020 27.06.2020	45 LACS	www.hfcd.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@hfcd.gov.in
9	HFDC, AMBALA	CARRYING OUT OF VARIOUS LOGGING OPERATIONS AND ALL RELATED WORKS AS PER SCHEDULE OF RATES (S.O.R.) IN PANCHKULA DISTRICT AND NEIGHBOURING STATES OF HARYANA	20.06.2020 27.06.2020	35 LACS	www.hfcd.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@hfcd.gov.in
10	HGPCI, PANIPAT	(MIT NO.PTP/POM-100023)	17.06.2020 16.07.2020	24.85 LACS	www.hgpci.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
11	HSAM BOARD, BHIWANI	CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM VILLAGE BARDU DHIRJA UP TO NAVODYA SCHOOL IN LOHARU CONSTITUENCY DISTT. BHIWANI (ID-9939).	CLOSING DATE 02.07.2020	85.62 LACS	http://etender.hry.nic.in	eebhiwani.hsamb@gmail.com

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# 2,516 test +ve, 39 die of virus in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

**Out of the 39 persons who breathed their last on Tuesday, 36 patients died with co-morbid conditions while three died without any co-morbid issues**

2,516 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday and 39 persons succumbed to the pandemic on a single day, according to the medical bulletin issued by the Government.

While the death rate did not give any signs of the pandemic coming down, there has been some decrease in the number of persons testing positive. On Monday, 2,710 had been diagnosed with the virus disease.

As on Tuesday evening, there were 25,428 covid patients in the State while the number of cases diagnosed with the pandemic till date

stood at 64,603. Death toll reached 833. The State continued its leadership in aggressive testing all over the State through 87 laboratories spread across Tamil Nadu.

Out of the 39 persons who breathed their last on Tuesday, 36 patients died with co-morbid conditions while three died without any co-morbid issues.

Chennai had 1,380 cases while Chengalpattu tested 146

positive cases. Kancheepuram had 56 cases while Tiruvallur tested 156 cases. These four districts have been shut down till June 30.

Madurai City and surrounding village panchayaths are being locked down from early Wednesday morning for the next seven days.

Chennai and the neighbouring districts continued to be like ghost cities as police is keeping a close watch on the vehicles and persons venturing out. Because of tight vigil along the district borders, vehicular traffic has come to almost a standstill.

Chennai had 1,380 cases while Chengalpattu tested 146

## UP Opp leader tests positive for Covid-19

**Lucknow:** Leader of Opposition in Uttar Pradesh Assembly and senior Samajwadi Party leader Ram Govind Chaudhary has tested positive for Coronavirus.

Chaudhary (67) is the second SP leader to test coronavirus positive. Former MP Dharmendra Yadav had tested corona positive earlier this month and he has fully recovered now.

According to sources close to the leader, he had been suffering from fever since the past two days and had been admitted to Medanta hospital where his sample testing was done.

After the results showed him corona positive, the SP leader was shifted to the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) on Tuesday morning.

## Situation grave in Kerala, Vijayan asks people to put on masks also at home

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Situation in Kerala is serious according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday. The State on Tuesday diagnosed 141 persons with Covid-19, the highest number to be tested positive on a single day since the coronavirus case was first detected in Kerala for the first time on January 30.

A grim faced Chief Minister told journalists in his daily press briefing that the State has been testing more than 100 positive cases every day for the last five days. "On Friday we tested 118 positive cases, Saturday saw 127 cases, on Sunday there were 133 cases while on Monday the numbers touched 138. Today a person succumbed to coronavirus at Kollam," said the Chief Minister.

State is experiencing a new phenomenon. "There are many instances of persons getting infected with covid-19 without showing any symptoms," he said.

Out of the 141 persons diagnosed with the pandemic on Tuesday, 79 were expatriates while 52 were those who reached from other places in the country. There were nine cases of infection through community transmission, said the Chief Minister. It was also announced by the Chief Minister that there were 111 hotspots in the State.

The Chief Minister also disclosed that till Tuesday, 3,459 persons have been diagnosed with Covid in the State. "There are 1,620 persons under treatment in hospitals. Today, 275 persons have been admitted to hospitals in the State," said the Chief Minister.

Vijayan took on former Chief Minister Oommen Chandi who on Monday had announced that only 0.85 per cent of the expatriates who returned to the State had been diagnosed with the pandemic. "95 per cent of the persons who were tested positive for the pandemic were expatriates who reached Kerala during June 15 to 22. Asymptomatic cases are on the increase in the State," said the Chief Minister.

Taken aback by the spurt in the number of covid cases in the State, the Chief Minister asked the people in Kerala to observe social distancing inside their houses also.

"Please be under the impression that we are all vulnerable to this disease and wear face masks even when you are inside your house," said the Chief Minister.

## UP to set up Covid help desks across State: Yogi

IANS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to set up Covid-19 help desks in every police station, hospital, revenue office, development block in the state.

The Covid-19 help desks will remain functional from morning to evening. According to a government spokesman, the help desks will provide all possible information related to the pandemic and help people.

The chief minister has asked officials to submit a list of help desks to him at the earliest. Chief Medical Officers (CMO) in every district have been asked to cooperate in setting up the help desks.

## Our cadre will pay back in same coin: Bengal BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Monday made a high-pitch justification for his "Badla" (revenge) politics iterating those who preach Ahimsa (non-violence) practising the opposite in real life are cowards and deserve revenge.

"Those who peddle non-violence but practise violence are cowards and deserve to be taught a lesson. The BJP cadres are not cowards and know how to give back," he said alleging how his party men were being murdered by the ruling Trinamool Congress goons with the police looking the other way.

"My policy is simple. You talk sweet and I will hug you but if you come raising your fist I will give it back..." he said. "What do the perpetrators of violence expect from us... Ahimsa!" he asked without

referring to the TMC cadres. "My simple theory is that — if you come to me with a sword then I will also receive you with many more swords," he said.

Ghosh's statement coincided with a police complaint lodged in East Midnapore by local TMC MP Dibyendu Adhikary who alleged receiving life threats. Adhikary is the younger brother of high-profile Bengal Minister and former MP Subhendu Adhikary who has been Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's spearhead during the Nandigram movement that eventually saw the back of the CPI(M) in Bengal.

A senior TMC leader on Monday said that "Dibyendu Adhikary has received two threats on Sunday and FIR has been lodged with the police. Let the police taken further action."

Police brass remained tightlipped on whether Ghosh's

statement on "badla" politics — that came after one of his party men was killed by alleged TMC goons at Danton in West Midnapore district — were related but said investigation was on.

Another senior State BJP leader Sayantan Basu on Saturday had told a crowd at Danton — where his party had taken out a procession with the corpse of the slain worker — that the way the police are behaving and the way the police stations have been turned into TMC party offices the people will burnt them down.

Back in Kolkata Ghosh said that the State elections were not far away adding Bengal was definitely going to see a political change following which revenge will be taken on the perpetrators of violence.

"When the TMC came to power they said there will only

be Badal (change) and no Badla but they started taking Badla on the political opponents (read the CPI-M)" and even crossed the Marxists in the art of perpetrating violence, he said adding his party however was declaring it from the very beginning that "there will definitely be a Badal after with there will be a Badla."

Alleging that every day the TMC goons were attacking the BJP workers, "torching their houses, occupying their lands, killing their cadres, emptying their mothers' laps," he said "do you think this will go unpunished... do you think that the victims' families will forget this. They will not. The TMC spoke of Badal but conducted Badla but I speak of both Badal and Badla when we come to power."

The Trinamool leadership however gave a measured comment on the issue even as

senior party leader Partho Chatterjee said "I will not comment on this issue as we believe in non-violence. I think the people are listening to things and finally they will reject violence."

CPI(M) State Legislature Party Leader and central committee member Sujay Chakrabarty dismissed Ghosh's statement as "a desperate attempt to remain in the media. They have no issues. They have no agenda. They have programme. They only have these talks of violence to do," he said adding "many of those planners of violence in the TMC are today in the BJP."

State Congress president Somen Mitra said "Everyone knows who killed Mahatma Gandhi. Everyone knows the ideology they preach. Only those who believe in such ideology that killed Gandhi can talk like this."

## Kerala fraudster using DRDO's fake ID card held

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A ninth-class dropout fraudster cheating people promising them jobs and offering transfer to Government employees has been taken into custody by the Kerala Police and he is cooling his heels in Kozhikode prison.

The shocking news is that Arun Raveendranath (36) hailing from Kottayam district in Kerala has been using a fake identity card belonging to the high security and elite Defence Research And Development Organisation (DRDO) for the last five years.

Since he was flashing the identity card of the DRDO, the gullible victims did not think twice when he approached the, with offers of job placement

and transfer to the places of their choice.

But his luck ran out in the last week of May when his in-laws approached the DRDO with complaints that Arun, who had married their daughter taking a hefty amount and jewellery as dowry had discarded his wife and has been missing for months.

The DRDO officials were taken aback when they found that there was nobody by that name in any of the offices or laboratories of the establishment and they have not issued an identity card bearing that name and number.

The DRDO also intimated the Kerala Police which took Arun into custody and on questioning he spilled the beans about his modus

operandi.

The DRDO card had helped him to open new avenues like friendship with union ministers and leaders of the party in power in Delhi as well as in Kerala.

Since the issue was related to the sensitive DRDO, the officials of the country's premier research institute too grilled Arun for hours and collected the details of his victims as well as style of operation.

The Police was in for a shock when it came across many letter heads of the UPSC bearing seals and purportedly written and signed by Arun informing candidates that they have been selected for interviews for posts advertised by the Commission.

## 'Bacchus club' in high spirits in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir administration may have suddenly developed a cold feet over the issue of opening new liquor sale points especially across Kashmir valley but statistics reveal a totally different picture.

If figures tabulated by the Excise department are any indication, the 'bacchus club' is merrily singing 'bottoms up' in high spirits inside the cozy interiors of plush hotel bars, private parties and other social gatherings, recording an upward trend in the consumption of liquor. During the last one decade the sale of liquor bottles has recorded a jump of 4.5 crore bottles in Jammu & Kashmir.

As compared to the sale of 3.17 crore liquor bottles in 2008-09, the year 2018-19 recorded sale of 7.67 crore liquor bottles of all varieties. The total revenue collection from the sale of liquor has also increased from 245.48 crores in 2008-09 to 1274 crores in 2018-19 in Jammu & Kashmir, a jump of 1029 crores. However, the current data for the fiscal year 2019-20 was not available.

In 2017-18, the total revenue collection from sale of 5.9

crore liquor bottles stood at 845.83 crores and in the next fiscal it recorded a jump of 429 cores thereby earning a total excise revenue of 1274.49 crores.

Interestingly, last week when the Excise department sought approval from the Finance Department to open new liquor vends across Jammu & Kashmir several Kashmir based organisations, civil society activists, religious scholars reacted angrily and opposed the move tooth and nail.

According to the proposal mooted by the Excise department, a total number of 183 new locations, 116 in Jammu and 67 in the Kashmir valley were identified for sale of liquor. At present, licences have been issued to 164 wine shops, 152 Bars with restaurants, 43 Bar with Hotel and 13 Bar with Hotel and Banquet in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following hue and cry, the officials of the Jammu & Kashmir administration buckled under the pressure and hurriedly issued a clarification which clearly stated, "the Finance department has not taken any policy decision regarding issuance of fresh liquor licences in unserved areas.

## Outrage in TN after father-son duo killed in police custody

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Police which had earned good reputation over the last four months through committed service put up by its personnel found itself in the eye of a storm on Tuesday following the death of two traders who were taken into custody in the night of June 19.

P Jeyaraaj (63) a timber trader of Sathankulam in Thoothukudi district was taken into custody by the police late Friday night for not downing the shutters of his shop even after the customary deadline of 9 pm.

He was taken to the police station while his son J Fenix (31) who owned a mobile phone shop in the town rushed to the police station and protested against detaining of his father.

It is reported that this led to altercation between the father-son duo and the police went berserk and attacked them. Later

in the night, the police remanded both the father and son under sections 188, 269, 294(b), 353 and 506(2) of IPC and shifted them to the sub-jail at Kovilpatti.

Local media quoted sources close to Jeyaraaj saying that they were beaten severely by the cops and this resulted in the death of Fenix. Jeyaraaj who complained of respiratory problems was rushed to Kovilpatti general hospital where he too succumbed without responding to treatment.

The traders in Sattankulam, Kovilpatti and other towns in the district downed the shutters on Tuesday and staged demonstrations condemning the police brutality.

Thoothukudi MP Kanimozhi had urged the district collector Sandeep Nanduri to initiate severe action against the police personnel involved in the alleged attack and recommend suitable compensation for the family members of the deceased.

## Two terrorists killed, one head constable martyred in Pulwama

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A head constable of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), hailing from Solapur in Maharashtra sacrificed his life during a fierce gun fight in which two terrorists were neutralised by the joint teams of security forces in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

Martyred CRPF jawan has been identified as Sunil Kale, a resident of Pangaon village in Barshi tehsil of Solapur district.

According to a police spokesman, "the joint operation was launched by Police, 55 RR and 182 Bn CRPF on the basis of a specific input regarding presence of terrorists in village Bundzoo area of district Pulwama".

