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BHUMI PAYS
TRIBUTE TO
SUSHANT
10 VIVACITY



No metro, cinema halls, swimming pools till July 31

Unlock 2.0: Ban on social, political gathering intact; night curfew 10pm to 5am

Maha, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland extend lockdown till July 31 as Covid surges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Metro services, cinema halls, swimming pools, bars and assembly halls will remain closed, even outside containment zones, as per Union Home Ministry's Unlock-2 guidelines issued on Monday.

While schools and colleges will remain shut till July 31, social, political, sporting, entertainment, academic, religious and cultural gatherings and functions will continue to remain banned.

As per the new guidelines, the night curfew time is limited from 10pm to 5am. The night curfew is being relaxed for seamless operation of industrial units and movement in State and on National Highways as well as bus and train movements.

Shops, depending upon their areas, are permitted to take more than five persons at a time by keeping social distancing norms. All Government offices will start working full fledged from July 15. Training institutions of the Central and State Governments will be allowed to function with effect from July 15. SOP in this regard will be issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India," said the new guidelines.



A policeman raises his baton at a commuter during checking amid Covid-19 lockdown, at Byculla in Mumbai, on Monday. PTI

in a calibrated manner, the guidelines said. All activities, except the following, shall be permitted outside containment zones: Metro rail, cinema halls, gymnasiums, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places, social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions and other large congregations.

"Dates for opening of these will be decided separately, based on the assessment of the situation," said the guidelines which are effective from July 1 to July 31. Lockdown shall continue to be implemented strictly in the containment zones till July 31. The guidelines said the States and district administration will decide the area wise definition of containment

zones and will be shared with the Union Health Ministry. "States and UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, may prohibit certain activities outside the containment zones or impose such restrictions as deemed necessary. However, there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods. Continued on Page 2

PM TO ADDRESS NATION AT 4PM
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on Tuesday evening, his office said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation at 4 PM tomorrow," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. PTI

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After West Bengal, Jharkhand and Manipur, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Nagaland on Monday extended the lockdown till July 31 amid a steady rise in coronavirus infection. Telangana may also extend the lockdown. Assam has also imposed a total lockdown in Guwahati for 14 days from June 28. The fifth phase of the lockdown in India comes to an end on June 30. Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and

Telangana have reported the maximum number of cases. With 5,257 fresh cases and 181 deaths, highest in a single day, Maharashtra's tally of coronavirus cases reached 1,69,883, including 73,298 active cases, and the State extended the lockdown till July 31. The current lockdown was to end on June 30. An order issued by Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta on Monday said wearing face covers or masks, maintaining social distancing, restricted gatherings, and other measures shall continue to prevail. The State Government has also advised that work from home

should be followed as far as possible. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had on Sunday ruled out lifting the lockdown from that date. Mall, theatres, multiplexes, schools, colleges, gymnasiums, swimming pools will remain shut across the State. The essential services have been allowed across the State, while shops selling non-essential services are allowed with certain restrictions in red zones. The Government and private offices are allowed to operate at 15 and 10 per cent of their workforce. Continued on Page 2

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,69,883	7,610	88,960
Tamil Nadu	86,224	1,141	47,749
Delhi	85,161	2,680	56,235
Gujarat	32,023	1,828	23,248
Uttar Pradesh	22,828	672	15,506
West Bengal	17,907	653	11,719
Rajasthan	17,660	405	13,921
Telangana	15,394	253	5,582
Karnataka	14,295	226	7,685
Haryana	14,210	232	9,502
Andhra Pradesh	13,891	180	6,232
Madhya Pradesh	13,370	564	10,199
Bihar	9,618	63	7,374
Assam	7,493	11	5,334
Jammu & Kashmir	7,237	95	4,585
Odisha	6,859	30	4,946

3rd round of India-China parleys today

Talks against backdrop of China's refusal to pull back its troops from all 4 stand-off sites

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With no let-up in tension on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the Corps Commanders of Indian and Chinese armies will meet again on Tuesday. It will be their third round of parleys since June 6 to de-escalate and disengage at the volatile border with China yet to pull back its troops despite an agreement to do so.

The proposed talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin will be held on the Chushul border meeting point on Tuesday morning, sources said here on Monday. The first round was held on June 6 and the second on June 22. In both the sessions, the two sides agreed to keep all lines of communication open to defuse tension after the bloody clash on June 15 in the Galwan valley. The talks come against the backdrop of the Chinese refusal to pull back its troops from all

- The proposed talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin will be held on the Chushul border meeting point
- Both the armies are in an eyeball to eyeball confrontation at these points for the last 40 to 45 days since the first face-off on May 5
- The Chinese troops are reported to have intruded into the Indian territory in the Galwan valley, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso
- Lately, the Chinese have stepped up their activities in the Depsang Valley, too, further heightening tension
- Sources said any semblance of disengagement and de-escalation is not likely before the onset of winter

the four stand-off sites in Eastern Ladakh including the Galwan valley, Pangong Tso (lake), Hot Springs and Gogra. Both the armies are in an eyeball to eyeball confrontation at these points for the last 40 to 45 days since the first face-off on May 5. In the June 6 parleys, the two commanders agreed to mutually retreat in a gradual manner from the stand-off sites. India also insisted that status quo ante prior to May 5 be restored with Chinese troops going back to their positions across the LAC.

The Chinese troops are reported to have intruded into the Indian territory in the Galwan valley, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso. Lately, the Chinese have stepped up their activities in the Depsang Valley, too, further heightening tension. This area saw a four-week stand-off in 2013. India has a strategically important advanced landing ground or airfield Daulat Beg Oldie here besides the 250-km long important road link from Shyok to Daulat Beg Oldie. Continued on Page 2

Govt puts ban on TikTok, 58 other Chinese apps

New Delhi: Amid the ongoing tensions between India and China over the stand-off at the LAC in eastern Ladakh, the Centre has banned 59 Chinese-origin mobile apps after, terming their activities as prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity, defence of the country, security of state and public order. In an official statement, the IT Ministry said it has received many complaints from various sources, including several reports about misuse of some mobile apps available on Android and iOS platforms for "stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data in an unauthorised manner to servers which have locations outside India." Continued on Page 2

PLA erects tents 500 metres inside Indian territory along LAC

New Delhi: Even as the Indian forces are engaged in an all out effort to guard the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, signs of fresh trouble have emerged from the Galwan valley as the Chinese have erected tents and brought in vehicles in the Indian area and intruded more than 500 metres into Indian side of the LAC. The latest incursion picked up by satellites as recent as June 25 indicates far deeper than the Chinese claim line as existed in 1960, sources said here on Monday. This valley saw fierce battles in the 1962 India-China war. It was in the Galwan valley that on June 15 the Indian and Chinese soldiers came to blows Continued on Page 2

Delhi becomes first State to start plasma bank Covid care

Facility at ILBS to begin tomorrow

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will start a plasma bank at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) hospital in South Delhi for treatment of Covid-19 patients, announced Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday. Urging those recovered from corona to come forward and donate plasma, Kejriwal said setting up of the plasma bank by the Delhi Government to treat the Covid patients is the first of its kind initiative in the country. Plasma bank will start from Wednesday. According to the State Health Department officials, around 34 out of 35 patients have recovered because of plasma therapy in the LNJP and 46



out of 49 patients have survived due to this in private hospitals. "Until a few weeks back, there was a shortage of beds in Delhi. People started struggling for beds during the first week of June, and people were running from hospital to hospital in search of beds. I used to receive calls late at night, and I used to be awake all night to get beds arranged for the people in different hospitals. In the last month, we took various steps because of which there are a sufficient number of beds in Delhi. Now, there are 13,500 beds in Delhi, out of which 6,000 beds are occupied and 7,500 remain vacant," said Kejriwal. Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

PAK REOPENS KARTARPUR: NO VISITOR FROM INDIA
Lahore: Pakistan on Monday reopened the Kartarpur Corridor more than three months after it was temporarily closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but no Indian pilgrim visited the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, a top official said. India had rejected Pakistan's offer to reopen the corridor without stipulated prior notice.

BANGLADESH DEFENCE SECY DIES OF COVID
Dhaka: Bangladesh Defence Secretary Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury died of coronavirus-related complications on Monday at a military hospital.

ELEPHANT POPULATION IN U'KHAND RISES TO 2,026
Dehradun: The elephant population in Uttarakhand has increased by over 10 per cent in three years, an official statement said on Monday. There were 1,839 elephants in the State in 2017, and their number has now mounted to 2,026, it said. An elephant census was carried out in the State for three days from June 6 to 8 this year.

1st four Rafale jets to reach India on July 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first batch of four Rafale medium multi-role combat aircraft will reach India on July 27 from France. The jets flown by the IAF pilots will be based at Ambala and will be equipped with weapons, including missiles and other systems. The remaining 32 planes will join the IAF over a period of next two years as per the contract worth over seven billion Euros. The first batch arrives at a time when India and China are engaged in a tense situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last 45 days. These modern jets will be based in Ambala in the north and Hashimara in the east. The IAF has already completed the infrastructure, including maintenance back up at both the bases, sources said here on Monday. Continued on Page 2

Terrorists attack Pak Stock Exchange

4 ultras among 11 killed; hostage attempt foiled

PTI ■ KARACHI

Four heavily armed terrorists attacked the busy Pakistan Stock Exchange building here with guns and grenades on Monday morning, killing four security guards and a police officer and two civilians before being shot dead in an exchange of fire, authorities said. The terrorists, who arrived in a car, opened indiscriminate fire and lobbed grenades at the main gate of the multi-storey building situated in the city's high-security commercial hub as they tried to storm it. They are believed to be from a banned Baloch terror group. Armed with automatic machine guns, grenades and explosives, they tried to enter into the compound leading to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) building through a parking lot but security forces foiled their attack within the compound itself, Deputy Superintendent of Police (South) Jamil Ahmed said. "They lobbed hand



Police and investigators gather around a car used by attackers, in Karachi, Pakistan on Monday. AP

grenades and opened fire initially at the compound entrance to force themselves into the compound but one of them was killed immediately and that pushed them back," he said. The police and Rangers' officials arrived at the scene and killed all the four terrorists near the entrance gates, Sindh

Rangers said. Four security guards and a police sub-inspector were killed in the heavy exchange of fire at the PSX compound on Karachi's II Chundrigar Road, also known as Pakistan's Wall Street, the police said. Two civilians were also killed in the attack. Continued on Page 2

Syed Geelani quits Hurriyat over loss of accountability

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

At 90 years of age and crippled by many life-threatening ailments, Syed Ali Shah Geelani dramatically surfaced on various social media platforms on Monday with a long list of grievances against his separatist comrades before calling it "quits". Geelani remained at the forefront of separatist movement in Kashmir valley since 1993 when All Parties Hurriyat Conference, a conglomerate of various separatist groups, was formed on July 13, 1993. Since 2010, Geelani is believed to be under house arrest at his Hyderpora house in Srinagar. Labeled as a "hardliner" within the separatist camp, Geelani chose his "modulated" voice to send across an audio



message and a two-page letter, written in Urdu, to announce his permanent departure from Hurriyat. He was elected as life-long chairman of Hurriyat Conference (G). By calling it quits, Geelani has also sparked a fresh debate within the "inactive" faction-ridden separatist camp in Kashmir valley. In his letter, Geelani has claimed there have been certain issues that forced him to resign. Continued on Page 2

World largest plasma trial launched in Maharashtra

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday launched convalescent plasma therapy-cum-trial project for the treatment of critical coronavirus patients in the State. Called "Platina", the project is the largest convalescent plasma therapy-cum-trial project in the world. Also called passive antibody therapy, convalescent plasma therapy seeks to obtain plasma from the blood of people who have recovered from the infection to inject into patients undergoing treatment. Continued on Page 2

No access to healthcare to 77% J&K children during lockdown

PTI ■ SRINAGAR
Seventy-seven per cent children below five years of age in Jammu & Kashmir were not able to access basic healthcare services like immunisation during the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19, CRY said on Monday citing a study.