During the search operation as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given the opportunity to surrender, however they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists is being ascertained," police spokesman said.

IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar and all ranks of Police and Security Forces paid rich tributes to the brave-heart for his supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

Incriminating material including arms (two AK rifles) and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter.

Police spokesman said, "the dead bodies of the killed terrorists were sent to Handwara for their last rites after conducting medico-legal formalities including collection of their DNA.

## Nearly 3K out of 50K ventilators sanctioned under PM CARES fund

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Tuesday said that nearly 3,000 of the 50,000 'Made in India' ventilators sanctioned under the PM CARES fund to help Covid-19 patients have been manufactured and over 1,300 have been delivered to States like Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat, which are the worst-affected, among others.

The Centre had last month earmarked ₹3,100 crore from the PM CARES Fund for welfare of migrant workers, purchase of ventilators, and developing a Covid-9 vaccine. Of it, nearly ₹2,000 crore was earmarked for the purchase of 50,000 'Made in India' ventilators.

"Out of the 50,000 ventilators, 30,000 ventilators are being manufactured by M/s Bharat Electronics Limited. The remaining 20,000 ventilators are being manufactured by AgVa Healthcare (10000), AMTZ Basic (5650), AMTZ High End (4000) and Allied Medical (350). So far, 2923 ventilators have been manufactured, out of which 1340 ventilators have already been delivered to the States/UTs.

The prominent recipients include Maharashtra (275), Delhi (275), Gujarat

(175), Bihar (100), Karnataka (90), Rajasthan (75).

By the end of June 2020, additional 14,000 ventilators will be delivered to all States/UTs," said the PMO in a statement.

The PMO also said that Rs1000 crore has already been released to States for welfare of migrant labours while ₹100 crore is allotted for vaccine research.

The distribution of the fund is based on the formula of 50% weightage for the population as per 2011 census, 40% weightage for number of positive Covid-19 cases and 10% for equal distribution among all the States/UTs. This assistance is to be used for arranging accommodation, food, medical treatment and transportation of the migrants.

The main recipients of the grant are Maharashtra (181 cr), Uttar Pradesh (103 cr), Tamil Nadu (83 cr), Gujarat (66 cr), Delhi (55 cr), West Bengal (53 cr), Bihar (51 cr), Madhya Pradesh (50 cr), Rajasthan (50 cr) and Karnataka (34 cr)," the PMO stated.

It is learned that the PM CARES Fund, started on March 28, has received donations worth more than ₹10,000 crore from the public and companies in the past 85 days.

## After migrants return in Maha, MNS ups ante on 80% jobs for locals

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) has upped the ante on jobs on "sons-of-the-soil", by asserting that all migrants wanting to return to the State for work should register themselves under the Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 and that 80 per cent preference be given to locals in jobs that will be created in the state in the coming months.

Within weeks after the migrants returned to their state from Maharashtra, the MNS sought to set ground rules for the migrants, a majority of whom will return to the State after the lockdown is lifted fully.

A delegation of MNS, led by party's senior Bal Nandgaonkar and the MNS chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray, met Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Monday and

submitted a memorandum demanding among other things that 80 per cent preference be given to locals in jobs and the need for migrants' registration under the Inter-state Migrant Workmen Act, 1979.

In its memorandum, the MNS stated: "During the recent lockdown triggered by the spread of Coronavirus, thousands of migrants from different parts of the state were stranded in Maharashtra. They showed a lot of anxiety to return to their respective states. Since they had not registered themselves with the Maharashtra government, the migrant workers faced a lot of difficulties while returning to their respective states."

"If it had registered migrant workers for various jobs in the state and if it had all the details about the migrants working in the state, the Maharashtra government would have planned in systematic manner the return of the migrant workers to their respective states," the MNS



A delegation of MNS, led by party's senior Bal Nandgaonkar and the MNS chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray, submitting a memorandum to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on Monday seeking 80 per cent preference be given to locals in jobs

stated. "Now we are reading reports about the migrants, who had gone back to their states, have begun to return to Maharashtra. This is the time when we can correct our earlier mistakes," the MNS said.

"In cities like Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad, the authorities are finding it difficult to contain the spread of Coronavirus. It is a fact that these

cities cannot handle additional population. Given that the industries are closing down in the state, there is a dire need for jobs to the unemployed local people," the MNS stated.

"...Hence it is essential for the Maharashtra government to collect data about the migrants returning to the state for jobs. For the purpose, it should be mandatory for the migrants to register themselves under Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. Simultaneously, keeping in view of closure of industrial units and resultant unemployment, it is essential for the state government to give 80 per cent preference in jobs to locals," the MNS added.

Apart from Nandgaonkar and Amit Thackeray, the others present in the delegation that met the Governor included party's general secretary Shalini Thackeray and MLA Pramod (Raju) Ratan Patil.

## Maha declares Tillari forest area as conservation reserve

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that nature lovers in the State will rejoice, the Maharashtra Government on Tuesday declared 29.53-sq km Tillari forest area in Sawantwadi division of Sindhudurg district in coastal Konkan region as a Conservation Reserve.

In line with an announcement made to this effect by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray who is wildlife photographer himself, the State Revenue and Forest department came out with a notification declaring the Tillari forest area in Sawantwadi division as a Conservation Reserve.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said: "While undertaking development initiative, we cannot ignore wildlife and biodiversity. Development, wildlife protection and tribal welfare should go hand in hand. We will continue pri-

ority to biodiversity in the state" Uddhav said that an experts' committee would be set up for management of the 29.53-sq km area in Tillari which will be the first conservation reserve in Sindhudurg district.

"Among other things, the Tillari Conservation Reserve will generate employment for locals in the areas, the release stated.

Maharashtra is home to 62 conservation reserves, of which 13 are in the Western Ghats. Nestled in the Western Ghats on the cusp of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, the thick Tillari forest is home to tigers, leopards, elephants, tigers and gava (Indian bison).

The Tillari forest area also boasts of birds like Hornbill, Paradise Flycatcher, Drongo, Yellow-Browed Bulbul, Red-Whiskered Bulbul, Crimson-backed Sunbird, Orange-Headed Ground Thrush and Indian Scimitar Babbler.

## Code red Delhi

Lives could have been saved if the disease protocol was executed in letter and spirit. We can't afford to go the New York way



In a major firefighting exercise, the Centre and the Delhi Government have decided to bury the hatchet, work together to curtail the spread of COVID-19 and keep the fatalities in the national Capital down. For the success of any clinical protocol can only be assessed when the death rate is ascertained and under control. And as far as Delhi is concerned, the number of deaths is more worrisome than the number of positive cases. Of course, now the city's medical infrastructure is being ramped up on a war footing, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah announcing another 10,000-bed facility near Chhatrapur, which is supposed to be bigger than anything China had built during the contagion. But then, Delhi's caseload

has now far surpassed that of Wuhan's and the priority should be to ensure that no patient is allowed to deteriorate unattended, without a bed or oxygen, or turned away. Some lives could have been saved if the management protocol was executed in letter and spirit. For example, although the Delhi Government ordered that 20 per cent of beds in 117 private hospitals/nursing homes in the city would be reserved for Coronavirus patients, the latter are not being cared for. There have been far too many complaints about patients, once they were admitted to the hospital, being simply left alone. Forget about treatment for COVID, patients are also finding it difficult to get treated for their comorbidities with doctors staying away. And this despite being charged the moon. This could be one of the reasons why the fatality rate has spiked. If the city has to see a fall in the number of deaths, then it is not enough to frame strategies and action plans. They have to be implemented on the ground. There must be a collective will, too.

Significantly, the renewed efforts to beat the pandemic will include more stringent regulations in the city's 261 containment zones, stricter contact tracing, rapid antibody testing to gauge the spread of the virus in the community, close involvement of the police to enforce social distancing norms and inclusion of the Delhi Government's 11 epidemiologists to play a larger role at the district level. So grim is the situation that Delhi saw a 31 per cent spike in infections last week and has overtaken Tamil Nadu to be the second-worst hit State in the country. With Delhi accounting for 24 per cent of all new cases and 25 per cent of the COVID-19 deaths reported in the country in the last two days, there has to be war room efficiency. Following the example of Karnataka, it can even get communities involved in contact tracing and accelerate the process of early detection. The lack of contact tracing in containment zones and slackened policing there have led to people interacting with each other normally and multiplying the incidence of the disease. The State should draft in more medical workers and volunteers for better data collection and on-site reports. Experts are now pushing for a 100 per cent survey of all containment zones by June 30 and an extensive one of Delhi by July 6. There is also talk of a serological study being planned between June 27 and July 10, and 20,000 samples being collected to analyse the scale of the spread of the virus. For this is not the time to fly blind or go by assumptions but to map the reality as is to prevent deaths. There are also plans to expand contact tracing beyond family members of Corona patients as 60 per cent of deaths occurred within three days of admission in hospital, showing a worrying lack of surveillance. While encouragingly, the doubling rate in the country improved to 20.7 days, cases in Delhi are doubling in 14.4 days and 57 per cent of them are coming from either clusters or containment zones, indicating a serious problem in the current strategy. It is no wonder then that the Centre also wants to analyse every COVID-19 death in the city, including the number of days a person was in hospital and if he/she was in home isolation. Plus, in a slight variation of the *diktat* issued by the L-G, from now on positive cases will have to go to Covid care centres for an assessment before a decision on home isolation is taken. New Delhi is dangerously similar to New York where all the initial emphasis was on capacity creation and no attention was paid to contact-tracing or mapping the disease. A clinical protocol can work only when we know what we are dealing with. So let's not ask questions of who did a good or bad job or who has the upper hand politically and administratively. Suffice it to say that this coordinated effort should deliver in the end.

## Grounded 'mission'

The Vande Bharat scheme was just a cover for expensive and monopolistic charter flights. The US has rightly called it out



Damned if you do, damned if you don't, some in the Indian Government will argue. After the first phase of the evacuation of Indian pilgrims from Iran as also those of stranded students from Wuhan, the epicentre of the viral contagion that upended the world, there was a poorly planned lockdown back home. The most visible image of this fiasco was that of poor migrants from the Hindi heartland and the eastern States walking hundreds of kilometres in the sharp summer sun to make their way from India's industrialised urban centres to their villages without the availability of a bus or train. How could the Government provide free air transport to thousands of Indians stranded abroad who could ostensibly afford

it? At the same time, it sought to ignore the plight of millions of labourers back home, all of whom had lost their daily wages overnight. This was rightly surmised by many.

As a result, the enhanced evacuation of Indian citizens from abroad under the "Vande Bharat" scheme began. Indian citizens were charged a pretty penny to return to Indian shores from abroad. The Government and Air India, the State-owned airline, figured that they could make more money by selling seats to those who wanted to return abroad — whether to Europe or North America. Again, the tickets were expensive and with other airlines prohibited from operating any flights other than those for evacuation purposes, Air India was pocketing a decent sum. Of course, the State-owned carrier has huge debts and with many international and domestic operations at a standstill, it is still losing money. But as the US' Department of Transportation (DoT) has noted, this was a "monopolistic" and "unfair" practice, hiding behind the garb of Government regulations to prohibit other flight operations. While the US DoT has given 30 days to wind up these flights or open up equal access to its airlines, it is likely that other regulators in Europe and the Arabian peninsula will have similar stances. They would either force India to stop these pseudo-evacuation flights and make them proper flights or ask it to gradually open up its airspace to international airlines and travel. The last is already being considered. This should also give the Government an opportunity to look into how it can improve the evacuation flights. It is true that many migrants from India are well-educated, white-collar employees who can afford an expensive ticket home. But it would be ludicrous to ignore the masses of blue-collar Indian workers, especially in the Arabian peninsula and even in Europe and North America, who are much more important to the remittance economy that powers many parts of the country. These workers surely do not have enough for a full-fare economy ticket in the middle of their contract. It is contingent on the Government to figure out a way to bring them, the most vulnerable of India's migrants, back home. It must stop constantly patting itself on its back on social media. The Vande Bharat mission is nothing more than a public relations stunt.

# opinion 06

## Testing the Gurkhas

Whenever India stands up to Chinese bullying, Beijing unleashes our neighbours to open up new fronts. Nepal's new map is one such attack on our armed forces inside the cantonment



ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA

In an unprecedented move, the Nepal Constitution passed an amendment Bill on June 13 to "update its new political map," laying claim to India's Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories. This isn't good news either for the diplomats or the defence establishment in New Delhi. What's certain is that they will have to re-visit the status quo prevailing in our ties, start afresh and contemplate traditional diplomacy. The matter is more serious than it has ever been because Nepal's geography juts into the Indian heartland and also into the two highly vulnerable yet vital, volatile flanks. This could instantly affect the one crore plus Nepalese diaspora in India and lakhs of Indians in the Himalayan State, who may fall prey to a potential crossfire of geo-economic-political and strategic "Great Game."

Undeniably, Nepal's move to amend laws has multiplied security problems for India, especially as the crisis has emerged from a small yet traditionally fraternal neighbour. A country of 30 million people has put India's 1.3 billion citizens into a tizzy. Whatever may be the outcome (hopefully satisfactory) of the present crisis, short-term damage has definitely been inflicted on the centuries-old friendly relationship between the two nations. A perilous 21st century "Great Game" in the South Asian region awaits an uncharted and unpredictable journey.