The 'Rapid Online Perception Study about the Effects of Covid-19 on Children' was conducted during the first and second phases of the lockdown based on responses of parents and primary caregivers from all across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, the NGO said in a statement.

It said a total of 387 respon-

dents from Jammu and Kashmir participated in the study.

"Seventy-seven per cent children of age 0-5 years were not able to access basic healthcare services such as immunisation during lockdown - necessarily imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in Jammu and Kashmir," Child Rights and You (CRY) said.

It said as immunisation programmes witnessed a major setback during the lockdown across the country, the results of the survey across 23 states and Union Territories found nearly 50 per cent of parents with children below five years of age unable to access immunisation

services.

"Worryingly, the figure was considerably high in Jammu and Kashmir with 77.14 per cent children below five years unable to get immunisation services," it added.

According to the study, in Jammu and Kashmir, nearly 35 per cent of the respondents said their children did not receive medical help during the lockdown, resulting in difficulties to cope with their children's illnesses and health hazards.

The study also talks about more systemic arrangements and logistical preparedness to ensure that children with no or compromised digital reach are not deprived from their Right to Education.

Chardham yatra to open for Uttarakhand pilgrims from July 1

PTI ■ DEHRADUN
The Uttarakhand Devasthanam Management Board on Monday decided to open the 'Chardham yatra' for pilgrims from within the state from July 1.

The four famous Himalayan shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand's Garhwal region are known as 'Chardham'.

An order permitting Uttarakhand residents to visit the four temples from July 1 subject to various anti-COVID precautionary measures and restrictions was issued by the

Board's CEO Ravinath Raman on Monday.

The number of pilgrims visiting the temples daily, however, will be limited and they will not be allowed to enter the sanctum sanctorum and adjoining wings of the temples.

The pilgrims will not be allowed to make any offerings or touch deities' idols either at the temples, the order said.

Pilgrims from containment and buffer zones cannot visit the temples, it added.

The SOP for pilgrims visiting the temples makes it mandatory for them to apply online for e-passes to the board on its website.

KVIC empowers 80 potter's families, new flag bearers of 'Swadeshi only'

PNS ■ New Delhi
The potters' community in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's constituency, Varanasi, is set to lead the country with "Swadeshi only" products this festive season.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is training the potters in Varanasi in making earthen lamps, sculptures of deities and other pottery items as part of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan".

On Saturday June 27, KVIC Chairman Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena distributed 80 electric potter wheels to 80 potters' families belonging from four villages namely Itahradhi, Ahauradih, Arjunpur and Chak Sahjanganj.

Congress holds nationwide stir against fuel price hike

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Monday attacked the Modi dispensation demanding a rollback of the fuel price hike even as the party held nationwide protests against the Government over the rising petrol and diesel prices.

The grand old party has also decided to launch a five-day protest, starting June 30, against the fuel price hike in each block of the country. The party held symbolic protests in front of the Central government offices against the daily fuel price hike. The Congress workers used bullock carts, cycles and other means to demonstrate against the government.

Since the daily price revision resumed on June 7, petrol price has increased by ₹9.12 and diesel rose by ₹11.01 in the national capital. Petrol prices in the other metros of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were at ₹87.14, ₹83.59 and ₹82.05 per litre respectively.

As a part of the party's 'speak up' campaign, Sonia Gandhi in a video appeal asked the government to cut taxes and lower the burden on the consumers during the time of the coronavirus when people are already suffering economically.

"I along with the Congress workers and citizens demand that the government should take back the hike in prices of diesel and petrol in these tough times," said Sonia Gandhi in her video message.

Terrorists attack Pak Stock Exchange

From Page 1
"Explosives, hand grenades and even food supplies were recovered from the bodies of the gunmen, indicating that they had come with a plan for a long siege at the building," the officer said.

President Arif Alvi and Pime Minister Imran Khan condemned the terrorist attack and said that the country is determined to root out terrorism from its soil.

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) linked Majeed Brigade claimed responsibility for the attack. It was also behind Pearl Continental hotel attack in Gwadar last year in which eight people were killed.

A senior official of the Counter-Terrorism Department said that one of the terrorists was identified as Salman, who hails from the restive Baluchistan province.

DSP Jamil said none of the terrorists managed to enter the main trading hall or building and that trading did not stop even during the attack.

PSX Managing Director Farrukh Khan said the "number of people in the compound was lower than normal today as many people are still staying home due to the Covid-19".

Sindh's Inspector-General of Police Mushtaq Mahar said that the bodies of the attackers have been taken into custody for investigation and forensics.

"None of them managed to even get close to the main building. All four were killed at the entrance of the compound which leads to the PSX," he said.

Sindh Police surgeon Dr Qarar Ahmed Abbasi confirmed that seven bodies and seven injured, including policemen, have been brought to Karachi's Civil Hospital.

The firing by terrorists caused panic among the people in the building.

Some of the traders told television news channels that soon after the firing started, they huddled together in their offices and cabins as they were told to remain indoors.

"We were scared about what would happen if these terrorists managed to enter the building..." a trader said. Senior Police official Sharjeel Kharal said that the attackers were armed with automatic weapons and came

with a mission to create a hostage situation.

Additional Inspector-General (IG) Sindh Ghulam Nabbi Memon said that the attackers exchanged fire with security guards and two of them were killed.

The two others terrorists succeeded in entering the gate but were engaged in the compound of the building and were killed.

The building and surrounding areas have been sealed and people were evacuated from the back door.

According to some media reports, the attackers were reportedly wearing clothes usually worn by police officials while they are off-duty.

President Arif Alvi and Pime Minister Imran Khan condemned the terrorist attack and said that the country is determined to root out terrorism from its soil.

President Alvi, in a state-ment, said that terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious designs.

Prime Minister Khan also condemned the attack and said that the entire nation is proud of the valiant personnel of the security agencies.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah condemned the attack and said that it was "akin to an attack on national security and economy".

"Anti-state elements want to take advantage of the virus situation," he said.

Sindh province Governor Imran Ismail condemned the incident.

"Strongly condemn the attack on PSX aimed at tarnishing our relentless war on terror. Have instructed the IG & security agencies to ensure that the perpetrators are caught alive & their handlers are accorded exemplary punishments. We shall protect Sindh at all costs," he said on Twitter.

The attack happened days after three low-intensity terror attacks were carried out in Karachi, Ghotki and Larkana in Sindh, leaving four people including two Rangers soldiers dead and a dozen injured.

In the last major terror attack in Karachi in November 2018, security forces had foiled an attempt by terrorists to storm the Chinese Consulate building in the nearby Clifton area.

5,257 afflicted, 181 die in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
For the fourth consecutive day, Maharashtra crossed 5,000-mark in terms of infections as it recorded 5,257 new positive cases on Monday, while - with 181 fresh deaths -- the total number of deaths in the state's breached 7,500 mark.

With no letup in the spike in the infections and deaths, the total number of deaths in the state mounted to 7610 and the infected cases jumped to 1,69,883.

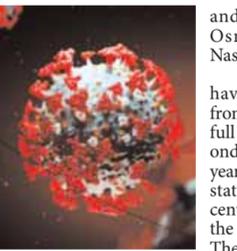
Of the total deaths reported 181 deaths, 78 occurred in the last 48 hours and 103 deaths are from the previous period.

Of the deaths, Mumbai alone accounted for 92 deaths, a tally that took the

and 1 each in Nagpur, Osmanabad and Nashik.

With 88960 patients having been discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year, the recovery rate in the state stood at 52.37 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 4.48 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of 'active cases' in the state at 73,298.

Out of 9,43,485 laboratory samples sent to laboratories, 1,69,883 have tested positive (18%) for COVID19 until Monday. Currently, 5,74,093 people are in home quarantine while 37,758 people are in institutional quarantine.



3rd round of India-China...

From Page 1
At the second round of talks on June 22, the two sides had come to a "mutual consensus" to disengage along the LAC and modalities for disengagement from all friction areas in Eastern Ladakh were discussed, sources said. However, there has been no progress since then.

The security establishment here is now readying itself for a long haul with China not budging and continuing with military build-up forcing India also to take adequate measures to guard the 4,000-km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

Sources said any semblance of disengagement and de-escalation is not likely before the onset of winter. Given the harsh weather and terrain, both the armies drastically curtail their patrolling of the LAC during the winter months, they said.

No metro, cinema halls, swimming pools till July 31

From Page 1
No separate permission/approval/e-permit will be required for such movements. National directives for Covid-19 management shall continue to be followed throughout the country, with a view to ensure social distancing. Shops will need to maintain adequate physical distancing among customers. The MHA will monitor the effective implementation of national directives. The guidelines said "vulnerable persons, i.e., persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years, are advised to stay at home, except for meeting essential requirements and for health purposes."

World largest...

From Page 1
"CM Uddhav Thackeray just launched Project Platina- the world's largest convalescent plasma therapy trial. Maharashtra has been working on plasma therapy since the beginning of the covid fight, but now it will be a formal trial- treatment project across Maharashtra," Maharashtra Minister Aditya Thackeray tweeted.

"The entire funding to support this plasma therapy trial has been done through the CM Relief fund and we hope this will be a landmark trial in the global fight against the Covid pandemic," Aditya tweeted.

"For all those wondering how to be a part of Mission Platina, the world's largest plasma therapy trial and treatment, they can enroll here along with adequate information. The mission was launched by @CMOMaharashtra @OfficeofUT this afternoon," Aditya added.

According to a State Government official, the trials will be conducted in 17 medical colleges across the state, which accounts for 1.64 lakh coronavirus cases out of the national total of 5.48 lakh.

Govt puts ban on TikTok, 58...

From Page 1
"The compilation of these data, its mining and profiling by elements hostile to national security and defence of India, which ultimately impinges upon the sovereignty and integrity of India, is a matter of very deep and immediate concern which requires emergency measures," the statement said.

The banned Chinese mobile apps include video-sharing social networking application Tik Tok, UC Browser and Helo besides file sharing app Shareit and WeChat among others. Other proscribed apps are Baidu Map, Shein, Clash of Kings, DU Battery Saver, Likee, You cam Makeup, Mi Community, Virus Cleaner, APUS Browser, Club Factory, UC News, Weibo, Mail Master, Parallel Space, Mi Video Call, Cam Scanner and Baidu Translate among others.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, Union Home Ministry, has also sent an exhaustive recommendation to stakeholders for blocking these malicious apps.

"On the basis of these and upon receiving of recent credible inputs that such Apps pose threat to sovereignty and integrity of India, the Government of India has decided to disallow the usage of certain Apps, used in both mobile and non-mobile Internet enabled devices," it said.

The move (ban on apps) will "safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users. This decision is a targeted move to ensure safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace".

The decision comes amid a backlash in the public to boycott Chinese products, services and mobile apps.

Syed Geelani quits...

From Page 1
"After considering the present circumstances, I announce to quit the Hurriyat forum," Geelani said in an audio message. The exact reasons behind the move could not be ascertained immediately.

"I sent messages to you through various means so the next course of action could be decided but all my efforts were in vain. Now that the sword of accountability is hanging over your heads for the financial and other irregularities, you thought of calling the advisory committee meeting," he wrote.

In his letter, he also accused Hurriyat constituents of hatching "conspiracy and resorting to lies against him" and also teaming up with the Hurriyat chapter in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, which had targeted him. "Instead of reprimanding them, you called a meeting in Srinagar and ratified their stand. You people have become part of the conspiracy and lies," said the letter.

"The lack of discipline and other shortcomings were ignored and you did not allow a robust accountability system to be established over the years but today, you have crossed all limits and indulged in rebellion against the leadership," he said.

Maha, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland extend lockdown till July ...

From Page 1
It has also clarified that the permitted non-essential activities such as shopping and physical activities like jogging, running, cycling will be allowed only in the neighbourhood areas only.

Tamil Nadu which reported 3,949 new cases and 62 deaths on Monday, taking the total Covid 19 cases to 86,224, extended the lockdown till July 31. Tamil Nadu has chosen to enforce the lockdown selectively in a few Covid-19 hotspots. The decision was taken after consulting with medical experts in the state. Nagaland has also extended the lockdown till July 15.

In Telangana, the Government is planning to re-impose lockdown in Greater Hyderabad municipal corporation limits for at least 15 days. On June 26, many shopkeepers associations in Hyderabad announced a voluntary lockdown for a period ranging from seven to 10 days as a precautionary measure against Covid-19.

In Assam, lockdown restrictions were imposed in the Kamrup Metro district, including the State's biggest city of Guwahati, for 14 days from 7 pm on Sunday. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh also announced to extend the lockdown till July 15.

Last week, West Bengal and Jharkhand have extended the lockdown till July 31 with revised the duration of the night curfew. Chief Minister Hemant Soren had tweeted, "Considering the seriousness of the situation, the State Government has decided to extend the lockdown till July 31." In Haryana, the Gurugram administrator said it will enforce a complete lockdown for two weeks after it identified eight outbreak zones in the district.

In Delhi, where Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had ruled out another lockdown, the Government has declared that schools will remain closed till July 31 while online classes and activities shall continue.

PLA erects tents 500 metres inside Indian territory...

From Page 1
They stopped Indian patrols in early May leading to stand-off.

The latest development indicates that the Chinese will not go back in a hurry, as they have also built blacktop road and culverts on the river in the last few weeks on their side of the LAC in the Galwan valley. They have also brought in more troops besides heavy weapons, source said.

Sources said if the Indian delegation is likely to raise the issue of latest intrusion in the Corps Commander level talks on Tuesday.

1st four Rafale jets to reach ...

From Page 1
After weaponisation, these jets are expected to participate in the October 8 Air Force Day fly past, sources said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh last year on the same day inducted the four jets into the IAF in France.

Giving details of the flight plan of the Rafales from France, officials said the jets will take off from Istres in France and fly to the French airbase in Al Dhafra near Abu Dhabi in the UAE. After a night halt, the jets will fly to Ambala in Haryana, where the IAF's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' is based.

The planes flown by the IAF pilots will fly straight for 10 hours (Al Dhafra). It will have a halt for the night and next day fly to Ambala.

Given the distance from France to India, two French Airbus mid-air refuellers will fly with the jets.

There would be at least two rounds of mid-air refuelling on the way to UAE.

Indian mid-air refuellers will take charge the next day for the journey to Ambala.

Once in India, the jets will be equipped with missiles including Meteor and SCALP, they said adding the French have diverted their weapon systems meant for their air force to the IAF.

India and France had inked a Government to Government pact in September 2016 for buying 36 Rafale jets off the shelf from French manufacturer Dassault.

Delhi becomes first State to start plasma bank...

From Page 1
"But in the last few days, I have observed that there is chaos regarding the high-demand for plasma therapy in Delhi. I am now getting calls from people asking for plasma therapy for their relatives and family members who are admitted to hospitals. Around two months ago, Delhi was one of the first States to start plasma therapy trials. In the first phase, we conducted plasma therapy trials on 29 patients, and you may remember that the results were very positive," he added.

Experts said plasma therapy helps increase oxygen levels and stabilise the respiratory

rate of patients.

"We had submitted the results of the first 29 plasma therapy trials to the Centre and the Central Government allowed plasma therapy trials in Delhi and many other private hospitals," Kejriwal said.

"Even after obtaining permission from the Central Government, our biggest challenge was arranging plasma for every patient. Plasma can be donated by people who have recovered from corona. There are antibodies in their blood that save them from corona. If these antibodies are transfused into other corona infected patients, out of which 34 peo-

ple have survived and one patient passed away. Another hospital in Delhi gave plasma trials to 49 patients, out of which 46 survived," he added.

The Delhi Government will set up a helpline in which potential plasma donors can call or WhatsApp. They will be contacted and all arrangements of the donation will be made accordingly.

He also said the health officials from the Government would also start calling recovered Covid-19 patients and convince them to donate plasma. Kejriwal said, "The antibody tests will be conducted in Delhi to avail information on

the antibodies level in the patients who have recovered from corona. As per the records, there are 52,000 people in Delhi who had corona, recovered from it, but they did not even feel it."

"Media has a huge and very important role to play in this initiative. There should be no politics on the matter. We have to save every life, be it from any caste, class, religion, or party. This also includes people from all professions. I want to request my media friends to run campaigns to inspire and motivate people to donate plasma and save more and more lives in the coming days," he added.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Rakesh Kumar, S/o: Hari Chand, R/o: H.No. 5409, Laddo Ghati, Pahar Ganj, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **05.05.2020** at 06:00 am. from his house from the area of P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 32A dated 17.06.2020** has been registered at P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi. The description of the missing person are as under: **Age: 52 years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Face: Long, ID Mark: Tattoo mark of 卐 on right hand and R.K.D. on left hand, Wearing: Fauji colour T-shirt & lower and grey colour shoes in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24366638, 24366641
Fax No. 011-24366639
DP/164/CD/2020

SHO
P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Tel.No. 011-23520787, 8750870427

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

DATE OF BIRTH

I Gouravva Pujari is legally wedded spouse of no. 14679694X Rank Sep Name Mrutyunjaya Pujari, Unit 505 Army Base WKSP have changed my date of birth 01.06.1989 to 06.12.1992 due to mismatched with my husband's army record. Both are same person.

PD(8877)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inviting the objections/suggestions for Grant of an occupation certificate for Tower A in Group Housing Colony area measuring 10.868 acres (License No. 33 of 2011 dated 16.04.2011) in Sector-103, Village Tikampur, Gurugram Manesar Urban Complex developed by Landmark Apartments Pvt. Ltd.

View this public notice from individual person jointly and severally who have made bookings / entered into a purchase agreement for allotment of flat/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred to as allottees). The Building Plan earlier approved is now proposed to be revised and whereas, the office of Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh is seeking objections/suggestions against changes in the shape and location of the organized green area, parking and ramp, which is within the prescribed parameters as per HBC-2017. Accordingly, vide this notice objections / suggestions are hereby invited on the changes in the shape and location of organized green area and parking in the colony. A Copy of the earlier approved building plans bearing Drawing No. ZP-721 JD(BS)/2012/7261 dated 27.04.2012 & as built drawings are available for perusal on our website <http://www.landmarkgoc.com>. The said as built plans can also be perused in the office of undersigned at Plot no. 65, Sec 44, Gurugram, Haryana-122003 Telephone number: 0124-4850000 as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana-122002.

If you have any objection/suggestion on the above mentioned, you may file the same in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram Haryana-122002 within 30 days of the issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that there is no objections / suggestion at your point on the proposed changes in the shape and location of organized green area and parking.

M/s Landmark Apartments Private Limited
Plot no. 65, Sec 44, Gurugram, Haryana-122003
Date: 30.08.2020 Place: Gurugram

CAIT seeks 'country of origin' info on all goods sold in India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Intensifying its movement to boycott Chinese goods, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has written to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and demanded that all products sold in India through e-commerce or offline shops or by any other method

should mandatory having the mention of country of origin and content of valued addition in a particular item.

It is worthwhile to mention that accepting an earlier demand of the CAIT, the Union Government has declared to have mandatory inscription of all goods that are to be sold on government e-market portal and in further-

ance of the same, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the traders' body said in a statement.

CAIT national president B C Bhartiya said that in the wake of several goods import from China and other countries are reported to be sold in India after pasting made in India has prompted the CAIT to demand the Commerce Minister Goyal

not to limit this provision only for e-commerce but make it a mandatory provision for all the products that are sold in India either by e-commerce, offline shops, corporate showroom, direct selling or by any other method.

The CAIT further demanded that products not carrying the above description should not be sold in the

country and in the event of violation of this provision, the manufacturer, producer, importer or marketer as declared on the packing of such product should be held responsible and action must be taken against them.

Both Bhartiya and Khandelwal said that the concept of value addition will contain the details about the com-

position of the products whether the product is 100 per cent made in India or imported or assembled in India by a combination of imported and Indian material or otherwise and will let the customer know about the exact percentage of contents of all goods.

"We are of the considered opinion that provision of mentioning country of origin and

value addition will make the customers fully understand as to what they are purchasing and will obliterate all confusions. Such a provision will also strengthen the "Make in India" concept of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will also demolish the unethical designs of certain sections to sell imported goods by wrongly labelling "Made in India" on

such goods"-said the trade leaders.

The Union government has begun the process of mentioning both above provisions on products sold on GeM from the date of the declaration then there should be no reason for delay from other e-commerce companies and they must implement the same with immediate effect, he said.

Congress protests against fuel price hike



Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers riding on a bullock cart stage a protest against the Central Government over hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, outside Shastry Bhawan in New Delhi, on Monday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Monday protested against fuel price hike across the country and demanded the centre to roll back the prices.

Party workers protested at petrol pumps across the Capital for the continuous hike in the

prices of petrol and diesel for the past three weeks by the Modi Government at the Centre and the Kejriwal Government in Delhi. Party leaders alleged that the decision to hike the prices is taken under pressure from the oil companies.

Congress Delhi unit pres-

ident Anil Kumar led the protest by riding a horse cart on his way to Raj Niwas to submit a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal.