Contextually though, it can be argued that bilateral irritants, differences, disagreements and disputes are nothing new for any country, including those in South Asia. Yet the scenario today is graver than any other (past) normal "crisis." It's absolutely certain that the third country, China, is in play, which is adept in unconventional rather than conventional warfare. It has played a major role in the scheme of things (like in the past), affecting India-Nepal ties. To this author, the aim is to inflict major damage to the Indian armed forces.

In light of this, India must make every effort to pre-empt any possible or impossible fallout in its regiment of Gorkha Rifles, a chunk of whose soldiers are recruited from Nepal's high Himalayan terrain. No doubt, Indian defence forces are very well organised, built as they are on solid foundations thanks to the British rulers' ability to make it an apolitical and (top-class) profession-



al fighting machine. Nevertheless, certain critical events of history need to be revisited. There's a need to learn from past experiences to tackle any future eventuality. All of it started post the First War of Independence in 1857, when Indian soldiers rose up against their British commanders. The British constituted a new commission to look into all parameters of military administration so as to maintain discipline, quality and professionalism thereof. True, their ultimate goal was self-preservation of their empire and London's self-interest. This at the expense of the subjugated Indian subjects.

However, what the British were really scared of most was large-scale mutiny in the military owing to several fault-lines in India's fragile social system, especially in recruit catchment areas. The British feared *en masse* contamination of the *paltan* in the platoon, like the present-day China-origin virus that has contaminated India. Nevertheless, except for a few instances of small resentment and sundry cause of dissatisfactions in the barracks, the British Indian Army did remarkably well and didn't face any mass scale revolt till 1946. They kept strict vigil to avoid any political discourse in the officer's mess, discour-

aged all acts of religious lunacy and managed the caste/language faultlines rather well. Little wonder then that millions of Indians from the rural belt and officers from preferred "background" served them with great elan, thereby ensuring two world war victories to the British monarchy.

Contextually, therefore, few salient features of soldiering now need to be revisited. The house/village of the soldier must preferably be politically uncontaminated and peaceful. A frontline soldier can never give his best with an oscillating mind, fluctuating between uncertainties in two fronts: Guns of the enemy in front and goons in his estate in the rear. Second, hurt religious feelings led to the mutiny of 1857 during the military rule by London's clueless commercial company. Again, when the political clarion call for India's freedom from the British reached the catchment areas of soldier recruitment and barracks, mass spontaneous revolt of the men in uniform could not be aborted in 1946.

One, therefore, sincerely hopes that the present "enlarged" territory of Nepal doesn't transform a benign personal thought into an uncontrollable passion. An emotive issue must not be allowed to break the balance or

professionalism of the Gurkha Brigades of the Indian garrison.

That's because no sensitive soldier, however loyal and disciplined he may be, under extreme tension — created by indigenous political, populist and demagogues' reckless call to the sons of the soil to rise and protect the image, prestige, honour and self-respect of his "motherland"/territory and soil of the family — can control himself beyond a point. He's bound to cave in at the spur of the moment though.

It needs no rocket science to state the obvious. The seeds of the present India-Nepal tension have not been sown in the foothills of the south of the Himalayas but somewhere else. Across the north-east to the Himalayas to be precise. And conviction compels one to revisit the August 2009 essay written by Zhan Lue of a Beijing think-tank. "China should break India into 20-30 states." Using highly venomous and toxic semantics, he openly stated that "if China takes a little action, the so-called Great Indian Federation can be broken up with the help and support of friendly countries like Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh."

Ironically, these aggressive words appear to have become China's standard operating procedure to cajole and

compel all in the vicinity to kow-tow to Beijing, especially since Xi Jinping became the strong man of the Hans to reverse the role of his country's "ignominious history of 110 years." Abnormal and absurd territorial, technology and trade demands of the Hans have already upset the West. Whenever India tries to stand up to Chinese bullying, Beijing unleashes our neighbours to open up new fronts. Nepal's new map certainly is one such attack that aims to damage the Indian armed forces deep inside the cantonment.

The Hans have gone berserk. Their "Great Game", consisting of the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, faces all-round challenges.

The contagion has further stymied China's growth engine. All-round lockdowns have led to largescale unemployment across the world. The closure of air and sea routes has battered international trade, technology and tourism. Hence, a desperate "strategic indirect approach" to fix India's vulnerable heartland. India must counter to ensure the safety and security of its soldiers, the State and society. At least, we should wake up now.

(The writer is an alumnus, National Defence College)

## SOUNDBITE

It is said 'misfortunes do not come singly'. The cumulative effect is widespread misery, fear and danger to the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Congress leader  
— Sonia Gandhi



Even if the lockdown eases, we need to be careful. It is not just one individual; it is about everyone you meet and interact with.

Actor  
— Shweta Tripathi Sharma



Me and my Pakistan teammates are given such love and support when we play in India... so it is a rivalry that I would like to see return as soon as it is possible.

Pakistani cricketer  
— Shoaib Malik



I don't think that India and China need any help from the outside. I don't think they need to be helped, especially when it comes to country issues.

Russian Foreign Minister  
— Sergei Lavrov



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Get your act together

Sir — It is good that Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an all-party meeting to discuss the Indo-China border clash. Leaders from other parties must be consulted so that the country does not stand divided at a time of crisis. In spite of differences, Opposition leaders such as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray have expressed their solidarity with the Government. It is, however, unfortunate that even at this time the Centre failed to be truly inclusive. Parties such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Aam Aadmi Party and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen were not invited to the meeting. It is of utmost importance that clashes between political parties are kept to a minimum right now.

MN Qasmi  
Calcutta

### Setting a precedent

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Rathayatra challenge" (June 23). The Supreme Court's sus-

### Costly affair in Ladakh

This refers to the editorial, "Bare Facts" (June 22). There is no denying the fact that the Indian Government failed to read the deviously unpredictable mind of the Chinese leadership. It also failed to proactively save the Darbuk-Shyok-DBO (DSDBO) road from its evil eyes. The DSDBO highway gives the Indian military access to that section of the Tibet-Xinjiang highway that passes through the Aksai Chin. By occupying strategic areas in the Galwan Valley, China has brought the entire strategic asset of DSDBO under its watch. In times of escalation, China can use its firepower to render it completely inoperable.

Had the Modi Government been foresighted and proactive enough, our troops, instead of just patrolling in the area, would have been occupying the rightful position in the Galwan Valley. We could also have pre-empted the stand-off that cost us the lives of 20 Indian soldiers. This is not to say that India does not have any options. We should not back down till the Chinese restore status quo ante on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Economic boycott alone will be ineffective; we



should isolate China diplomatically by supporting other countries like Hong Kong. We should also expand ties with Taiwan, work closely with Quad, lend support to the Uyghurs and oppose its adventurism in the South China Sea. Our defence preparedness, too, should be in top gear for the limited purpose of restoring sanctity of the LAC.

SK Prabhakar  
Gurugram

pension of the ban on Puri's annual Rathayatra festival has opened up a Pandora's box of problems for the State Government. Even if the Naveen Patnaik Government takes steps to restrict festivities, it will be worth watching how social distancing measures will work at an event of this scale. The Supreme Court's order has made

it clear that the country is ready for its first post-pandemic yatra.  
N Nagarajan  
Via email

### All is not lost

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi had categorically stated in a televised statement broadcast

after the all-party meeting on the skirmish between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley that neither did anyone intrude upon Indian territory, nor is it currently being occupied by a foreign military.

This has stoked further controversies about the lack of transparency. Moreover, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has

insisted that "for many years", its border troops have been patrolling the Galwan Valley, thus effectively laying claim to the region. Even in this dire situation, the *aam aadmi* is being kept in the dark. The question is, if neither side breached the other's territory, then what led to the cross-firing? It must be remembered that the BJP-led Government at the Centre has always been careful in its dealings with China.

Whether it is on the issue of Tibet or the protests in Hong Kong against Beijing's hegemony, the Indian Government has always erred on the side of caution. One wonders why the Prime Minister abstained from speaking transparently. Certain vexing questions need answers. Why were the facts downplayed? Was the release of our soldiers unconditional or involved some give and take? As citizens, we have a right to know what is going on. The Government should come clean. People should not be kept in the dark.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee  
Faridabad

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Clear and present danger

The ultra-Naxal threat remains and is likely to have exacerbated due to the reverse migration of workers from the cities to the villages



AMRIT PAL SINGH

The medical, humanitarian and economic impact of the pandemic has diverted attention from other problems in the country. The threat of extremism in the Red Corridor, however, remains and is likely to have exacerbated due to the reverse migration of workers from the cities to the villages. This may cause a serious loss in the gains made over the years by the Government in countering Left Wing Extremism (LWE). The Red Corridor, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and eastern Uttar Pradesh, is the region that experiences Naxalite-Maoist insurgency as it suffers from illiteracy, poverty and overpopulation. The system has failed to protect industrial and agricultural workers and led to their disillusionment. This may have driven them towards extremism. Left-wing extremists and Maoist groups are aware of the potential these masses possess and will exploit the negative sentiment and loss of livelihood. There are a few immediate concerns that merit attention. Community policing, which has been an effective method to monitor early signs of extremism and radicalisation, has been reduced drastically or has been diverted to enforcing the lockdown in most areas. The vacuum is an invitation to vigilante groups and motivated supporters of LWE for creating antipathy. Strict measures by the security forces against demonstrations will be misrepresented to discredit the Government's strategy of guarding its citizens.

The discrimination against these poor workers and the cruelty they have been subjected to in urban India and even in their villages is disconcerting. Social cohesion and painstakingly-built trust in Government-run development programmes in tribal and LWE-prone areas by community-based activities is thus seriously threatened. With schools closed and recreational and cultural activities suspended, the youth are confined to their homes and are spending more time online. Their frustration, combined with possible increase in indoctrination and targeted social posts, makes them vulnerable to radicalisation.

The contagion and the reverse migration have caused loss of jobs and disruption in education. The marginalised have become more so. In the absence of religious, cultural and community gatherings — which foster a sense of social cohesion and strengthen community resilience — the very indicators of radicalisation, which are likely to get screened in these pivotal activities, are going unchecked. Community confidence in local authorities is dwindling as local health facilities collapse, thus providing an avenue for extremist ideology. In fact, building of local capacities and bridging the confidence gap between locals and the authorities had been one of the most successful initiatives of the Government earlier. This was achieved by building trust and identifying indigenous actors who were able to spot those heading towards LWE and steer them away. Many of the existing and time-tested activities to counter LWE, such as employment schemes, education, vocational training and inter-personal interactions, are currently not taking place. Similarly, NGOs and charitable organisations have had to cut back on contributions and operations as they undergo financial pressure not only due to loss of donations and subscriptions but also due to the need to protect their staff from the virus. This kind of withdrawal of donor support has a mitigating effect on the trust of rural societies.

Since its inception in 2006, the LWE division of the Ministry of Home Affairs has implemented security-related schemes aimed at capacity-building in the affected States. The stated approach of the Government is to deal with LWE in a holistic manner in the areas of security, development and ensuring the rights and entitlements of local communities, improving local governance and public perception management. Ninety districts in 11 States were up for special attention regarding planning, implementation and monitoring of such interventions before the pandemic struck.

Now, all Government plans and any new interventions will have to focus on short, medium and long-term implications for implementation, together with keeping track of emergence of new, ominous green shoots of LWE. In the short-term, projects should aim for more agile scheduling and use the power of online and social media options by adjusting to the "new normal." Many of the returnees are capable of taking up positions with the local authorities by virtue of their experience in jobs held by them in cities. Inputs from the local implementing partner should be used to plan, train and put technology to use.

For the medium and long-term, it must be noted that piecemeal plans of States and short-term funding will lead to competition between players and the various affected States for meagre funds and will cause further disgruntlement, thereby adding fuel to the extremist propaganda. An immediate comprehensive assessment of local needs and priorities of communities, followed by channeling resources in a coherent and sustainable plan, is imperative.

The current pandemic has the potential to knock terrorism off the top of the threat chart and precipitate heavy investment in countering violent extremism. In the meagre and dwindling resource basket, these investments will have to be counterbalanced against the defence and anti-terror capability-building programmes already in place. While this kind of rebalancing is fraught with serious security implications, the Government has to bite the bullet to stop the Red Corridor from erupting in discontent.

(The writer is an Army veteran)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

WE HAVE A MORAL DUTY TO CREATE AN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM THAT PROTECTS THE LIVES AND JOBS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.

—US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



IMMIGRATION HAS CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO US' ECONOMIC SUCCESS, MAKING IT A GLOBAL LEADER IN TECH, AND ALSO GOOGLE THE COMPANY IT IS TODAY.

—GOOGLE CEO SUNDAR PICHAI

# Short cuts won't work

The fundamental question is if these new labour laws brought in by States as a result of the pandemic secure the good of the workers or safeguard the interests of the employers?