Kumar, along with other Congress leaders were arrested outside the Civil Lines petrol pump and taken to the Maurice

Nagar police station. The Congress leaders alleged that the Delhi Police was acting in a partisan manner as cases are filed against Congress leaders when they raise issues affecting the common people while the BJP leaders and workers are left scot free when they organize large demonstrations and dhar-

nas. "The hike in the prices of petrol and diesel for 22 days on a trot resulted in diesel becoming costlier than petrol in Delhi for the first time ever, and demanded roll back in excise duty by the Central Government and VAT by the Delhi government," he said.

Terming the Modi Government "insensitive" towards the plight of the people as the hike in the oil prices were pushing up the prices of all essential items steeply, including fruits and vegetables, he said that people should be given the benefit of cheap crude oil price in the international market by lowering the prices in the domestic market as well.

"Both the Modi and Kejriwal Governments were coming under the pressure from the oil companies in hiking the prices of petroleum products to help them reap huge profits while the people of Delhi were reeling under tremendous stress and strain on account of the fast spread of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Kumar said that the people of Delhi are still under lockdown mode and many people have lost their jobs with no other source of livelihood. "Under such a situation, instead of giving relief to the people, the Modi and Kejriwal Governments were making the lives of the people harder," he said.

City Govt involved in ₹1,131cr scam with power firms: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta alleged that the Delhi Government is involved in a scam of ₹1,131 crore in collusion with power companies in the name of subsidy and fixed charge in electricity bills.

Addressing the media, Gupta slammed the Kejriwal Government saying the Government has only been cheating on waiving and reducing half of the electricity bill. "In reality, the Kejriwal Government is engaged in benefiting power companies in collusion," he said.

"The data of bills received from RWA of Delhi and com-

plaints received from citizens showed that when the power companies were unable to take meter reading during the lockdown, consumers received electricity bills for almost 94 days in these electricity bills consumption is also shown per month, but in the month where the consumption is less than 200 and 400 units, subsidy was not provided to the consumer," he said.

Gupta further said that in the budget 2020-21, the Delhi government has made a provision of Rs 2820 Cr subsidy for 12 months but by not giving subsidy to consumers in lockdown, the government has scammed Rs 726 crore in collusion with power companies

and DERC.

Gupta also said that about two lakh small and big industries operate in Delhi in 33 regularized industrial areas, while 22 redeveloped unplanned areas and household industries where 11 kW connections and 9 people work.

"Industries were completely closed during the lockdown and no work was done. At present, these industries are operating with only 25 per cent capacity, but the power companies have sent huge bills with fixed charge. In such a situation where the Kejriwal government should have given relief. In fact it seems that power companies are benefited with the move," he added.



BJP president Adesh Gupta speaks during a press conference in New Delhi on Monday

Rly top officer visits Anand Vihar Terminal to inspect Covid wards

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

General Manager of northern and north central railways Rajiv Chaudhry visited Anand Vihar Terminal on Monday to inspect isolation wards made by converting 267 railway coaches.

Addressing the media, he said that there are about 8050 beds available in the form of 503 isolation coaches

placed at nine stations in Delhi area. "As the Covid-19 cases are increasing in Delhi, the state Government intends to use them as quarantine centers for keeping patients with mild symptoms," he said.

"At present the Covid care centre set up by Northern Railway at Shakurbasti Railway Station is fully functional. The state government has attached the facility to Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital,

Pitampura, which has admitted 23 patients there," he added.

The Ministry of Railways is working in coordination with the state government to set-up these quarantine centres, he said, adding that the health care aspect is being taken care of by the Delhi government.

The Railways is looking after the basic infrastructure and maintenance of the premises that includes cleaning and

sanitization of platforms, housekeeping (linen and blankets), management of bio-toilets, power and electric supply, watering and communication, he said.

"Oxygen cylinders have been provided in each coach. Catering is also being done by the Railways. The patients are being provided hot nutritious wholesome meals three times a day, with tea being served in the mornings and evenings," he said.

33-year-old man beaten to death by neighbours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 33-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by his neighbours during a quarrel in west Delhi's Ranhola area. Police said that the incident occurred on Saturday night.

Police said that the deceased identified as Jitender, a resident of Jai Vihar, had a fight over some issues with his neighbours on Saturday night and he was allegedly hit with iron rods.

According to a senior police official, the victim was immediately rushed to the hospital but he succumbed to injuries during ongoing treatment on Sunday.

"A case has been registered at Ranhola police station on the basis of the complaint filed by Jitender's brother Anil Singh (38). Singh told police officer that one Rawat was among the attackers who had killed Jitender," said the senior police official.

"Police has arrested Rawat and further investigation is underway," he added.

500 challans for not wearing masks, violating social distancing norms



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday issued over 500 challans for not wearing face masks and violating social distancing norms amid the coronavirus outbreak.

According to a senior police official, a total of 572 challans were issued for not wearing protective face masks, spitting and violation of social distancing norms.

"A total of 17,919 challans have been issued in the national capital since June 15," he said.

Meanwhile, the police distributed face masks across various shelter homes and residential areas in the city. A total of 1,406 face masks were distributed by the police on Monday.

The officials added that 89,967 masks have been distributed by the security force since June 15 in the city.

Inmate of Tihar Jail stabbed to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following an old enmity, a 27-year-old inmate of National Capital's Tihar Jail was stabbed to death on Monday morning by a fellow inmate. The prison authorities said that the incident took place at central jail number 8/9 of Tihar prison.

According to a senior prison official, on Monday around 6 am, one inmate Mohammad Mehtab was attacked with a sharp metal strip, by another inmate Zakir (21).

"He was stabbed five to six times in his stomach and neck. The wounds on neck were deeper. Mehtab was given first aid in jail dispensary and later, shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where he was declared brought dead," said Sandeep Goel, the Director General, prison.

"Zakir, the accused inmate, was apprehended. The reason behind the incident seems to be old personal enmity. A murder case has been registered at Hari Nagar police station. Inquest proceedings are being conducted by Metropolitan Magistrate," said the DG.

"Mehtab was an accused of a rape case in Ambedkar Nagar area in 2014 and had been lodged in jail since then. Zakir, a murder accused of Jaitpur area, is lodged in jail since 2018. He was recently shifted to jail number 8/9 from jail number 5," the DG said.



The dust storm followed by rain brings down the temperature in New Delhi on Monday

Sudden spike in air pollution in Capital

NEW DELHI: Witnessing azure skies and breathable air for the last three months, Delhi on Monday recorded deterioration in its air quality, with particulate matter with diameter of 2.5 and 10 microns -- too small to be filtered out of the human body -- standing at 52 and 297 micrograms per cubic respectively.

Gufran Beig, Project Director of System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), said that the sudden spike in air pollution is due to a mild dust storm blowing from Rajasthan.

"Since the wind direction is changing and moist air is coming in, the air quality in Delhi will become better by tomorrow," Beig told IANS.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed that the overall air quality near Delhi Technical

University (DTU) area stood at 326 micrograms per cubic, followed by 308 at Narela and 307 at Mundka.

Out of 36 stations, the AQI in as many as 30 stations was above 200 micrograms per cubic till 1 pm on Monday.

The System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research categorises air quality in the 0-50 range as good, 51-100 as satisfactory, 101-200 as moderate, 201-300 as poor, 301-400 as very poor, and above 400 as severe.

According to SAFAR's website, "PM 10 (coarser dust particle) is the lead pollutant. AQI is likely to improve to a moderate category by tomorrow, and further improvement is expected by July 1."

Researchers indicated that PM 10 and PM 2.5 will be 170 and 47

The System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research categorises air quality in the 0-50 range as good, 51-100 as satisfactory, 101-200 as moderate, 201-300 as poor, 301-400 as very poor, and above 400 as severe

micrograms per cubic on Tuesday. With no vehicles plying on the roads or industries shut due to the lockdown since March 25, Delhi's air quality had improved drastically.

According to a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, if the low levels of air pollution reached during the lockdown period are maintained, India's annual death toll could reduce by 6.5 lakh.

IANS

Centre to use copters to end locusts' attack



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Unable to contain locusts' attack, the Centre has decided to use helicopters to spray pesticides in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will on Tuesday flag off a helicopter for Greater Noida for locust control operation. The helicopter will be used for the first time for such operations in India. The use of helicopter in India will be in addition to the deployment of drones for this purpose. India is also the first country in the world to use drones for locust control.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Bell 206-B3 helicopter, having a pesticide carrying capacity of 250 litres in one trip, will fly for Air capacity of 250 litres in one trip, will fly for Air Force Station at Uttarai, Barmer. It'll then be deployed for locust control operations in desert area of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Nagaur. The helicopter with spray equipment can cover about 25 to 50 hectares of area in one flight. "The Helicopter firm M/s. Malhotra Helicopters has been

Bikaner and Nagaur.

India has become the first country in the world to use drones for locust control after finalizing the protocols. Total amount sanctioned for deployment of drones is 1.2 crore for a period of 30 days. "Use of Drones has added one additional dimension as it is effective for tall trees and inaccessible areas. One drone can cover 16-17 hectare area in one hour and in 4 hours it can cover up to 70 hectare area," the official said.

The ministry claims that control operations have been done in 2,33,487 hectares in States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Bihar between April 11 and June 28. "No Significant crop losses have been reported in the States of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Haryana. However, some minor crop losses have been reported in some districts of Rajasthan," it said. To strengthen locust control capabilities in India, 10 ground spray equipments were imported from Micron, UK, during January, 2020 and 15 equipments in June, 2020. Additional 45 ground spray equipments will reach in the month of July and Locust Circle Offices have more than 100 ground control equipment by July.

Presently 60 control teams with spray equipment mounted vehicles and more than 200 Central Government personnel are engaged in locust control operations. According to ministry, 55 additional vehicles have been purchased to strengthen the control capabilities.

20K foreign medical graduates want to aid Covid fight, but Govt moving cautiously



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the unimpressive past track record of the Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs), the Union Health Ministry is treading cautiously as it remains non-responsive to the repeated request of around 20,000 such degree holders to rope in the battle against Covid-19 pandemic.

The graduates who complete their MBBS from countries like China, Ukraine, Russia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal and Kazakhstan have to clear the Foreign Medical Graduate Exam to practice in India, as mandated by the MCI. MBBS graduates from the US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand do not need to write this exam.

The Ministry strongly feels that it cannot set a wrong precedent and risk the lives of the patients including those suffering with Covid-19 at their hands only because there is a shortage of doctors in some hospitals. The data available indicates that only a fraction of those who write the FMG test, pass every year. For instance, in 2018-19, only 15.10 per cent of the applicants cleared the exam.

The All India Foreign Medical Graduates Association has written twice to the Ministry asking to allow them

to work as doctors without the mandatory bridge exam that they otherwise have to clear to practice in India.

They have sought licenses to work as doctors and aid in the fight against Covid-19.

"Government wants to maintain a certain standard which is why FMG cannot be allowed to practice without the mandatory test. There is a reason why that test was introduced in the first place.

"Moreover, each year, more than 80 per cent of these graduates are unable to pass the test, which means they are not fit to practice," said an official from the Ministry.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) also agreed with the Ministry's viewpoint.

"These doctors who complete their MBBS from other countries come from a different kind of background and different kind of discipline that is maintained in medical colleges. We have to know how competent they are, which is why the test was introduced and there is nothing wrong in that," said Dr R.V. Asokan, honorary secretary-general of the IMA.

Some of the FMGs, who have written to the government, failed the test by a margin while the others could not write the exam because it was postponed this year due to the pandemic, said the official from the Ministry.

RSS strongly backs Modi Govt's stance on LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The RSS has strongly backed the Modi Government's line on the LAC and sought to mobilise a strong public opinion around the world against Chinese "expansionist moves".

Sangh leaders have held a series of meetings with top BJP functionaries on the ongoing India-China border escalation on the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.

The RSS leaders supported Government's call for its "Atmanirbhar" (self reliant) approach and reducing dependency on other countries-beginning with China.

The discussions in a series of meetings here, last week, stressed the need to "isolate China" globally and mend fences with neighbouring Nepal. The interaction was attended, among others, by the senior RSS leader Bhaiyaji Joshi, BJP President J P Nadda and BJP General Secretary (Organisation) B L Santosh, according to sources.

RSS functionaries felt that China's design should be foiled by combing diplomatic, armed and social pressure and creating loud awareness



about its moves in areas other than the Galwan Valley - which was the point of a violent skirmish on June 15-16-like Aksai Chin, parts of Ladakh, Shaksagam valley, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. Awareness also needs to be created on their rapid infrastructure expansion, sources said.

The discussion lauded Government's "strategic alliances" with countries like Japan and Australia. Both the countries have been critical of the current Chinese dispensation. Japan has been inimical to Beijing on account of its territorial disputes and Australia had hit-out at the Chinese Government for its opaque behaviour in not pro-

viding timely information on the deadly coronavirus which originated from China.

RSS leaders stressed that relationships with neighbouring countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka or Maldives could be further improved and evolved. Nepal, they said is part of India's cultural continuity and have deep relationship with India.

The Nagpur organisation stressed that its organisational network would make all efforts to create public opinion against China and seek to isolate it in the world community. RSS leaders said Government was on the right track in dealing with Chinese moves and would get full support from the organisation.

IIT Roorkee launches global outreach programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ROORKEE

IIT Roorkee on Monday launched a Global Network of IIT Roorkee Alumni to establish an extensive connect with its large number of alumni spread all over the world.

On this occasion, Prof Ajit Chaturvedi, Director IIT

Roorkee, said, "In this digital age, there is a paradigm shift in relation to social and professional networking. Information technology has raised expectations of alumni and students for a flat and efficient platform instead of a hierarchical and bureaucratic process. They want to connect seamlessly with each other and

with the institute too." The Network will contribute in keeping alive the heritage and legacy of Thomason College of Civil Engineering to University of Roorkee and now IIT Roorkee. It would blend the old and new generations of alumni of this unique institute with a glorious history since 1847.

One deported, arrested in fake currency case from Thailand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday arrested an absconding accused who was wanted in a fake currency case and evading law for about seven years after being deported from Thailand.

The accused Kuldeep Singh Dua, resident of Distt. Navashar (Punjab) was arrested soon after arrival at the airport here. The CBI had registered a case under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, buying/selling or trafficking counterfeit currency and possession of fake currency on September 13, 2012 against two accused persons on a complaint from Customs Department, IGI Airport, New Delhi.

It was alleged that Customs (Preventive), IGI Airport, New Delhi had seized Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) to the tune of Rs 6,01,500 on September 11/12, 2012 from a passenger (Kulwant Rai, resident of Mukatpura, Distt. Navasahar, Punjab), the agency said. During investigation, the passenger Kulwan Rai had named another accused Kuldeep Singh Dua as the person who handed over him the counterfeit currency notes for carrying the same to India.

After investigation, a chargesheet was filed against Rai but Dua was continuously absconding for almost seven years and was not available for investigation, and a Look Out Circular (LOC) was issued against him.

Delhi Govt's decision to set up plasma bank hailed

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Health experts have welcomed the Delhi Government's decision to set up a plasma bank, a first in the country, saying that for the treatment of Covid-19 patients, plasma therapy may be still in the experimental phase but there have been encouraging results.

Moreover, given that, at present, there is no other sure shot treatment against the virus that has infected over 80,000 in the city, experimenting with plasma therapy is a good move, they said. The doctors also suggested setting up an online registry that connects donors and recipients infected with Covid-19 seeking the blood component.

"Almost all the countries have established a Plasma registry with a database having details about addresses and phone numbers of the Covid-19 survivors. They can be contacted whenever required," said Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director and Head, Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram.

He advised that plasma registry should also have a detail of the anti-body titre of each Covid-recovered patient.

"The antibody titer is a test that detects the presence and measures the amount of antibodies within a person's blood. The amount and diversity of antibodies correlates to the strength of the body's immune response," he explained.

The donors have to be free of Covid-19 for at least 28 days if the disease was serious or at least 14 days if it was mild. The blood types of the donor and the recipient have to be the same.

Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, Assistant Professor at Department of Pediatric Hematology Oncology, Super Speciality Pediatric

Delhi, Guwahati top TRA's Mental Wellbeing Index during corona

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TRA Research, a consumer insights and brand analytics company, released a whitepaper on Monday tracking the Mental Wellbeing Index score displaying "Excellent" Mental ability. Indore and Chandigarh, both at 78% are rated "Very Good" on Mental Wellbeing.

In the South, though, most cities showed greater vulnerability in coping with their Covid worries with Chennai having the lowest MWBI score at 43% followed closely by Kochi at 45%. Nagpur was also in the same range with a 44% score.

Hospital and PG Teaching Institute, Noida too felt that even though trials of plasma therapy were still in experimental stage, experimenting with such move (setting up plasma bank) is no harm when there is no treatment option and the Covid-19 scenario is deteriorating across the country.

In many States like Rajasthan and Maharashtra the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a health research wing of the Ministry, is already conducting trial for plasma therapy and once the results are out than only we will be able to tell whether or not it is successful.

She added that plasma therapy has been found to be useful in patients reporting respiratory complications. However, it may not be helpful in other complications like thrombosis where clotting is formed in lungs, she warned.

In the US, an NGO Sewa International has already set up a programme for Covid-19 sur-

play the highest mental strength in their ability to cope with their anxieties since the coronavirus spread started in India. Hyderabad had 87% Mental Wellbeing Index score displaying "Excellent" Mental ability. Indore and Chandigarh, both at 78% are rated "Very Good" on Mental Wellbeing.

In the South, though, most cities showed greater vulnerability in coping with their Covid worries with Chennai having the lowest MWBI score at 43% followed closely by Kochi at 45%. Nagpur was also in the same range with a 44% score.

Likewise, the number of Covid-19 active cases in BSF is 305 and 655 patients have recovered till now. The death count is four plus a road accident victim who was later tested to be Covid-19 positive. A total of 965 persons in BSF have contracted the disease.

The Sashtra Seema Bal has 37 active cases and 110 recovered personnel.

With the four new cases, the tally of infected persons in the ITBP is 317, including 81 active cases and 236 recoveries. During the last 24 hours, 13 patients have recovered from the pandemic.

Out of total active cases in ITBP, 21 are in Delhi and the

Action Network however felt that the Delhi Government's response has been quite late. "The Government literally watched while the private hospital MaxHealthcare became the main hub for plasma therapy, to the extent that the State Health Minister SatyendarJain, had to go to Max as well. The Chief Minister stepped aside to let this

CRPF records 58 new Covid infections in its ranks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF on Monday recorded 58 new Covid-19 infections in its ranks even as the tally of pandemic-hit personnel in the Force stood at 1,131 followed by 21 new cases in BSF and four in ITBP.

During the last 24 hours, 140 patients recovered in the CRPF which has at present 567 active cases, highest amongst all the paramilitary forces. The figure for recoveries in the CRPF stands at 655. The death count due to the novel coronavirus in the CRPF is nine.

Likewise, the number of Covid-19 active cases in BSF is 305 and 655 patients have recovered till now. The death count is four plus a road accident victim who was later tested to be Covid-19 positive. A total of 965 persons in BSF have contracted the disease.

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With the four new cases, the tally of infected persons in the ITBP is 317, including 81 active cases and 236 recoveries. During the last 24 hours, 13 patients have recovered from the pandemic.

Out of total active cases in ITBP, 21 are in Delhi and the

remaining 60 are at other different locations. Condition of all admitted is stable, a paramilitary spokesperson said.

As many as 19 ITBP personnel hit by Covid-19 are being managed at CAPF Referral Hospital, Greater Noida, one each at Safdarjung Hospital and MCD Hospital here besides eight at Tezpur, one each at Gangtok and Bommaru (Andhra Pradesh), two at Madurai, five at Raipur, nine at Jagdalpur, one at Jabalpur, four at Prayagraj/ Koshambi, nine at Dehradun, one at Samba, four at Rajouri, eight in Katihar, one each at Shimla and Jammu and two at Guwahati. One patient each is admitted at Shilapathar and Nahan besides two at Purnea.

Personnel from other paramilitary forces and Central police organisations admitted at CAPF Referral Hospital, Greater Noida include seven from BSF, 47 from CRPF, 55 from CISF, seven from SSB, four from NIA, one of NSG, NSG, two Intelligence Bureau staff, one each from NTRO and NDRF.

Family members of paramilitary personnel undergoing treatment at the referral hospital include a total of 15 patients (ITBP-4, CRPF-2, ITBP-3, CISF-4, Ex BSF-2).

hospital set up its plasma bank before announcing a Government bank," she said.

In the coronavirus plasma therapy, blood plasma containing the antibodies created to fight the virus is taken from Covid-recovered person and inject it into a person suffering from the disease so that the antibodies can help fight the disease.

Yechury urges CEC to consult political parties before taking decisions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on Monday urged the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora to consult political parties before taking decisions on change in election procedures. Expressing displeasure on not consulting political parties for allowing postal ballots to covid-19 quarantined persons, Yechury pointed out that the attitude of non-consulting political parties by Election Commission is totally an unhealthy practice.

"We are greatly disturbed by the media reports that the Election Commission of India (ECI) bypassing the established practice of consulting political parties, is unilaterally initiating measures to provide voters aged over sixty four years, the use of postal ballots. We are given to understand that in response to the request from the ECI, the Law Ministry had earlier amended the Conduct of the Election Rules to allow people with disabilities and those who are 80 years of age or above to opt for postal ballot during the general elections to Parliament and State Assemblies. Subsequently the ECI had approached the Government to further amend the rule in the light of the Covid 19 pandemic.

It is further reported that on June 19, the Law Ministry has notified fresh change to allow those aged 65 years and above the option of postal ballots. The amended rules also allow "Covid-19 suspect or affected persons" same option of postal ballots," said Yechury.

D Raja says Modi's observations in recent Mann Ki Baat far from truth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI General Secretary D Raja on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's observations in the recent Mann Ki Baat about the defence sector are far from truth. Raja said that in the radio talk Modi wrongly said that after Independence, India did not concentrate on defence factories and manufacturing.