ROBIN R DAVID

When the bubonic plague struck the city of Ahmedabad in 1917, about 10 per cent of the population succumbed to it. As the plague was much more severe in the towns than in the villages, the workers employed in the textile industry wanted to return to the relative safety of their villages. To prevent an exodus, mill owners handed out "plague bonuses" to their staff which ranged from 20 per cent to 70 per cent. However, the prices of essential commodities, too, went up manifold due to the outbreak. After the contagion subsided, the employers stopped paying the plague bonus to their workers, who in turn protested as the prices were still high. They demanded a 50 per cent dearness allowance (DA) and there were strikes. To break the impasse, the Collector of Ahmedabad invited Mahatma Gandhi to intervene and facilitate arbitration proceedings between the workers and the employers. Gandhi's involvement included regular meetings with the workers under a babul tree on the banks of the Sabarmati. He published a leaflet daily to educate and create awareness among the workers. One such leaflet assured that "we want to secure the good of the workers while safeguarding the good of the employers." The non-violent protests ended when the workers were given a 35 per cent DA.

The three major takeaways from the plague outbreak in the context of the COVID-19 crisis are: The employers wooed the workers and dissuaded them from going to the villages by giving them plague bonuses. Second, efforts were made to end the dispute amicably and finally, the impasse was resolved in a consultative manner by involving the workers, employers and the Government.

The new laws triggered by COVID-19: Today, the outbreak and the post-lockdown economic gloom have prompted the States to announce mitigating measures in the form of Ordinances and executive directions in the labour and economic sectors. States, in an attempt to kick-start economic activity, have announced a slew of measures to relax the application of labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The State Governments are conscious of the fact that the lockdown has resulted in a loss of income for businesses and a loss of livelihood for workers. On May 22, Karnataka, invoking the public emergency provision of the Factories Act, increased the working hours to 10 a day. Uttar Pradesh (UP) made the UP Temporary Exemptions from Certain Labour Laws Ordinance, 2020, which suspends the operation of all labour laws in the State. The only exceptions to this are that all workers must be paid the minimum wage; maximum hours of work shall be 11 and the spread-over should not exceed 12 hours in a day. Additionally, labour laws protecting children and women will stay.

Madhya Pradesh (MP) promulgated the MP Labour Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which has a 1,000-day plan and Gujarat has a 1,200-day plan to revive businesses. MP, Gujarat and other States have relaxed the application of labour laws, including the Factories Act, 1948, the Contract Labour Regulation Act, 1970 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1948. These new laws increase the working hours from 48 a week to 60 and 72, reduce compliance by factories and permit industries with less than 300 workers to declare termination or closure without prior approval. Some of the new laws suspend the erstwhile mandatory conciliation procedures before retrenchment. Gujarat has announced that there will be no overtime wages and only salary in proportion to the existing one shall be paid. Till now, UP, MP, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Assam and Goa have temporarily amended their

“ THE STATE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO LOWER STANDARDS AT THE EXPENSE OF HUMAN LABOUR AND CONSEQUENTLY TRADE. MOST OF THE NEW LABOUR LAWS APPEAR TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS ENTITIES WITHOUT CONSULTING THE WORKERS. FURTHER, THE NEW LAWS, OR AS SOME CALL THEM REFORMS, IGNORE ISSUES OF HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE WORKERS. THESE LAWS ARE CONTRARY TO INDIA'S ILO COMMITMENTS. A BALANCED APPROACH WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE WORKERS, EMPLOYERS AND THE GOVERNMENT IN LABOUR REFORM IS THE ONLY WAY FORWARD ”



labour laws. Though these new laws are temporary, the fundamental question is if they secure the good of the workers or safeguard the good of the employers?

**Indian labour laws:** The Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV of the Constitution say that the health and strength of workers should not be abused and citizens must not be forced by economic necessity to enter vocations unsuited to their age or strength. Further, the State within its limits of economic capacity or development, shall make effective provisions to secure the right to work, public assistance in cases of unemployment, disablement and in other cases of under-served want. In all, Indian labour laws are beneficial pieces of social legislation.

**India's global commitments:** India has been a member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 1919. ILO's International Labour Standards (ILS) stress on the health and safety of workers and human-centred recovery that is sustainable. The Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, which was adopted by several nations including India, emphasises that crisis responses need to ensure respect for all human rights and the rule of law, including respect for fundamental principles and rights at work. ILS acknowledges the importance of engaging in processes and mechanisms to ensure efficient tripartite consultations and reaching a consensus on effective solutions. A climate of trust can be built through social dialogue and tripartism will be essential to address the COVID-19's impact.

In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in recognition of the State's existing obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms; the requirement of business enterprises to respect human rights and the need for access to an effective remedy for those who are affected by adverse business-related human rights impacts or abuse. The UNGPs have become the authoritative

global standard for business and human rights. According to the Prime Minister, "Responsible business conduct is a globally-recognised concept founded on the idea that businesses can perform better when engaged in re-vitalising the society from which they extract resources for production."

The National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct, 2018, were formulated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. The UNGPs are a means of nudging businesses to contribute towards broader development goals while seeking to maximise their profits. These guidelines recognise that businesses are an integral part of society and that they will hold themselves accountable. These guidelines focus on equity, dignity and well-being, provision of decent work for all employees, engaged within a business or in its value chain, without any discrimination and in a way that promotes diversity. The principle recognises that the well-being of an employee also includes the welfare of her/his family. The guidelines signify the importance of protecting vulnerable and marginalised individuals, who were unable to realise their rights or enjoy opportunities on account of adverse physical, mental, social, economic, cultural, political, geographic or health circumstances, disability, caste, ethnicity, religion or political/religious belief. Businesses are encouraged to file Business Reports under these guidelines. Further, the SEBI as part of integrated reporting by listed entities, has mandated top 500 listed companies to file Business Responsibility Reports, which include a declaration on compliances under the labour laws.

**Problems with the new laws:** Though a health crisis has triggered the new laws, they have ignored health and safety issues. Moreover, ILS and UNGPs have been ignored contrary to the Centre's commitments. Taking the case of the Factories Act, 1948 alone, the States of UP, MP and Karnataka have relied on Section 5 to relax

the provision of the Factories Act, contending that a public emergency has arisen. Under this law, a public emergency is a grave emergency whereby the security of India or any part of the territory is threatened by war, external aggression or internal disturbance. The UP and Karnataka labour law amendments have been challenged in the High Courts at Allahabad and Bengaluru. During the hearings, Karnataka and UP have conceded that no "public emergency" exists to relax the application of the Factories Act. On June 12, Karnataka informed the High Court that it had withdrawn its notification by which the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, governing the working hours of staff, were suspended.

So far, the laws on working hours and wages had ensured the welfare of labourers. The amendments have distorted the balance and exposed workers to exploitation. State Governments will have to prioritise health and safety during this crisis. Further COVID-19 is a health crisis, and the States need to ensure that the health and the safety of the workers is a priority.

The State Governments should not be permitted to lower standards at the expense of human labour and consequently trade. Most of the new labour laws appear to be an attempt to encourage business entities without consulting the workers. Further, the new laws, or as some call them reforms, ignore issues of health and safety of the workers. These laws are contrary to India's ILO commitments. A balanced approach with the involvement of the workers, employers and the Government in labour reform is the only way forward.

Even if laws are tilted to favour businesses, at the cost of worker welfare, it will not help the economy in the long-term. It is now time for the Government and employers to engage with the workers and develop a climate of trust to rebuild the economy.

(The writer is Partner, Dua Associates and a Supreme Court Advocate)

# A small Opposition does not mean a weak one

The weakening of the Opp in the RS should not be a drawback because it is not the numbers which matter but the effectiveness of the arguments



KALYANI SHANKAR

When the Rajya Sabha reassembles for the Monsoon Session, it will be with new equations owing to the change in the composition of the House. It will see a shrunken Opposition and a stronger National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The BJP is inching towards a majority after this week's biennial polls to the Upper House. The NDA has crossed the 100 mark though it may take a while to reach the magic number of 123 for a majority in the House of 245. The BJP

alone has 86 seats, a vast improvement from its 2014 tally of just 43 members. Over the next four years till March 2024, over a 100 MPs are retiring and the BJP is likely to improve its numbers further. Elections will be held, eight each in 2021 and 2023, 77 in 2022 and four in 2024 before the Lok Sabha polls.

No doubt, the Narendra Modi Government suffered a setback due to the commanding majority of the Congress-led Opposition in 2014 in the Rajya Sabha. At that time, the Congress alone had 68 seats and the total strength of the NDA was 59. For legislations like the Triple Talaq, the Land Bill and the Insurance Bill, the Modi Government had to adopt the Ordinance route after its failure to get them passed in the Rajya Sabha. But the table has turned today. The Opposition is slowly shrinking and has a total of 65 seats and the Congress has been reduced to 41 members.

In this week's biennial polls, alto-

gether 61 seats were filled with 43 first-timers who had been elected and 12 members who had sought re-election. The BJP won 17, a couple of seats more than its strength, due to cross-voting. The Congress got nine, the Janata Dal (United) three, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) four each, the AIADMK (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) and the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) three each, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) got two each.

Interestingly, the House now has some heavyweights like former Prime Minister Deve Gowda, former Congress Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren. Two other former Chief Ministers, Sharad Pawar and Digvijay Singh, have returned, too.

So what does it mean politically? The ascendancy of the BJP in the House of Elders would result in more political leverage for the party. First of all, it enables the Modi Government to go ahead with the much-needed reforms and Bills in both the Houses of Parliament.

Earlier, the Opposition blocked a number of measures though in Modi 2.0, the BJP was able to push through most of its core agenda, including the repeal of Article 370 and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). This was possible because of a divided Opposition, which the Modi Government took advantage of and also managed to mobilise the support of some neutral parties like the BJD and the TRS. Now, the NDA Government is unlikely to face any challenge in pushing through its legislative agenda.

It is sweet revenge for the BJP that it has overtaken the Congress, reaching

almost twice the number, 86. This shows that the saffron party has also achieved an impressive surge in the Rajya Sabha.

The Opposition has had an upper hand for 39 of the 68 years but this will change now. Just as the BJP brought back the single party majority in 2014 after three decades, this too, will be seen as a feather in its cap.

For the Opposition, which is already weak, this would mean a complete setback in both the Houses. Earlier, it had the advantage in the Rajya Sabha but now there is a danger that the Government could flex its muscles and take unilateral decisions.

Also the Opposition has a leadership vacuum, is not united and has no joint floor strategy. The fact remains that only a vigilant and united Opposition can hold the Government accountable. The weakening of the Opposition in the Upper House should not be a drawback because it is not the numbers which

matter but the effectiveness of the arguments in the House. It is the duty of the Opposition to uphold the tenets of democracy and ensure that the Government does its job well.

There are many important issues facing the country right now like the handling of the pandemic, the Chinese skirmishes, the face-off with Nepal, the ailing economy and so on. The veterans that are there in the Rajya Sabha must take these issues up strongly. Did not a handful of Opposition leaders expose the Bofors scandal during the Rajiv Gandhi era when he had 415 members in the Lok Sabha? In fact, the invaluable experience of heavyweights like Gowda, Pawar and Manmohan Singh would come in handy.

On the whole it is for the Opposition to be vigilant and for the Government to avoid unilateral decisions to safeguard democracy.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



## TAKE THE LEAD PREMIER LEAGUE

Gestures such as those witnessed on Premier League grounds have their place in raising public awareness. But the battle against bias requires more. The unique appeal of football means its administrators can play a vital role in changing cultures of bias. Take a knee and the lead Premier League.

(The Guardian editorial)



## Petrol price hiked 20 paise, diesel 55 paise

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol price on Tuesday was hiked by 20 paise per litre and diesel by 55 paise as the oil companies increased prices for the 17th day in a row that took the cumulative increase to a steep ₹8.5 and ₹10.01 per litre, respectively.

Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to ₹79.76 per litre from ₹79.56, while diesel rates were increased to ₹79.40 a litre from ₹78.55, according to a price notification of state oil marketing companies.

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

The 17th daily increase in rates, since oil companies on June 7 restarted revising prices in line with costs after ending an 82-day hiatus in rate revision, has taken diesel prices to fresh highs. Petrol price too is at a two-year high.

## Considering travel request from several nations: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what comes as a ray of hope for international travel, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is considering travel requests from several countries. The Ministry said that it is examining the requests of several countries including the US, France, Germany to allow their airlines to operate repatriation flights.

The Civil Aviation Ministry's statement has come after the US Department of Transportation announced on Monday that it has barred Air India from operating chartered flights between India and the USA from July 22 without its prior approval, in an apparent retaliation for the Indian government not allowing USA carriers to operate between the two countries.

In a tweet, the Ministry informed that it has received requests from concerned authorities in several countries including the US, France, Germany among others requesting that their air carriers be allowed to participate in the transportation of passengers along the line being conducted

by Air India under Vande Bharat Mission. "These requests are being examined," it added.

The Ministry said, "As we contemplate further opening up in response to demands, we are looking at the prospect of establishing individual bilateral bubbles, India-US, India-France, India-Germany, India-UK. These are all destinations where demand for travel has not diminished. Final decisions pursuant to negotiations are expected to be taken soon."

According to the Ministry, these evacuation flights which were primarily meant for the evacuation of our citizens from all over the world are now increasingly carrying Indians and citizens of other countries outbound to countries where they are normally resident. "As we contemplate further opening up in response to demands, we are looking at the prospect of establishing individual bilateral bubbles, India-US, India-France, India-Germany, India-UK. These are all destinations where demand for travel has not diminished. Final decisions pursuant to negotiations are expected to be taken soon."

## Banks sanction ₹79k cr loans to 19 lakh MSMEs, other business

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banks have sanctioned loans of over ₹79,000 crore till June 20 to 19 lakh MSMEs and other businesses, of which ₹35,000 crore has already been disbursed, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

The Ministry said on Tuesday that it had one round of negotiations with the representatives of the DOT and US Embassy on June 15 about letting American carriers operate flights. "They were invited to submit precise proposals in this respect. A communication has now been received on 19 June, 2020 detailing these requests," the Ministry said.

"By this Order, we are notifying National Aviation Company of India Limited d/b/a Air India (Air India), a foreign air carrier of India that holds economic authority from the Department ... will be required, effective 30 days after the service date of this Order, to obtain prior approval from the Department in the form of a statement of authorisation before operating any Third- and/or Fourth-Freedom charter flights to or from the United States," US DOT said in the order.

The top lenders under the Scheme are SBI, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, PNB and Canara Bank.

This has helped 19 lakh MSMEs & other businesses restart their businesses post the lockdown, it added.

National Housing Bank (NHB) has sanctioned its entire facility of ₹10,000 crore to housing finance companies.

This refinance by SIDBI and NHB is in addition to ongoing schemes through which over ₹30,000 crore has been sanctioned.

Under the Extended Partial Guarantee Scheme for NBFCs and MFIs, approvals have crossed ₹5,500 crore. Transactions for another ₹5,000 crore are under process of approval, while certain other deals are currently under negotiation, the Ministry added.

## Icra downgrades rating on certain Yes Bank bonds

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic rating agency Icra on Tuesday downgraded the rating on certain bonds of Yes Bank, days after RBI restrained the lender from making repayments to bondholders on account of capital being below the mandated levels.

The rating on six Basel-II compliant upper tier II bonds totalling up to ₹32,611 crore have been downgraded to 'D', according to a statement.

RBI had refused to accede to a bank's request to pay the interest on the bonds issued in 2012 due on June 29 because of the low capital levels.

The bank, which is preparing for raising capital at present, had asserted that it has sufficient liquidity to meet all requirements.

"The timely servicing of the upcoming coupon, which is cumulative in nature remains constrained and the same is likely to be paid only when the bank achieves a CRAR of 9.0 per cent," Icra said.

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

मैं श्यामो देवी पत्नी लालचंद गर्ग निवासी वी-55 गली नंबर 3 बजाज एम्बलेव खरास नंबर 13/18 ओल्ड पालम रोड नई दिल्ली 110078 अपने पुत्र नरेण्ड गिंसकी उम्र 28 साल है को आज दिनांक 22/06/2020 से अपनी चल अवल संपत्ति से बेदखल करती हूँ, आज के बाद, मेरा मेरे बेटे से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Executive Committee informs the public at large with this Public Notice that JAMIA-TUL-BANAT-AL-ISLAMIA is a registered society with the Registrar of Societies New Delhi vide Registration No.S-32181/1997 having its office at B-112, Thoker No.7, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-25 to run its educational and other institutions is the exclusive owner of moveable and immoveable properties.

It is learned that some miscreant, anti-social element related BhoMafia are trying to sell / transfer/mortgage, pledge or create third party lien in any manner of the property No. B-106, an area measuring 200 Sq. out of Khasra No. 365, Situated at Jasola, Tahseel Mehrauli, now the colony was known as Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave-II, Street No.7 Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 owned, possessed and vested with all exclusive rights Jamia-Tul-Banat-Al-Islamia, who had never permitted/allowed transfer of any right to its executive body members, general members, employees of the society or any other person associated / non-associated with the society to transfer, sale, mortgage, pledge, create third party lien in any manner.

Therefore, the transfer of society's moveable or immovable property will be void, illegal and illegitimate and society is liable to take stringent action against these people as provided under law and liable for punishment and expenses incurred thereon.

Executive Committee JAMIA-TUL-BANAT-AL-ISLAMIA

## Centre hikes MSP for husked coconut at ₹2,700 per quintal

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday declared the minimum support price (MSP) for mature dehusked coconut for 2020 at ₹2,700 per quintal, up by ₹129 or 5.02 per cent from ₹2,571 per quintal during 2019. The hike in MSP for dehusked coconut ensures immediate cash to the small farmers who are unable to hold the product and are having insufficient facility of copra making for milling purpose to extract edible oil.

This would be a relief to the coconut farmers who are already affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent disruption in the supply chain, Tomar said

As per a statement by the Ministry, Union Minister for agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government has paid the utmost attention to the interests of farmers nationwide. This would be a relief to the coconut farmers who are already affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent disruption in the supply chain, Tomar said.

The Minister said that coconut being a small holders' crop, aggregation and arranging copra-making facility at the farmers' level is a rarity.

Though the MSP for milling copra is ₹9,960 per

quintal for the 2020 crop season, the declaration of a higher MSP for dehusked coconut ensures immediate cash to the small farmers, who are unable to hold the product and have insufficient facilities for copra-making.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India Limited (NCCF) act as central nodal agencies to undertake price support operations at the MSP in the coconut growing states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Gujarat. Ball copra (used for edible consumption and is considered in the dry fruit category) and milling copra (mainly used to extract coconut oils), however, attract nearly four times higher price than the dehusked coconut.

## Indices rally for 4th straight day amid easing Indo-China border tensions

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market gauges Sensex and Nifty on Tuesday surged over 1.5 per cent to post their fourth straight session of gains amid reports that Indian and Chinese armies agreed to de-escalate border tensions.

The BSE Sensex rallied 519.11 points, or 1.49 per cent, to close at 35,430.43; while the NSE Nifty soared 159.80 points, or 1.55 per cent, to end at 10,471.

Aided by positive cues from global markets and sustained foreign fund inflow, investor sentiment remained upbeat.

On the Sensex chart, L&T was the top gainer, soaring around 7 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, PowerGrid, M&M and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, Reliance Industries Bharti Airtel and Maruti closed with loss.

Sectorally, BSE power, capital goods, utilities, realty, industrials and bankex rallied up to 4.24 per cent. Broader midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 1.80 per cent.

"The Indian indices traded positive, in sync with glob-



al indices, seemingly on the back of continued liquidity flows into the markets," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

"Markets were also optimistic on the back of news of a de-escalation in border hostilities and the pace of Covid-19 recoveries increasing, in spite of the new virus infections," he added.

In a positive move, Indian and Chinese armies have arrived at a consensus to "disengage" from all friction points in eastern Ladakh at a marathon meeting of top mil-

## Rupee jumps 37 paise to nearly 2-week high on easing border tensions

Mumbai: The rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 37 paise to close at nearly two-week high of 75.66 against the US currencies following a rally in domestic equities and persistent foreign fund inflows on easing border tension with China.

Besides, an unstable US dollar against major global currencies also helped the rupee

surge, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened strong at 75.86. During the session the domestic unit swung between a high of 75.65 and a low of 75.89.

It finally settled at 75.66 against the US dollar, registering a rise of 37 paise over its previous close of 76.03. PTI

## Financial results of NLCIL for quarter, year under released

New Delhi: The total income of the company during the quarter and year ended 31-03-2020 was ₹2,574.65 crore and ₹9,133.28 crore respectively as against ₹2,266.80 crore and ₹8,059.27 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, registering a growth in total income of 13.58% and 13.33% respectively in both the periods.

Profit after tax for the quarter and year ended 31-03-2020 was ₹392.48 crore and ₹1,413.85 crore respectively as against ₹290.13 crore and ₹1,266.97 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, registering a growth of 35.28% and 11.59% respectively in both the periods.

Power generation during the quarter and year ended 31-03-2020 was 6098.95 MU and 21922.98 MU as against 5586.17 MU and 20676.18 MU in the corresponding period of the previous year, registering a growth of 9.18% and 6.03% respectively in both the periods.

Power export during quarter and year ended 31-03-2020 was 5301 MU and 18840.84 MU respectively as against 4766.54 and 17505.30 MU in the corresponding period of the previous year, registering a growth of 11.21% and 7.63% respectively in both the periods. After commissioning of 709 MW of Solar Power Plant, solar power generation during the quarter and year ended 31-03-2020 to 486.56 MU and 1401.42 MU as against 155.63 MU and 471.14 MU respectively in both periods.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROCUREMENT, JPDCIL, JAMMU, ELECTRIC CENTRAL STORES COMPLEX, RAIL HEAD, JAMMU & PIN -180012**  
PHONE NO. 0191-2473402 TELEFAX- 0191-2472350, e-mail: epciljammu@gmail.com  
e-NIT No. SE/PR/J07/2020-21 Dated: 20.06.2020

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDCIL, Jammu invites online e-bids from original Govt. registered manufacturers for supply of material as under for the requirement of JPDCIL:  
e-NIT No. : SE/PR/J07/2020-21 dated 20-06-2020  
Description of Material & Quantity (In Nos.) :- PURCHASE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF EEL-II OF RATING: 1) 63 KVA (Al/Wound) 40 Nos. 2) 100 KVA (Al/Wound) 35 Nos. 3) 250 KVA (Cu/Wound) 35 Nos.  
Detailed NIT may be downloaded from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> upto 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 till 1400 Hrs. The tender shall be accepted through online mode only. In case, the tender process does not get completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in the newspapers. The details regarding corrigendum may be seen on the above mentioned website.  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDCIL Jammu  
No. DIP/J-573-P/20 Dated : 22-06-2020

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**  
**(RAILWAY BOARD)**  
E-Tender No. 2019RS18743TC  
CORRIGENDUM NO. 2

1.0 Tender quantity of e-Tender No. 2019RS18743TC may please be read as 1, 11, 183 Nos. CTRB instead of 37803 CTRBs.  
2.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 13.07.2020.  
3.0 All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.  
Director, Railway Stores (W),  
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi  
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**EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

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(By Order)  
ECL

**FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**  
REGIONAL OFFICE, 04 - NEHRU PLACE,  
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**E-Tender Notice**  
An e-tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of regular Road Transport Contractor for two years from various dispatching centers to various receiving centers of Rajasthan region.  
Under e-tender notice RQ/ CONTRACT/ RTC/ 02/2020, the bids shall be accepted ONLINE from 24.06.2020, 02:30 PM to 15.07.2020, 02:30 PM. All the Terms & Conditions and other details are available on Central Public Procurement Portal's website <https://eprocure.gov.in> and corporation's website [www.fci.gov.in](http://www.fci.gov.in)  
General Manager (Region)

**M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED**  
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Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001  
AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	31-Mar-20 (Audited)	31-Dec-19 (Unaudited)	31-Mar-19 (Audited)	31-Mar-19 (Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	31.84	9.45	26.01	56.73
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	23.46	1.71	17.86	26.21
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	23.46	1.71	17.86	26.21
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	24.39	-0.52	13.60	20.78
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-206.18	40.05	208.48	-171.30
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)	0.72	-0.02	0.40	0.61
-Basic	0.72	-0.02	0.40	0.61
-Diluted	0.72	-0.02	0.40	0.61

**Notes:**  
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2020 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2020 is available on the Stock Exchange website ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and/or Company's website ([www.bbinvestments.in](http://www.bbinvestments.in)).  
2. The Company has adopted the Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) with effect from April 01st, 2019 with comparative figures being restated to make them comparable. The above Audited Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rule made thereunder and other accounting principles to the extent applicable.  
3. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 22.06.2020.  
4. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.  
5. The figures of the last quarter of the current year and of the previous year are the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the respective financial year.  
6. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic across the globe and in India and consequential nationwide lock down since March 24, 2020, has caused a significant decline and volatility in the global as well as Indian financial markets and slowdown in economic activities. The management has assessed the potential impact of COVID-19 on the company and based on its review there is no significant impact on its financial results on a medium and long term basis.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Sd/-  
Vijay Bhushan  
Director  
DIN : 00002421

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 22.06.2020



**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Gaurav, S/o: Ramesh, R/o: D-112A, Azadpur, Delhi** has been kidnapped/missing since 14.06.2020 from the area of P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 06A, dated 14.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. The description of kidnapped/missing male is as under:

**Name: Gaurav, Age: 29 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Color Shirt and Grey Color Pant.**

If anyone have any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639  
SHO  
Police Station, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi  
Ph: 011-27672452, 27674452  
DP/205/NW/2020

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/09/2020, Date 22/06/2020

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
186	High Tensile Transition CB Couper	8 Nos.	25.06.2020
187	Roller Bearing Commutator End TM4303 by Tractor Motor	31 Nos.	25.06.2020
188	Axle Box Complete W/O Bearing	5 Sets	26.06.2020
189	Contractor for control Electronics	6 Nos.	26.06.2020
190	Circuit Breaker for Traction Motor Blower and Oil Cooling	20 Nos.	26.06.2020
191	Cochlear Implant	1 No	27.06.2020
192	Duty Register	189 Nos.	01.07.2020
193	Sick and Fit certificate	669 Nos.	01.07.2020
194	Modified Elastomeric Pad for Casnuo Bogies	51905 Nos.	06.07.2020
195	9W (2 Feet Length) LED Tubular Lamp	5009 Nos.	07.07.2020
196	POH Kit	2700 Set	10.07.2020
197	Video Larynx Scope with S.S. Blade	6 Nos.	13.07.2020
198	Solenoid Emag 110 V R8	6 Nos.	15.07.2020
199	Narrow Jaw Adapter	3500 Nos.	15.07.2020
200	Aluminium Chequered Sheet for Flooring	14000 Kg.	16.07.2020
201	Diesel Forklift Trunk Cap - 6 tons	1 No	16.07.2020
202	Flap Door Arrangement	180 Nos.	20.07.2020
203	Security Plate for Anti Roll Bar Arrangement	2500 Nos.	23.07.2020
204	Upgraded High Capacity Draft Gear	215 Nos.	24.07.2020

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) and [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in).  
D-09 For Principal Chief Materials Manager  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) | Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one male dead body namely **Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown** wearing Black colour Jacket and White colour Baniyan has been found during cleaning the Azadpur Mandi Nala, Opp. Meta Mandir, Azadpur Mandi, Delhi on 16.06.2020 in decayed condition.