"Prime Minister was far from truth. When the Britishers left India, there were only 18 Ordnance Factories and the arms, weapons, ammunition, etc, were manufactured based on British technology. After Independence, the elected democratic government led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had a vision and mission about achieving self-reliance in defence and indigenisation of defence manufacturing. As a result, many defence PSUs like HAL, BEL, BDL, BEML and others were established. Today there are 41 Ordnance Factories, with 23 of them established after Independence and not a single factory was established by the BJP government in the last six years.

"Today our Ordnance Factories are producing indigenously-developed arms, ammunitions, rifles, weapons, protective clothing, battle-field dress, tents, parachutes, etc, for the Indian Armed Forces. India has been equipped with the arms, ammunitions and other equipments produced by the Ordnance Factories and PSUs. How can the Prime Minister belittle the contribution of the Indian Ordnance Factories? said Raja accusing the Government for trying to privatise the defence sector by allowing 100% FDI in the sector.

Incessant rainfalls bring monsoon mayhem in several N-E States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several north-eastern States including Assam, Sikkim, Meghalaya and eastern States of Bihar and West Bengal have witnessed incessant rainfalls since Friday, causing floods. From June 1 to 29, Sikkim and sub-Himalayan West Bengal have received 123 percent and 22 percent rainfall, Bihar received 91% of excess rains, and Assam and Meghalaya

received an excess rain of 29 percent and 36 percent respectively. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), due to monsoon trough continues to run along the Himalayan foothills with the convergence of strong southerly and south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal over the north-east and eastern India.

Due to this weather pattern, there is a possibility of extremely heavy rainfall mea-

suring over 20 centimeters in the next 24 hours in north-east and eastern parts of the country. Over 10 lakh people have been evacuated in Assam due to flooding.

According to the IMD, the current weather situation is likely to cause widespread and very heavy rain in many parts of north-east India, Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim and Sub Himalayan West Bengal in the next four-five days. There

may be extremely heavy rain, in the next 24 hours.

Widespread rainfall is also expected over Madhya Pradesh for the next five days. With the prevalence of these weather conditions, most places have been placed on a Yellow watch by the IMD.

According to the IMD, flood situation in Assam has worsen due to heavy rainfall and around 10 lakh people have been evacuated so far.

IMD says there are two reasons for the intense monsoon activity. First, the northward shift of monsoon trough that runs from north Punjab to north-west Bay of Bengal. Monsoon rains are generally clustered around such troughs. Second, the coming together of strong winds from the south and southwest directions carrying moisture from the Bay of Bengal. The floods impacted five districts in upper Assam

the most - Dhemaji, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar and Dibrugarh. In Sikkim, landslides swept away portions of Mangan-Chungthang road near Mangan Police Station and Lanthey Khola in North Sikkim district following heavy rainfall.

Bihar is also in a flood-like situation. The IMD forecast heavy rain in Bihar for the next 36 hours as monsoon gets active in the State. The weather

department has issued a high alert for heavy rain in the entire state especially places located at north-central and north-east Bihar. Red alert has been issued in some districts like West-East Champaran, Gopalganj, Siwan, Araria, Kishanganj and some other districts. Lighting stroked warning is also issued in these places. As per reports, Bihar has received 92 percent more rainfall this year compared to

the other years. Cherrapunji, which is known to receive a lot of rainfall around this time of the year, has recorded up to 55 cm in a day.

Monsoon this time covered the entire country on June 26 - a good 12 days in advance. Usually, monsoon covers the country by July 8. But from last Friday an intense monsoon phase in the north-east and eastern India started.

J&K's Doda now militancy free

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Three more terrorists were gunned down by the joint teams of security forces in village Khulchohar area of Anantnag early Monday morning, taking the total tally of terrorists killed to 17 in back to back operations since June 1 to 29.

According to police, one of the terrorists eliminated in the encounter hailed from Doda district. He has been identified as Masood Ahmd Bhat resident of Doda (District Commander of HM outfit) and other two unidentified terrorists are from LeT outfit.

Police claimed with the elimination of Masood, the Doda district has become 'militancy free'. Earlier, Doda was declared militancy free after the elimination of two LeT terrorists in June 2011. The landlocked district started witnessing terrorist related incidents in September 2015. Two SPO's had joined the ranks of a terror outfit.

"With today's operation at Khulchohar in Anantnag by Anantnag Police along with 19 RR, CRPF in which

two LET terrorists including one district commander and one Hizbul Mujahideen commander Masood were neutralised, Doda district in Jammu Zone becomes totally militancy free once again as Masood was last surviving militant of Doda," a police spokesman said.

According to police, the operation was launched on a specific input generated by Anantnag Police regarding presence of terrorists in village Khulchohar area of Anantnag. A joint cordon and search operation was launched by the JKP, 19RR and CRPF in the said area.

During the search operation, the hiding terrorists fired on the joint search party. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, 03 terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

The dead bodies of the killed terrorists have been sent to Handwara for their last rites after conducting medico-legal formalities including collection of their DNA.

THOOTHUKUDI CUSTODIAL DEATH

HC orders revenue official to take charge of police station

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The custodial death of the father-son duo of P Jeyaraaj and J Fenix in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district took a new turn as it has come out that the policemen of Sattankulam Police Station are not cooperating with the Judicial Magistrate Kovilpatti, who is conducting a judicial probe into the incident.

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday ordered the district collector of Thoothukudi to direct the revenue officials to take charge of the station as well as all documents maintained in the office till the entire probe is taken over by the CBI.

A division bench of justices P N Prakash and B Pugalendhi hearing a suo motu petition told the court on Monday that they heard about the non-cooperation of the policemen through the Principal District Judge who is monitoring the investigation.

When the Additional Advocate General informed the court that the probe has been handed over to the

CBI, the judges said they were not bothered about that move as it was a policy decision of the Government. "But the evidence has to be preserved till the procedures to transfer the investigation to the CBI are completed," they said.

There are reports that Kovilpatti sub-jail records stated Jeyaraaj and Fenix had bleeding injuries in their gluteal regions when the Sattankulam police had taken them for remand on June 20. It was from this jail the father-son duo was taken to the hospital where they died.

There are reports that some of the cops of the Sattankulam Police Station used to torment Jeyaraaj for free mobile phones and accessories. Jeyaraaj's refusal to part with such 'gifts' had upset the policemen who were waiting for a chance to take on him, said these reports but the authenticity could not be confirmed.

It is also said that Fenix who rushed to the police station hearing about the arrest of his father had altercations and even a skirmish with the cops on duty.

Bengal Finance Min hits out at Sitharaman for 'misleading' people

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool-BJP face off on Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojna hit a new low with the Bengal ruling party come down heavily on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for "peddling lies" for political gains.

State Finance Minister Dr Amit Mitra on Monday hit out at Sitharaman for "telling such a big lie" so as to gain political mileage by misleading people by suggesting that the Bengal Government had failed to produce its district-wise data on the migrant workers when demanded by the Centre for earmarking funds for the central scheme for the jobless migrant workers of the State.

"Garib Kalyan Yojna ... the name is lofty but in reality it is full of politics... it is being used to further political gains," Mitra said in a very hard-hitting statement before asserting that the State Government had indeed complied to all the requisitions and directions given by the Centre to enable itself get funds for the jobless migrant workers who had returned from the host-spot areas.

Rattling out the dates of the Centre-State correspondence on the issue Mitra said "We received a letter to the PNRT Department on June 23rd asking us to send district-wise data of the migrant workers. We complied with the directives and sent the requisite data by 7 pm in the evening... And I have the documents with

me. "Then on June 25 there was yet another later this time asking for block-wise data of such workers. We complied with this too with immediate effect and yet our name was struck out of the recipient states I do have copies of the entire transaction regarding the issue...."

Alleging that the BJP was trying to play politics when the people of the State were languishing Mitra said the "one would not expect such a big lie from the Finance Minister of the country... I think either she is telling a lie or she has been wrongly informed about the issue."

Bengal Govt launches Covid warriors' club

Kolkata: In a move towards inspiring people in their fight against corona the Bengal Government has come out with a novel idea of launching a "Covid Warriors' Club" with 60 members to begin with, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

"We have come out with a novel idea that would perhaps be evaluated and followed by the rest of the world tomorrow to inspire the corona warriors," the Chief Minister said adding "we have created a Covid Warriors Club with ex-corona patients who have fought and won their battles."

"Initially there are sixty people in this club and we invite many more to join this. There jobs will be to provide support and serve the patients who are currently ill but helping them speak to their family members, by serving them food and other requisites and by giving them courage. "They will be given some wages for this too," Banerjee

said adding "the first such club has come up in Behrampore in Murshidabad district and gradually more clubs will come up in other parts of the State including Capital Kolkata."

Banerjee also declared July 1 otherwise celebrated as Doctors' Day as a State holiday urging the other States to follow suit. "We are doing this to commemorate and extend our gratitude for the corona fighters like the doctors, paramedical staff and frontline workers," she said adding "I hope the Centre too would take this idea to declare July 1 as a holiday."

Meanwhile the Kolkata Metro Railways have said that it would not be able to run its services without a green signal from the Ministry of Railways saying there was no adequate staff to ensure social distancing. CPRO, Kolkata Metro Railways Indrani Mukherjee said that the services cannot be resumed before August 12 given the current circumstances. PNS

Nearly 4,000 persons test Covid +ve on Monday in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Even as the Health Experts Committee appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu was having a two-hour long parley with Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami at Fort Saint George (Secretariat) about the future course of action to be taken on June 30, as the lock down declared in four districts and Madurai corporation is coming to an end on Tuesday, the number of Covid-19 patients was moving upward breaking all previous records.

According to the medical bulletin released by the Government of Tamil Nadu by Monday evening, a record number of 3,949 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 in the State on a single day with Chennai alone accounting for 2,167 patients.

The day also saw 62 persons succumbing to the pandemic taking the death toll till date to 1,141 in the State. Out of the 62 persons died on Monday, 51 died with comorbidities.

The day Chennai was locked down (19 June) 1,322 persons had

tested positive for the coronavirus. Monday's numbers indicate that the covid-19 pandemic has not been weakened because of the lock down.

The bulletin released on Monday said there are 37,331 active patients in the State while till date 86, 224 persons have been diagnosed with coronavirus. The number of persons discharged from the hospitals fully recovered rose to 47,749 by Monday.

Aggressive testing to identify and isolate the coronavirus patients continued in the State as 90 laboratories tested more than 30,000 patients on a single day and this took the total number of persons tested till date to 1.086 million. The State has also tested 1.14 million samples till date.

The problematic districts of Chengalpatt (187), Kancheepuram (75), Thiruvallur (154) continued to be areas of concern. But results from Madurai (290), Vellore (144), Virudhunagar (77), the industrial hub of Coimbatore (65) are causing anxiety among the policy makers.

Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, deputy

director, National Institute of Epidemiology, who led the committee of experts told media persons after the meeting chaired by the chief minister that they did not recommend for extending the lock down or bring more districts under lock down.