In this regard a DD No. 28-A dated 16.06.2020 has been lodged in PS Mahindra Park, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO  
PS Mahindra Park, Delhi  
Ph. 011-27632501, 27631128  
DP/208/NW/2020



Now returning to the way things were before the pandemic is not part of the plan as nothing will really be normal again. The key is to be flexible between each scenario, and prepare for multiple realities at the same time. If the worst-case scenario becomes reality, the newly turned/aspiring entrepreneur will know exactly who to call about the excess and which arms of the business to eliminate.

The critical ingredient to start a business is getting off your butt and doing something. It's as simple as that. A lot of people have ideas — but few decide to do something about them now. Not tomorrow. Not next week, but today. The true entrepreneur is a doer — not a dreamer. Go all out.

**The time is now**  
Look, you're an aspiring entrepreneur, and that means that you aren't likely taking the easy road to anywhere. You rise to meet challenges heads-on; while others may look for the safe path to mediocrity, you're looking for the tough path to excellence. Now's the opportunity to kind of see what you can create in the midst of all this downtime.

**Think big, dream big, but start small**

Great ventures start from small beginnings. Always dream big, but that doesn't mean you have to start big and there is nothing wrong with starting small. To win a boxing match first thing is to enter the boxing ring. To live your dreams, you must start working on it. Every great organisation starts with a few handful of like minded people, every great author starts with a single paragraph, every great athlete start

# INVEST IN FRESH IDEAS

A lot of people have ideas, but few decide to do something about them.

MITHUN BHARDWAJ lists things to keep in mind before starting a business

from winning his local competitions and every singer starts from singing in front of the mirror. You don't have to be afraid of the situations; neither you have to wait for the perfect situation. Don't worry about the conditions and circumstances; be ready for your beginning.

As starting out new you should find some comfort in knowing that in being small, you have the advantage of being more nimble and agile, which allows you to adapt more quickly than larger companies.

**Adapt to changing times is critical for survival**

Adapting to change is what will keep you relevant, valuable and at the forefront of the competitive edge. In the business sense of the word, adaptability entails being open to new ideas and concepts, being able to work on an independent basis or with a team as the situation demands, and juggling multiple projects without getting flummoxed when conditions abruptly change. The ability or degree of willingness to which one adapts in such situations essentially determines one's

level of flexibility — and possibly the heights they will achieve in the future.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to alter how we live our lives, many businesses have been quick to tweak their operations to reflect the new situation.

**Invest in less manpower; more on smarts**

Customers come second, employees first. Invest in clock-changer employees who are willing to go the extra mile to accomplish a task that everyone else is skirting. People can make anything possible. One man army can only look good in a real world not in the real world where you do a real business.

Now sadly common occurrence of reducing headcount, as employers like to call it, you will realise that lean is in and less is more. Invest in less manpower; more on smarts.

**Building a business is never easy**

Building a successful business won't be anything like you imagined. You will face failures, even when things are bloomy and economy is doing great.

You have to rise to the occasion however, rising to the occasion can be fun for daydreaming, but in the real world it rarely plays out with a fairy-tale ending.

**Establish a remote work option**

As things are rapidly moving digital, remote work is becoming easier than ever. Having remote employees can be cost-effective, especially without renting office space each month. The talent pool for potential employees can grow to include anyone around the world. And with fewer cars on the road at rush hour, remote work is the more sustainable option.

**Your body language is your investing card**

Pandemic or no pandemic your body language and vision should always be in sync.

Body language in business sets the foundation for people to communicate with others on a deeper level. Your body language, the unspoken language you portray in conversation, can make or break your business future.

**Be prepared for the unexpected**  
Shouldn't you have more reason to

be scared of the uncertain scenario? Yes, you should, and that's a good thing, for you.

It's wise to stop assuming the most likely outcome will turn up at the conclusion of every situation. A successful company prepares for multiple outcomes regardless of what's expected. Foresight enables you to respond effectively in all circumstances. The best way to prepare is to include all departments and employees in the planning process. You'll get fresh, unique perspectives that are more likely to result in critical and innovative thinking.

**Don't wait for the right time or the right investment**

In every crisis, there's opportunity to engage, innovate, and connect

If you sit and wait for the right opportunity, you may lose out on the precious time that you could have invested in working. Know that now is as good a time as any to initiate a business. Instead of contemplating for 24 hours work for 24 minutes, that shall yield more results.

Strive for quality than quantity.  
The writer is Director, Zashed Fashiontech

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.**  
— Anatole France

## Data science & AI courses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Delhi has announced the beginning of the application process for its PG Diploma in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The interested candidates can apply till July 20, 2020 on the institute's official website, <https://www.pgddsai.iiitd.ac.in/>

businesses collect day in and day out.

With the fast-paced expansion of the AI/ML job market, the skill gap is becoming a reason for worry. The Employer demand for AI skill outstripped job seekers by 2.2 times in Jun 2018.

This supply-demand gap indicates a huge opportunity for mid and senior-level professionals to transit into the field of Data Science and AI.

To cater to the upskilling needs of IT professionals and to meet the industry requirements, IIIT-Delhi, in collaboration with IBM has launched a nine-month long PG Diploma programme in Data Science and AI (PGDDS&AI). The institute will conduct the entire programme through online classes on weekends every month.

## CVRU invites applications

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Dr CV Raman University (CVRU), which is a part of the distinguished AISECT Group of Universities (AGU) and is located in Vaishali district of Bihar, has announced that the admission process for the 2020 academic session is now open. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the university has taken the admission process for the year online.

All facilities and services related to the admission process have been made available online, including virtual campus tours on the university's YouTube channel and live chats with counselors. Students can submit the application form as well as deposit their fees online through enabled websites and portals. The University is also set to arrange career counseling sessions for prospective students along with online classes on personality development, soft skills and communication, entirely free of cost.

In addition to going 100 per cent digital for the admission process, the University has also taken several measures to take teaching-learning as well as other operations entirely online. About 30 online lectures are being offered per day by CVRU Bihar and this process began from March 30, 2020. Around 400-500 students and 35 faculty members are a part of the lecture series. Apart from this, a digital library with over 65,000 e-learning resources has been made available in order to aid the process of self-study. Online assignments, question banks and quizzes have also been made available for students to further improve access. Virtual placement drives, career development webinars and personality development sessions are also being organised.

## Changing for better

Students are now showing greater interest in becoming entrepreneurs than working for someone else. RITESH GOYAL talks about the changes that will uplift the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem



Over the last two decades, the study of entrepreneurship has expanded from just the study of entrepreneurs and market research to a much broader subject. Now, the study also incorporates entrepreneurial behavior patterns of an individual, a company and the market, start-ups, and scale-ups, the different business partnerships, societal and economic development. Students are showing immense interest in becoming entrepreneurs than working for someone else.

India has become the third-largest start-up ecosystem and numerous start-ups are emerging every day with the hope of rising to

the top. Universities are making an effort to bring the right infrastructure in place to enhance entrepreneurship education. The number of universities now offering the entrepreneurship course is slowly rising and soon we will be looking at more reformed programmes that also help second-third generation entrepreneurs to help scale their business.

Let us look at the five trending changes that promise to uplift the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem:

**Incorporate entrepreneurial eco-system and learning:** The universities and colleges have started acknowledging and providing entrepreneurial courses, and are

now focusing on building an advanced curriculum that will form the heart of this unique program. More experiential learning, implementation of innovative ideas, live projects, building business models, facing real-world challenges, outside classroom learning, is what will encourage and prepare the students for what the market has to offer.

**Inclusiveness and mass reach:** Institutions have started marketing the benefits and learning of entrepreneurial education. Since, when it comes to business, we see more male candidates and also people who have money to invest, the whole marketing strategy is based on the awareness of investors available for

financial support and how women can benefit and make this career choice their own. The whole start-up scenario needs diversity and inclusion, which is now being worked upon and is open to all those who has a mind for business.

**Building innovation labs and creative workspace:** The next thing institutions are looking forward to is building innovation labs and workspace where the students have the tools, materials, and training they need to create prototypes and play around with innovation. A few colleges have already established such spaces inside their campus for the betterment of the students. We are looking at more communities coming forward and building such an innovative space where the students get to nurture their innovation potential.

**Boot camps and competitions:** A budding entrepreneur needs the push to do his best. Rigorous training programmes should be conducted frequently that enrich the students with new ideas, techniques, resources, networks, investors, tools, infrastructure, and the right mentor is what will drive them launch their start-ups and make it a flourishing business. Competitions with other budding entrepreneurs over innovative products and services will give them the boost they need to ideate and strategise. The boot camps will help the students grow a business sense, talk to investors and grow their network on a national and global platform.

The writer is Managing Director and CEO, GIBS Business School, Bangalore

## STUDY AT EASE

Online classes have become the new norm and even after the pandemic recedes, students would not be willing to step out and gather in schools, says ASHUTOSH KUMAR

The way year 2020 has panned out so far, paradigm shifts and persistent fear of the unknown have become a way of life. Even as nations emerge from the forced lockdowns, one point that it leaves us all with is the fact that the virus is here to stay.

While the student community somewhat rejoiced the announcement of the first lockdown, the happiness was short lived when parents and students alike were forced to mull over one vital question. How do you cope with the syllabi in a curtailed academic year and more importantly, will online teaching be beneficial in the long run? The fear of losing a year which would adversely impact careers was a nightmarish thought.

Over the last three months, online teaching and classes have become a new normal and even after the pandemic assuages, students would not be willing to step out and gather in schools, colleges or institutes for a long time. Such conditions would encourage students and parents to continue with online learning resources.

Parents are at ease with online learning because monitoring the progress of their ward is possible on a firsthand basis. Home tutoring and schooling has been a way of life in some western countries for a long time. Classroom teaching was being questioned for a long time here too. The main issue cited was students not



being able to cope with the pace. With online teaching, the students are finding it easy to be able to understand and obtain adequate subject knowledge. Opting for online teaching will soon become a preferred choice for parents and teachers alike.

A major advantage of online classes is that students are able to learn sitting in the comforts of their homes from their smartphones, tablets, laptops or desktops without the fear of being exposed to the virus. Another major advantage is the load of the school bag gets transferred onto the gadgets thereby bringing down the physical exertion of the students.

The probability of online learning becoming full time has increased manifolds due to its effectiveness as a mode of learning and capability to provide better learning experience than the traditional modes of teaching. Students now have access to a

number of teachers not limited to their school for guidance, while also getting information easily and on-demand and getting data-based recommendations. Up-skilling their current academic staff and equipping them with the right skills to create and deliver top quality digital content while ensuring maximum engagement is yet another prerequisite for transitioning the e-learning space. An effective way to do this would be through teacher training programmes that would help teachers create digital content with modern teaching methodologies, teach online and overcome the shyness of facing a camera. The education system is set to see a revolution, students have identified the high points of online learning and they would not be reluctant in learning online full time.

The writer is CEO & Co-Founder, Testbook.com

## Pearl Academy joins hands with UCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading creative education institutions in India and the UK, Pearl Academy and University for the Creative Arts (UCA), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that enables Pearl Academy students to progress to the programmes offered by UCA through seamless transfer of credits.

At a time when COVID-19 has put students' aspirations to study abroad in jeopardy, this academic tie-up enables them to fulfill that dream without wasting an academic year.

The academy's existing and future students those who will enroll for pro-

grammes in 2020 and onwards will benefit from this tie-up. They will be able to transfer their credits to UCA and study at one of the four campuses of UCA.

Talking about the tie-up, Professor Nandita Abraham, President, Pearl Academy, said: "Students and their parents start planning for higher studies much in advance, but this pandemic has made travelling abroad to study almost impossible. Letting go of an academic year is their choice but not advisable. Progression programmes create a win-win situation for them, where in they get the best of education, global exposure and an international credit transfer."

## Courses to upskill workforce

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With India Inc. treating the current pandemic as an opportunity to upskill their workforce, the Great Learning Corporate Academy by Great Learning has emerged as their preferred ed-tech platform for upskilling their employees. 500+ corporates have used the Great Learning Corporate Academy in the last 30 days to train more than 10,000 employees. While most of this demand has come from

sectors like Auto, BFSI, E-commerce, Finance and IT, the academy has also witnessed significant interest from government employees.

Launched in April 2020, the academy is a free online repository that offers high quality structured learning content across 30 career critical skills. The platform offers 300+ courses in domains like Data Science, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Big Data and

Digital Marketing. In the last 30 days, 25 per cent of active users have already completed at least one course, each of them spending an average of two hours per day on the platform.

Mohan Lakhmaraju, Founder and CEO, Great Learning said: "The academy's purpose is to offer organisations the opportunity to help their employees develop career critical skills relevant for the digital age at zero cost. It provides them with high quality programs developed by the

best of our faculty. This initiative is an integral part of our belief that everyone willing to put in the effort needed to learn should have access to the best learning opportunities. We encourage and support organisations who want to take any efforts to ensure their employees' constant learning. The response from companies have been great so far and we look forward to more employees taking advantage of the platform esent circumstances and be prepared to accelerate their careers."

## Admissions open at IAD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IAD) in collaboration with Kingstons School of Art, London offers undergraduate programmes in fashion design, fashion business management, communication design and interior architecture & design.

It also offers post-graduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management.

The Institute offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education and strives to groom the next generation of designers and design thinkers at its state-of-the-art campus in New Delhi.

**How to Apply:** Log on to [www.iad.edu.in](http://www.iad.edu.in)

**Admission Process:** Apply for IAD Entrance Test, July 17 and July 18, 2020.

# Djoker tests corona positive

World No 1 becomes fourth player after Dimitrov, Coric & Troicki to contract virus after taking part in his exhibition series

**AP ■ BELGRADE**

Novak Djokovic tested positive for the coronavirus on Tuesday after taking part in a tennis exhibition series he organized in Serbia and Croatia. The top-ranked Serb is the fourth player to test positive for the virus after first playing in Belgrade and then again last weekend in Zadar, Croatia. His wife also tested positive. "The moment we arrived in Belgrade we went to be tested. My result is positive, just as Jelena's, while the results of our children are negative," Djokovic said in a statement. Djokovic has been criticized for organizing the tournament and bringing in players from other countries amid the coronavirus pandemic. "Our tournament meant to



In this picture taken on June 19, Novak Djokovic, second left, poses with Grigor Dimitrov, left, Viktor Troicki and Borna Coric, right, at a tournament in Zadar AP

unite and share a message of solidarity and compassion throughout the region." Djokovic, who has previously said he was against tak-

ing a vaccine for the virus even if it became mandatory to travel, was the face behind the Adria Tour, a series of exhibition events that started in Belgrade and then moved to Zadar. He left Croatia after the final was canceled and was tested in Belgrade. The statement said Djokovic was showing no symptoms. Despite the positive test, Djokovic defended the exhibition series. "We organized the tournament at the moment when the virus has weakened, believing that the conditions for hosting the Tour had been met, Djokovic said. "Unfortunately, this virus is still present, and it is a new reality that we are still learning to cope and live with." Djokovic said he will remain in self-isolation for 14 days and also apologized to anyone who became infected as a result of the series.

# 7 more Pak players test +ve

**PTI ■ KARACHI**



As many as 10 out of the 29 England-bound Pakistan cricketers have tested positive for the dreaded coronavirus but boards from both the countries insisted on Tuesday that the tour remains "very much on track". After the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced that three players were found to be Covid-19 positive on Monday night, its update on Tuesday stated that seven more have been infected, including senior players Mohammad Hafeez and Wahab Riaz. The other five are Fakhar Zaman, Imran Khan, Kashif Bhatti, Mohammad Hasnain and Mohammad Rizwan. The squad was to leave for the UK on June 28 for three Tests and as many T20Is starting in August. Khan said that the play-

ers and officials would now assemble in Lahore and another round of tests would be carried out on June 25 and a revised squad would be announced the next day. "It is a matter of concern but we shouldn't panic at this time as we have time on our hands," Khan said. He said the players and officials would be retested on reaching England. Despite the developments over two days, Khan said the tour is on track. "The tour to England is very much on track and the side will depart as per schedule on 28 June. "Fortunately, all the first-choice red-ball squad, barring Mohammad Rizwan, are negative, which means they can start training and practising immediately after they have been tested and given the all clear when they arrive in England."

# Ronaldo, Dybala back on scoresheet

2-0 win over Bologna helps Sarri's men open up four-point gap at top



Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo jumps for the ball against Bologna players AP

**AFP ■ BOLOGNA**

Cristiano Ronaldo and Paulo Dybala scored early as Juventus put their Italian Cup final woes behind them with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Monday to move four points clear of Lazio on top of the Serie A table. Portuguese star Ronaldo had missed a penalty in the Italian Cup semi-final against AC Milan, and drew a blank in the final which Juventus lost 4-2 on penalties to Napoli. But the 35-year-old made no mistake in Juventus' first league game since beating Inter Milan 2-0 in Turin on March 8. He converted a spot-kick earned by Matthijs de Ligt after 23 minutes for his 26th goal for the Turin giants in all competitions this season. Dybala curled in the second on 36 minutes off a Federico Bernardeschi back-heel flick as Juventus, chasing a ninth consecutive Scudetto, opened up a four-point lead on second-placed Lazio. "We need confidence and this victory will help us," said Dybala. "It's not easy to be brilliant right now, we hadn't been playing for a long time. "If we had won the (Italian Cup) final everyone would have complimented us, because on a tactical level we have had a great game, even if we were not brilliant, but we conceded little. "Today we played a great

game, even if after 2-0 we gave up a bit." Lazio travel north to fourth-placed Atalanta in Bergamo on Wednesday, looking to keep their bid for a first Serie A title in two decades on track. Inter Milan, in third, are nine points adrift of Juventus, and next host Sassuolo. **'IMPORTANT VICTORY'** Elsewhere in Lecce, AC Milan shrugged off the absence of Zlatan Ibrahimovic to sweep past Lecce 4-1 and keep their bid for European football next season alive. Castillejo opened the scoring after 26 minutes for the visitors, connecting with a Hakan Calhanoglu cross from the right to slot in his first goal this season. Marco Mancosu pulled Lecce level from the penalty spot after 54 minutes, sparking an immediate Milan fightback with two goals in three minutes. Lecce keeper Gabriel denied Calhanoglu with Giacomo Bonaventura on hand to finish off with Ante Rebic racing through the Lecce defence for a third — and his seventh goal this season. Rafael Leao got his head to an Andrea Conti cross with Calhanoglu again involved in the build-up after 72 minutes. Milan move up to seventh equal on points with Napoli, who occupy the final Europa League berth before they play this week.

**AFP ■ MANCHESTER**

Manchester City thrashed Burnley 5-0 at an empty Etihad to ensure Liverpool will not be able to clinch the Premier League title when they face Crystal Palace on Wednesday. However, the match was overshadowed by a banner flown over the stadium at the start of the match reading: *White lives matter Burnley.* *Black Lives Matter* has been printed on the back of all shirts for the first 12 matches of the Premier League restart. Players, coaches and referees have also taken a knee before kick-off in every match to show their support for the fight against racial injustice. "I am ashamed, I'm embarrassed, that a small number of our fans have decided to put that around the stadium," said Burnley captain Ben Mee. "These people need to come into the 21st century and educate themselves as a lot of us do, I'm really upset that happened." In a statement, Burnley promised to hand lifetime bans to those responsible. "We wish to make it clear that those responsible are not welcome at Turf Moor," said the club. "We apologise unreservedly to the Premier League, to

# Foden 2 good for Burnley

English teenager impresses with brace in rare first team start to delay Liverpool's title party



Man City's striker Sergio Aguero (10) congratulates Phil Foden, right, after he scores City's first goal against Burnley AP

Manchester City and to all those helping to promote *Black Lives Matter*." The disparity of resources between the sides was shown even before kick-off as Burnley boss Sean Dyche could not even fill his bench, while Pep Guardiola was able to make eight changes from a 3-0 win over Arsenal on Wednesday. Dyche has been left frustrat-

ed by the Burnley board's refusal to extend contracts of five players who are out of contract at the end of the month. Phil Foden made the most of his chance to start for City as the 20-year-old opened the floodgates with a sweet strike from outside the box. Riyad Mahrez then killed the game as a contest with a quick double before half-time. The Algerian left Charlie Taylor trailing on the floor before firing into the far corner on his weaker right foot. VAR awarded Mahrez the chance to double his tally from the penalty spot after Mee caught Sergio Aguero. The Argentine striker had to be replaced by Gabriel Jesus and Guardiola admitted Aguero's knee injury "doesn't look good". "He felt something in his knee," said Guardiola. "He struggled in the last month with some pain in his knee." Retaining their Premier League title may be beyond City as they trail Liverpool by 20 points, but Guardiola's men still have the chance to add the FA Cup and Champions League to the League Cup they won in March. The fierce competition for places appears to be having an effect as there was no let-up after the break. Bernardo Silva's low cross was turned home by his namesake David for the hosts' fourth. Foden then rounded off the scoring at the far post after Gabriel Jesus failed to convert David Silva's cross. "That was my best game in a City shirt," said Foden. "I am just happy how the team are playing at the moment. We're looking sharp." There was another positive for City late on as Leroy Sane replaced Foden to make his first appearance since suffering cruciate knee ligament damage in August.

# Confident of sending 125 athletes to Tokyo Olympics: Batra

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Olympic Association president Nandinder Batra is confident of sending a record contingent of 125 athletes to next year's Tokyo Olympics. "The next one year is going to be critical and the focus will be on elite athletes. While we have 78 athletes who have already qualified, I am confident the numbers will go up to about 125 athletes once international competitions and qualifying meets resume around the globe," Batra said. "The preparations will be a joint effort by the Government of India, IOA, NSFs (National Sports Federations) and I feel this is a situation where the best needs to be taken out of the worst." India sent a 117-member contingent at the 2016 Rio Games and 83 competitors to London in 2012. **PTI**

# India will play U-17 Women's WC group matches in Guwahati

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India will have the football-crazy North-East crowd behind them as they play all their group matches of the women's U-17 FIFA World Cup at Guwahati's Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium. FIFA on Tuesday released the revised schedule for the tournament, which is to take place from February 17 to March 7 next year. The tournament, which was earlier scheduled to take place in November 2020, was pushed back due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The quarterfinals will take place in Ahmedabad, Navi Mumbai, Bhubaneswar and Kolkata on February 27 and 28 respectively. The two semifinals will be held simultaneously on March 3 in Navi Mumbai and Bhubaneswar. While Navi Mumbai has also been given the grand finale besides the third-place classification game, the tournament will open with double headers in Guwahati and Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium. India, who hold the A1 position in the draw by virtue of being the hosts will take on A2, who will be confirmed when the draw takes place, in their opener on February 17. The day's other Group A match will also take place in Guwahati. Both Group B matches will take place on the same day in Bhubaneswar. Group C and D matches will take place at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata and TransStadia Arena in Ahmedabad, respectively on February 18. On February 20, India will face A3 in Guwahati while the February 22 will see the hosts take on A4. This is the second time India is hosting a FIFA tournament with U-17 Men's World Cup 2017 being the first. Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Navi Mumbai have already been confirmed as the five host cities for the tournament and will host the 32 matches involving sixteen teams.

# Murray hopes to take part in US & French Open

**LONDON:** Andy Murray is hoping of making a return to Grand Slam tennis at both the US and French Open later this year. The three-time Grand Slam champion has been out of action since November with a pelvic injury, but will return in an all-British tournament hosted by his brother Jamie Murray this week. **The Battle of the Brits** gives Murray the chance to get some competitive action under his belt ahead of the planned August resumption of the ATP tour before two Grand Slams come in quick succession. The US Open is set to take place behind closed doors from 31 August, with the French Open starting on 27 September. And Murray is happy to return to New York for his first Grand Slam since the 2019 Australian Open, even if it means limiting the number of his team who can travel with him. "Playing the Grand Slams would be my priority," said the Scot. "The schedule is tricky and I understand the reason why it is like that. "I don't mind what the situation is, providing it is safe. "If I was told I could take one person with me, for example, you can make that work. I'd probably go with a physio and some coaching could be done remotely." **AFP**

# Boxing Day Test could be moved out of MCG, fears Paine

**PTI ■ MELBOURNE**

Australia Test captain Tim Paine fears the Boxing Day Test against India could be moved out of the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground in the wake of rising cases of coronavirus in Victoria. With the case load rising in Victoria, Cricket Australia (CA) is open to the idea of shifting the Boxing Day Test to Perth, where the situation remains under control. "Certainly, from a player's point of view, we want to be playing in front of big crowds at the best venues and a big day like Boxing Day is something that everyone looks forward to and a big part of that is playing at the MCG," the keeper-batsman said in a video message posted on CA website. "Fingers crossed things are going well enough that we can do that but, as I said, we are spoilt for choice here in Australia with some world-class stadiums. If something had to change, then, again, we have plenty of options." If the match is shifted to



Melbourne Cricket Ground has capacity of 1 lakh audience ICC/Twitter

Perth, the CA plans to hold it at the Optus Stadium, which can sit 60,000 supporters and is regarded as the best venue in Australia outside the MCG. There were also reports that the match may be held at an empty MCG depending on the situation at that time. Paine, however, said he is hopeful the Boxing Day Test of the four-match series would remain at its spiritual home. "Given the current cir-

umstances, I dare say everything is well and truly on the table. We are hopeful that everywhere we play come summer time, we would be able to have crowds," he said. When India toured Australia in 2018-19, they ended up winning a Test series Down Under for the first time in seven decades. Paine was in charge of the team because then skipper Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner copped one-year bans after their indict-

# Test cricket is ultimate & challenging: Gayle

**NEW DELHI (PTI):** A limited-overs marauder he might be but West Indies swashbuckler Chris Gayle says there is nothing more challenging than Test cricket, a format which can also help one understand the vagaries of life. Speaking to Indian cricketer Mayank Agarwal for BCCI's online show *Open Nets*, Gayle, who has played 103 five-day games in his roller-coaster career, said nothing beats the Test experience. He hasn't, however, played a five-day game since 2014. "Test cricket is the ultimate. Playing Test cricket also gives you a chance, how to live life because playing five days of cricket is very challenging. It tests you so many times, makes sure you are disciplined in everything you did," he said. "It also teaches you how to rebound from a tough situation," he added. Often accused of focussing entirely on the shorter formats, the 40-year-old encouraged youngsters to strive to play Tests. "Test cricket allows you to test your skills and mental toughness...Just be dedicated, enjoy what you do," Gayle said.