"Lockdown is a blunt instrument - it is not a solution at all times; it should be enforced when there is a need," said Dr Kaur. She said the State could not remain under lock down all the time. "We have to assess the situation of a district or taluk based on the indicators given by the World Health Organisation or the health experts committee. Enforcing lockdown in all areas is not necessary," said Dr Kaur.

She said in the past meetings, the committee had suggested that the number of tests should be increased and the government implemented that. "In Chennai, around 10,000 tests per day are being done. That is a good initiative. Similarly, across Tamil Nadu, the number of tests has improved. Nearly 32,000 tests are being done per day," she added.

Kerala records 121 new corona cases

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala reported 121 Covid-19 positive cases on Monday, with as many as 2057 people undergoing treatment for the infection and the death toll rose to 23 as the sample of a deceased man tested positive.

Of the positive cases, 78 had come from abroad and 26 from other states and five had been infected through contact.

Nine CISF personnel and three health workers were among those who were reinfected, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said.

This is the 11th consecutive day that the state has reported over 100 cases. Seventy-nine people have recovered from the disease, Vijayan told reporters. A man from Tamil Nadu had died on June 24 at the Manjeri Medical college hospital and his sample was found positive for the infection.

Giving the district wise break-up of the cases, Vijayan said Thiruvananthapuram reported the highest number of cases - 26, while 14 cases were reported from Kannur, Malappuram and Pathanamthitta 13 each, Palakkad 12, Kollam 11, Kozhikode nine, Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Idukki five each, Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram four each. There are 118 hotspots as of today.

With steep rise in Covid cases in Ponnani taluk in Malappuram, from 5 pm Monday to July 6, triple lockdown will be enforced and there will be a lot of restrictions in the movement of people.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches a new portal for according security clearances to various organisations for projects in areas nearby defence installations and also for RSEE activities in Indian Territorial Waters & EEZs on Monday PTI

Maha extends lockdown till July 31

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Alarmed apparently by the continued spike in coronavirus fatalities and infections, the Maharashtra Government on Monday extended the lockdown till July 31, to restrict the movement of persons for non-essential activities like shopping and outdoor exercises and to enforce strictly mandatory precautions of wearing masks, social distancing and personal hygiene.

On a day when the State recorded 181 more fatalities and 5,257 new infections taking the total number of deaths to 7,610 and infected cases to 1,69,883 in the State, the Uddhav Thackeray vested powers with the district collectors and Municipal Commissioners to enforce "certain measures and necessary restrictions" in "specified local areas" to contain the spread of the pandemic.

"It is further directed that the movement of persons for the purposes of non-essential activities like shopping and the outdoor exercises, shall be restricted within the neighbourhood area limits with all necessary prescribed mandatory pre-

In a related development, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation - which is waging a grim battle against Coronavirus in the country's commercial capital, issued a separate order announcing that it would impose a fine of ₹1,000 on those not wearing masks in the metropolis

cautions of wearing masks, social distancing and personal hygiene," the state government order extending the lockdown till July 31 stated.

In a related development, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation - which is waging a grim battle against Coronavirus in the country's commercial capital, issued a separate order announcing that it would impose a fine of ₹1,000 on those not wearing masks in the metropolis. "Anybody violating this order will be punishable under section 188 of Indian Penal Code (48 of 1860) and a fine of ₹1000 will be imposed for each such offence by the police officer or the officers appointed by Asstt. Commissioners of MCGM," the BMC order read.

Apart from permitting "unrestricted movement" only for attending place of work and bona fide humanitarian

requirement including medical reason, the Maharashtra government has allowed continuance of all essential shops, e-commerce activity for essential and non-essential items, all industrial units, on-line-distance learning activities and home delivery of food which are currently operational. All essential and non-essential shops and markets, except malls and market complexes, will be allowed to open from 9 am to 5 pm.

"All Government offices (excluding Emergency, health and Medical, treasuries, disaster management, police, NIC, food and Civil Supply, FCI, NYK, Municipal Services) to function with 15% strength or 15 persons - whichever is higher," the state government order said.

All private offices in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) have been allowed to operate with 10% strength or 10 people, the state government has allowed activities related to self-employed people like plumbers, electricians, pest control, garages, printing and distribution of newspapers (including home delivery), and barber shops have also been allowed in MMR.

US varsities for closure of red-light area to prevent spike in infections

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A study by academicians from two leading US universities has recommended shutting down of red-light areas for one year, to prevent an anticipated a shocking 400,000 infections and 12,000 deaths among red light area workers and residents in the event of resumption of activities.

The study titled 'Modelling the Effect of Continued Closure of Red-Light Areas on Covid-19 Transmission in India', carried out by experts at Harvard Medical School and the Yale School of Medicine, has projected that there could be over 400,000 infections and 12,000 deaths among red light area workers and residents in the next one year if they are reopened.

Among other things, the study says that more than 90 percent of these cases and deaths in cities like Kolkata, Pune, and Nagpur could be prevented by

the time the epidemic would peak by keeping red light areas closed. "It is impossible to practice social distancing during sex. Residents of red-light areas including sex workers, pimps, and brothel managers are at higher risk of infection. By keeping red light areas closed till there is an effective preventive measure, thousands of deaths among residents of red-light areas can be averted," Dr. Abhishek Pandey, Yale University, co-author of the study, said.

According to the study, West Bengal's red-light areas will experience over 2,000 deaths of sex workers and red light area residents if they reopen. West Bengal's largest NGO working with sex workers, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), has a membership that includes about 65,000 sex workers spread across 50 red light areas in the state.

Maharashtra will also be one of the worst affected states. In

Pune's Budhwar Peth, there may be 4,795 cumulative cases, 688 hospitalizations, and 162 deaths. In Mumbai's Red-Light Area of Kamathipura, Grant Road, and Faulkland Road, 3,494 cases, 486 hospitalizations, and 114 deaths. In Nagpur, Itwari Chowk can face 1,667 cases, 236 hospitalizations, and 56 deaths.

In New Delhi, the GB Road Red Light Area could experience 2,774 cases, 386 hospitalizations, and 91 deaths.

Dr. Sahaykan, a member of Code Red Coalition, a global coalition of doctors and researchers that is advising governments on how to prevent COVID-19 spread said, "None of the protection measures like distancing, masks, or sanitising can effectively stop COVID-19 transmission during sex work. Sex work cannot be safely practised in red light areas in India given their nature. It can result in many cases and deaths in sex workers and citizens."

Commenting on the report, co-author, Dr. Sudhakar Nuti, Harvard Medical School, said "The Indian government has implemented smart and effective measures to flatten the curve, but it is unlikely for the pandemic to be resolved until there is a vaccine. It is therefore important that red light areas remain closed until a vaccine is developed and widely distributed to protect sex workers and the population at large."

The study has recommended that sex workers need opportunities to gain skills that provide employment in lower-risk jobs. Recent media reports show that some sex workers have begun exploring other employment options. In Andhra Pradesh, a collective has asked for an exit strategy for sex workers including "transitional housing, bank loans, and alternate employment". The efforts to close India's red-light areas and help sex workers find lower risk jobs would save many lives.

SC asks MHA to clarify on visa status of foreigners who attended Tablighi meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Ministry of Home Affairs to clarify its stand about the status of visa of around 2,500 citizens from 35 countries, who were blacklisted for ten years for their alleged involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

The top court asked the Centre to place on record whether individual notices were issued with regard to cancellation of visas of the foreign nationals. A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna, which took up a batch of pleas filed by foreign nationals against their blacklisting for hearing through video conferencing, posted the matter for further hearing on July 2.

The bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and advocate Rajat Nair appearing for Centre that if visas of these foreign nationals are

cancelled then the government should explain why they are still here in India but if their visas are not cancelled then it's a different situation.

Nair, who initially appeared for the Centre said that the copies of these petitions has not been served upon them, therefore they need time to file reply. Senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for the petitioners said that they have served the copy of the petition upon advocate on record and added that blacklisting note was a general order for over 900 persons.

The bench said that the notification of Ministry of Home Affairs says the decision has to be taken on case to case basis by the authorities and it needs to be found out whether any such orders were passed.

Singh said that there should not be any violation of visa norms, now their native countries want them back and embassies are asking about them.

The bench said then let the Union of India make a statement on the status of their visa and told Mehta to find out whether any individual orders were passed for cancellation of visa of these foreign nationals.

At the outset, the bench asked Singh as when was the order for cancellation of visa was served upon them, to which he replied that it was a general order and no individual notices were given to them.

The bench said its understanding is that in each case separate order needs to be passed for cancelling the visa.

However, what is before the court is a press release and no specific order, it said. Singh contended that as far as blacklisting or visa cancellation is concerned there was no individual order was served on any person even during the hearing of bail applications before the High Courts, no such orders were placed on record

ICAI should be flexible in conducting CA exams, situation not static: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to consider treating aspirants who are unable to appear in CA exams scheduled between July 29 and August 16 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as 'opt out' candidates as the prevailing situation is not static.

It suggested that if a candidate, who has not opted out, is unable to appear in the exam due to exigency then he or she should be given the same benefit as provided to those who have opted out.

The apex court said ICAI should be flexible in conducting exams amid the pandemic and take care of concern of candidates.

It suggested that option for change in examination centre should be made available to the aspirants till the last week before the scheduled exams.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar was hearing through video conferencing a plea which has challenged the 'opt out' option alleging that it "arbitrarily" discriminate between the aspirants in the May cycle of CA examination.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna, observed that sit-

uation is not static and continuously changing and the ICAI should be flexible on the issues of 'opt out' and change of examination centre.

"Even if a candidate has not chosen the opt out option and he suddenly come under a containment zone, what will you do? You should treat candidates who do not appear as opt out cases," the bench said.

The top court observed that option for change in examination centre should be given till last week considering the fact that an area may become a containment zone due to the COVID-19 situation prevailing in the country.

The ICAI's counsel told the bench that they would place before the court a draft notification which would address the concerns raised by candidates.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on July 2 and said that the ICAI should also keep in mind the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs with regard to exams to be conducted by different boards like CBSE.

Advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, appearing for the petitioner, told the bench that there should be one examination centre per district.

Tamil Nadu extends lockdown till July 31

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami announced late Monday evening that the complete lockdown in the four districts of Chennai, Chengalpatt, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram and the partial lockdown in Madurai which would have come to an end on June 30 has been extended to July 31.

The decision is being seen as a follow up to the two hour long meeting the chief minister had with medical professionals constituting the high power committee.

All Sundays in the month of July would see the State going for "Intensified and complete lockdown". There would be no intra-district public and private transport operations from July 1 to 15 in Tamil Nadu.

E-pass system for intra-district, inter-district and inter-State movement would continue to be in place.

Travelers planning to visit Chennai or any other places in Tamil Nadu may reschedule their itinerary to another time.