# Kiwis shelve B'desh tour

**PTI ■ DHAKA**

New Zealand were slated to play a two-Test series in Bangladesh in August-September as part of the ICC World Test Championship. Bangladesh has so far reported more than one lakh coronavirus cases with over 1,500 deaths. Last week, former ODI captain Mashrafe Mortaza, Nazmul Islam and Nafees Iqbal also tested positive for the deadly contagion. The governing bodies from both countries are working on new dates for the series, the Bangladesh Cricket Board said.

India shuttler H S Prannoy has apologised to the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for his scathing attack on the national federation after it did not recommend him for the Arjuna Award, days after he was show-caused for the outburst. Prannoy was eventually recommended for the award by national coach Pullela Gopichand in his capacity as a former Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna recipient. The world number 28 apologised to BAI after the governing body



Indian shuttler HS Prannoy PTI/File Photo

Biswa Sarma has accepted his apology and general secretary Ajay Singhania hoped the incident won't be repeated. "It was unfortunate to witness something like this but Prannoy had reached out to us and based on his submission, we hope going forward players will reach out to the federation if they have any concern," Singhania said in a statement on Tuesday. On June 2, BAI had recommended Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty and Sameer Verma for Arjuna award, leaving out Prannoy which prompted the shuttler to express his displeasure on social media. BAI president Himanta



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## FOCUS

# China makes rapid and steady progress in developing COVID-19 vaccines

The country will make its COVID-19 vaccine a global public good when it is ready for application after successful research and clinical trials

An inactivated COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the Institute of Medical Biology under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences has entered phase-2 clinical trials in China, the Science and Technology Daily reported June 20.

The phase-2 trials, which further evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of the vaccine in humans, are conducted in the southwestern province of Yunnan.

The institute started the phase-1 clinical trials in May. Nearly 200 volunteers aged between 18 and 59 received the vaccine in West China Second University Hospital in Sichuan Province. The study was randomized, double-blind and placebo-controlled.

A COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing plant of the institute in Kunming, capital city Yunnan Province, will be put into use in the second half of 2020, according to the report.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, China has adopted five technological approaches to develop COVID-19 vaccines, including inactivated



An employee handles trial vaccine samples at a COVID-19 vaccine production base of Sinopharm in Beijing. (Xinhua)

vaccines, recombinant protein vaccines, adenovirus vector vaccines, nucleic acid vaccines and vaccines using attenuated influenza viruses as vectors.

So far, five COVID-19 vaccine candidates have been approved for clinical trials in China, accounting for 40 percent of the total

vaccines in clinical trials worldwide, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

A few days ago on June 16, China National Biotech Group Co Ltd (CNBG), Sinopharm's vaccine and bioscience unit, announced on June 16 the phase-1 and phase-2 clinical trials of

its inactivated vaccine had demonstrated good performance in safety and effectiveness on vaccinated volunteers. No subjects showed serious adverse reactions, the company said.

The CNBG said a total of 1,120 volunteers were vaccinated during the phase-1 and phase-2

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The best way to defeat COVID-19 is to develop a vaccine against the virus that causes it. It is estimated that there are around 150 vaccine candidate projects across the world.

Chinese scientists have been racing to develop COVID-19 vaccines via five different approaches. So far 5 Chinese vaccine candidates for Covid-19 are undergoing clinical trials among over 2500 volunteers. Only those who finish their testing of safety and effectiveness will be allowed for mass production.

clinical trials, all of whom produced high-titer antibodies. In the 18-to-59-year-old age group, those who got two doses of vaccine based on the 0-and-28-day procedure demonstrated 100 percent antibody positive conversion rate, while those who got two doses based on the 0-and-14-day procedure and 0-and-21-day procedure showed a 97.6 percent antibody positive conversion rate.

Industry experts said the results were the world's first clinical data on safety and effectiveness collected after two doses of vaccination, offering

scientific and measurable support for epidemic prevention and control and emergency use.

According to CNBG, there are a total of three phases of clinical trials, and the company is actively promoting international cooperation on the final stage. It has received cooperation overtures from companies and institutions overseas. Once the inactivated vaccine completes the three trials, it is expected to hit the market by the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

(Edited from Xinhua and China Daily)

## INVESTMENT

# China reports rising inflow in foreign direct investment

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, expanded by 7.5 percent year on year to 68.63 billion yuan in May, said Gao Feng, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, at a press conference on June 14.

In U.S. dollar terms, the FDI inflow stood at 9.87 billion dollars, up by 4.2 percent year on year.

From January to May, the country's FDI totaled 355.18 billion yuan, down 3.8 percent year on year, narrowing by 7 percentage points compared to the first quarter of the year.

During the period, the inflow

to high-tech industries rose by 2 percent, with the information and e-commerce services sector up 42.3 percent and 67.9 percent, respectively.

Investment from members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations increased 10.1 percent year on year, while that from countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative rose 6 percent.

The country has rolled out a string of policies to better invigorate and protect foreign investors, which advanced the growth of the FDI, the ministry said earlier.

(Xinhua)

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION

# Grape growing helps township reduce poverty

In recent years, industrial development has become the primary method for poverty-relief in the Wandian township of Changning county, southwest Yunnan's Baoshan city.

"I've been working in the Changning agricultural company for a while and I'm satisfied with my wage and working hours," said Li Guixiang, a local villager.

Living in the remote mountainous area, Li and her husband were less informed of the changes. Thanks to the poverty-relieve policies, local governments helped them resettle in areas with better facilities.

In 2019, the per capita income in Wandian was 15,169 yuan and all the low-income families will be raised out poverty in 2020. Sizeable

plantations are now visible in the township, forming an effective model of development.

The grape-planting project was funded in 2019 by outside investment. The project provided job opportunities to local villagers, helping low-income family members work near their homes.

Li Guixiang was among the first ones hired by the grape planter. A hard-worker and fast-learner, Li mastered the core skills in grape planting. The company manager spoke highly of Li and she will be further trained.

With the CPC members taking the lead, over 205 local families had their lands rented to the Changning company, gained an annual rent of 575,000 yuan. (Wang Shixue)

## VOICE

# HK moves step closer to closing legal loopholes

That there is a legislative gap in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that needs closing is evident from the outcry that has greeted the State-level move to establish and improve the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms in the SAR to better safeguard national security.

Despite it being illustrative of the "one country, two systems" principle and a reinforcer of that framework, it is those forces inside and outside Hong Kong which are hostile to Beijing that persist in smearing the legislation as a threat to local residents' freedoms.

These forces, which have been colluding with each other to make trouble in the SAR, claim that the legislation that China's top legislature conducted the first review is "unconstitutional" and will extend the reach of China's "invasive state security apparatus" into what was "formerly a bastion of liberty".

They do so on the basis that the draft law is being introduced by the national legislature rather than the SAR's, despite this being in accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong's Basic Law. And they do so despite the ringing endorsement the move has received from a wide swath of Hong Kong society, including multinational corporations.

The draft law makes explicit stipulations on what constitutes four categories of criminal acts and their corresponding criminal responsibilities. They include acts of secession, subversion of state power, terrorist activities, and collusion with foreign or external forces to endanger national security, all of which are threats to any state.

Yet, laying bare their intentions, none of the opponents of the legislation has uttered a word against such acts in relation to what

has been happening in Hong Kong. The justification for their sanctimony is their habit of meddling in the internal affairs of other countries on the pretext of upholding human rights.

The fact that Hong Kong remains a weak link in national security and an easy target for hostile foreign or external forces to disrupt public order and jeopardize social and economic interests makes it clearly imperative for the central government to take the decisive move to plug the legal loopholes.

Only through establishing and improving at the national level the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for Hong Kong to safeguard national security can the small number of illegal and criminal acts of endangering national security be effectively prevented, stopped and punished in the city and thus create a stable and peaceful social environment for addressing its underlying problems in the economy and people's livelihood.

Only by doing so, can China's national security and the long-term prosperity and stability of the HKSAR be better safeguarded. (China Daily)

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## HI-TECH



China successfully sent the last satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System into space on June 23 from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center, marking the completion of its self-developed global navigation system. (Xinhua)

## CONNECTIVITY

# Yunnan speeds up infrastructure construction



The Jinsha River Bridge on the Lijiang-Shangri-la railway under construction. (Xinhua)

A 640-ton steel piece was fixed over the Jinsha River Bridge sling on the Lijiang-Shangri-La railway under construction on June 15, kicking off the steel-girding making.

Located in northwest Yunnan province, the 139km Lijiang-Shangri-La railway is part of the Yunnan-Tibet Railway.

With a main span of 660 meters, the Jinsha River Bridge has a total length of 882.5 meters.

The railway is only one of the efforts of Yunnan province to speed up its infrastructural construction. In early June, Yunnan Development and Reform Commission posted a work plan on major

infrastructural projects, which involves railways, airport, logistics and more. The projects are either under construction or to be launched.

Among the projects under construction, the Chongqing-Kunming high-speed railway is designed at a speed of 350 km/h, and it is a double-track electrified railway for high-speed motor train units. The 699.3-km railway will be open to traffic by the end of 2025.

And as part of the China-Laos Railway, the Yuxi-Mohan rail section passes through Yuxi, Puer, Xishuangbanna and others. It will be finished to traffic by the end of 2021. By the end of 2023, the Dali-Ruili railway will be open to traffic, fast trains will reach Ruili, a city near the China-Myanmar border. And by the end of 2020,

the expressway mileage in the province will exceed 9,000 kilometers. Besides, the province is implementing an expansion project in Kunming International Airport, and a new terminal will be finished by 2025.

Since 2017, the major Yunnan lakes of Dianchi, Erhai, Fuxian and others have seen all-round eco-restoration. By 2025, 414 km of new sewage pipes will be built up for the lakes, together with sewage treatment plants.

The other two projects, which are under construction are the Kunming national logistics project and the power transmission project. By 2025, Kunming will be an international logistics hub that connects China to South Asia and Southeast Asia. (Yunnan Daily)

## TOURISM

# "ICH+tourism" creates new models for Yunnan tourism development

The second Saturday of June each year is the "Cultural and Natural Heritage Day" in China. This year, the day falls on June 13. And Yunnan province's events on the heritage day are themed around cultural inheritance and healthy life.

Various activities were held to present the achievements of Yunnan in passing on its heritages by integrating intangible cultural heritage (ICH) with tourism, sports and technology.

In recent years, fusing heritages into tourism has presented their cultural value, while injecting more vitality into the tourism industry and creating new development models.

"From making Dai paper products to improving tourists' experiences, we are making consistent explorations," Li Junyuan, manager of a local art museum in Manzhao Village, Menghai County, south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture.

Born in the 1980s, Li moved his family to Manzhao Village in 2017 for his love of Dai paper. To explore new ways to inherit the Dai paper, he tries to offer more cultural experiences to visitors.

Dai paper-making is the oldest papermaking that is still living in China. In 2006, the papermaking was listed on the list of national

intangible heritages. "I'll hold a Manzhao art festival, so that paper lovers and painters all over the world can come here for art creation," Li said.

"The Yongzi plant welcomes 1 million visitors every year, and various activities are held for tourists' needs in games, catering, lodging and entertainment," said Tao Xiaochang, chairman of the Yongzi company.

The Yongzi go-piece is born in southwest Yunnan's Baoshan, with a 1,200-year history. "Centering around the Yongzi heritage, the activities have made the go-piece better known, stepping up the integration of culture, sports and tourism," Tao said.

The ICH shopping festival was one of the series activities of this year's "Cultural and Natural Heritage Day" in Yunnan. Having made many trials in livestreaming and E-commerce to sell products, Mrs. Jiang, founder of Yunxiu Yingxiang Company has a special understanding about the shopping festival. She said her company will invite internet celebrities to make endorsement for Yunnan embroidered products, in a bid to making more products known to the outside world. (Yunnan Daily)



With a history of over 200 years, Dian Opera, a kind of opera which combines traditional Chinese opera and distinctive Yunnan characteristics, was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2008. Here, a 16-year-old student is making up for the Dian Opera performance. (Xinhua)