No point in this war

The BJP and Cong should stop targetting each other on China and instead focus on stopping its territorial march



Is it really important to wrestle over the politically-motivated Chinese munificence at a time when our eastern neighbour might be having the last laugh? For competitive and comparative slogan-shouting on which party benefitted more from China doesn't matter when that nation has sized up its priorities well, pandered to every ruling regime in India, made sure that our markets are ever hungry for its products and bargained hard to extract what it wanted. So one would tend to agree with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo and seasoned politician Sharad Pawar that Chinese territorial ambitions

and wanton moves are matters of great national security than bickering over how much territory was lost under whose government or if the aggression of 1962 should be easily forgotten because that was in the past and Ladakh is more immediate. The fact of the matter is that China has worked around every regime change and if its continued reinforcements near the Galwan river bend are any indication, then it would not let India's focussed attention on Ladakh, by way of development and infrastructure, get in the way of its strategic edge in Aksai Chin. It won't allow any development that would attract external interference in its troubled provinces of Xinjiang and Tibet and keep on slicing land to bring us to the negotiating table on its terms. So far, that has worked for China regardless of whether it was the Congress or the BJP leading the Government. A skirmish has inevitably been followed by de-escalation talks which China has consistently used to extract land concessions, political tradeoffs and deeper market access. So an all-party agreement or debate on developing a new paradigm to deal with China would have been more fruitful in tackling the biggest threat in our neighbourhood. Frankly, who did what and who failed whom doesn't matter in the great game where China seeks to dominate the Asian century. Nor will voters of both parties wonder about failures when all they would be more interested in is who decided to do something about the body bags that keep coming from the front. So the BJP may launch an all-out attack on the Congress, claiming the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation received funds from the Chinese embassy in New Delhi for pushing a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and China but can it deny its inability to arrest the trade deficit with our neighbour? Can it answer why despite the optics of summits and all talk of civilisational contiguity, the pace of Chinese incursions has picked up or that Modi was as unprepared as Nehru and misread President Xi Jinping's imperial plans? Of course, the Congress has alleged Huawei has donated ₹7 crore, TikTok ₹30 crore, Paytm ₹100 crore, Xiaomi ₹15 crore and Oppo ₹1 crore to the PM CARES fund, highlighting how Chinese industry is aligned to political imperatives. But can it answer why it, too, couldn't share the same alarmist concern about incursions during the UPA years as it is now? While it is going after the Government over flip flops and uncoordinated briefings on Galwan, would it be able to explain its past secrecy?

The most important realisation that all our political parties need to have now is that the country cannot afford to be speaking in a forked tongue, which works to serve China's interest. A unified response is needed as China has already pushed its proxies in the region, Pakistan and Nepal. Besides, its imperialism was always present, only now the gloves are off. So India would do well to study all border disputes and expansionism that China has been involved in with its neighbours. In Central Asian republics, it showered them with incentives and took the land. In return for economic investment and local level inducements, Russia lost some land in its Far East as locals leased them out to Chinese farmers. We must accept that China will be intransigent and all parties should put their heads together to formulate a new policy. In the short-term, that will have to be diplomatic as we build our economic self-sufficiencies in the long-term. So long as we continue to depend on intermediaries and its global supply chains, an economic boycott would be foolhardy. We could decide against its inclusion in 5G trials though. We should take a more decisive role in the Quad initiative with the US and Japan. And while Beijing feels we aren't as invested in Tibet, particularly in a post-Dalai Lama scenario, we must not give up our stakes, supporting any international initiative on this subject, like a certain lobby in the US is pushing for. Finally, under no circumstance should we give up our positions in the Galwan Valley, which anyway the Chinese had not raised since 1962, till India ramped up infrastructure. We cannot let the persistence of our Army to hold our own go waste and continue road-building and supply lines as planned. Besides, India can play up its advantage in the Indian Ocean, strengthen its Southeast Asian alliances, encash the offer of its inclusion into an expanded G7 as G10 and use its forthcoming presidency of G20, its chairmanship of the WHO and its place in the Global AI Alliance to argue for larger geo-political threats from China that would impact other nations, too. If all parties work on these strategies instead of living in the past, we could stall China.

Volunteering India

Amateur radio operators have helped Bengaluru monitor the virus. Indians have stepped up efforts during the pandemic



The Coronavirus pandemic has stretched governmental resources in democracies across the world in a bid to keep the police and the medical staff alert for the past 12 weeks. This has driven things to a breaking point. However, in India, where resources are limited, it has been the citizens who have stepped up efforts in the past few months. They have managed to fill at least some of the gaps. Governments across the world, including the Narendra Modi Government, have been criticised for their reaction to the Chinese contagion. When this virus finally passes, many Governments will pay a heavy price, although the biggest culprit of the pandemic, Chinese President Xi Jinping, will likely escape scot-free. But logically and rationally, it is unfair to attack administrators, who never anticipated such a pandemic of a global scale. Therefore, those citizens who have stepped up, opened their kitchens and drawing room, wallets and hearts to those who have been economically, medically and educationally impacted due to the Wuhan virus need to be lauded.

Add to this list, the amateur radio operators from Bengaluru, who are assisting the local authorities to monitor those houses and apartments which have been put under quarantine. Sure, some privacy advocates will find such societal policing problematic but the fact remains that Bengaluru has managed to control the pandemic better than any other major city in India. Thanks to initiatives like this taken by its citizens as well as a well-managed, publicity-free campaign by Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa. However, while authorities in other cities would want to replicate this initiative, it must be remembered that no other Indian city has such a vibrant amateur radio community. Bengaluru was a major engineering hub with the likes of Hindustan Aeronautics, Bharat Electronics and the Indian Space Research Organisation setting up their bases here even before it became India's Information Technology hub. Many of those retired engineers are fascinated by amateur radios. It can well be argued that Bengaluru became India's IT hub because of its history. But we should thank the radio operators of Bengaluru, who, like many others across the country, are doing a stellar job in helping the authorities tackle the Coronavirus pandemic.

Ghosts from the past

News about the RGF taking funds from China has stirred a hornet's nest, raising questions about the sanctity of the transaction and its impact on India's sovereignty, unity and integrity



A SURYA PRAKASH

With so much coming into the public domain about donations to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) headed by Sonia Gandhi, the Congress has launched a counter-attack on the BJP but its attempts to turn this into a slugfest between the two main political parties is unlikely to bury some basic, worrying questions that have cropped up in the public mind.

To begin with, the Congress must explain why the RGF, which like the party is an enterprise of the Nehru-Gandhi family, took a donation from China — a nation that has spurned India's hand of friendship and repeatedly challenged its territorial integrity for over seven decades. Even more shocking is the Congress' reluctance to disclose the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) it entered into with the Communist Party of China (CCP) in 2008. The document was signed on behalf of the party by Rahul Gandhi, its general secretary, and by a CCP official in the presence of his mother and party president Sonia Gandhi and the then Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping. Despite mounting public demand, the Nehru-Gandhis are chary of releasing this MoU. What are they afraid of?

Posting a picture of the MoU signing ceremony, the noted lawyer, Mahesh Jethmalani, tweeted recently and said that it was imperative for the party to disclose the details "and get the guessing and insinuations over with." More ominously (for the Congress), the lawyer noted that "China was and is in Indian law, an enemy country. The CCP is an enemy association. It supports the occupation of the Indian territory and lays claim to other areas. Any agreement/MoU with the CCP validates its stand and is an unlawful activity punishable under the UAPA." He also suggested that a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe be ordered into possible offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Acts of 1976 and 2010.

This question becomes all the more relevant at a time when 20 Indian soldiers have laid down their lives while countering yet another attempted incursion by the Chinese in Ladakh recently. There is also a domestic angle to the scandal involving funds flowing into this family's trust, which is even more appalling. This relates to the diversion of funds from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund



(PMNRF), which is primarily meant to lend succour to the people in times of natural calamities to the RGF when the party headed the coalition that ran the Union Government from 2004 to 2014.

Apart from the Nehru-Gandhis, Manmohan Singh, who was the Prime Minister at that time, must explain how he allowed such gross misuse of public fund directly under his charge. He must also explain why so many Union Ministers, Government departments and public sector undertakings gave grants to the RGF when he was the Prime Minister.

The news about the donation from the Government of China to the RGF has stirred a hornet's nest as it has raised questions about the sanctity of the transaction and its possible impact on India's sovereignty, unity and integrity. The Congress, which was at the vanguard of the freedom movement, has for long enjoyed the trust and love of the people for the enormous sacrifices made by its leaders to secure the country's freedom.

The sacrifices of Mahatma Gandhi, who was the party's guiding light, Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Vallabhbhai Patel, BR Ambedkar and thousands of others across the land were remembered with utmost reverence by the people in the initial decades after independence. However, this reverence began to fade away when, after the advent of Indira Gandhi, the

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THE CONGRESS MUST EXPLAIN WHY THE RGF, WHICH LIKE THE PARTY IS AN ENTERPRISE OF THE NEHRU-GANDHI FAMILY, TOOK A DONATION FROM CHINA — A NATION THAT HAS SPURNED INDIA'S HAND OF FRIENDSHIP AND REPEATEDLY CHALLENGED ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY FOR OVER SEVEN DECADES
 ”

party became a clone of a private limited company, which was tightly held by the Nehru-Gandhis and which allowed the family's insecurities and pettiness to permeate its activities.

Consequently, they made India a *de facto* monarchy and with the help of courtiers in the media and academia, worked overtime to obliterate the contribution of great leaders outside this family.

This reached such vulgar proportions that every major Government scheme, public building, national institution, university, scholarship and sports event was named after members of this family. This exercise went to such shameful lengths that even Pygmalion Point, the southern-most point of India, was re-named Indira Point and a peak in the Himalayas was named Rajiv Peak. Union Ministers and State Chief Ministers vied with each other to please the family and went to such ridiculous lengths as to name a calf-rearing scheme in Haryana after Indira Gandhi and a breakfast scheme in Pondicherry and a *jhopadpatti* (slum) football tournament in Maharashtra after Rajiv Gandhi.

All this shows the small-mindedness of the family but since this exercise went unchecked for decades, the family has become so brazen as to take donations from an enemy country for the family-run trust.

The sense of entitlement of the family is such that Sonia

Gandhi and not Manmohan Singh attended the Beijing Olympics. The Chinese played host to her, her son Rahul Gandhi, her daughter Priyanka and son-in-law Robert Vadra. Tweeting about this, Shobha Karandjale, MP, said, "This wasn't just a mockery of the office of the Prime Minister but a subversion of India's democratic system and ethos."

Therefore, the unwillingness of the Congress to criticise China even after 20 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives defending the country at Galwan must be seen in the light of this donation, the MoU and the red carpet laid out by the Chinese to the Nehru-Gandhis. Then, the jigsaw puzzle will fall in place.

There is seething anger in the country regarding the hegemonic attitude of China and its perfidy after the signing of agreements *vis-à-vis* patrolling and other arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) for maintenance of peace. The strong public sentiment will compel the Narendra Modi Government to take firm measures to defend the country's territorial integrity, which the Prime Minister has firmly declared is "non-negotiable." Unfortunately, the Congress is not lending him support. Why is it at odds with this national sentiment? Every Indian must ask this question and search for answers.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal.)

SOUNDBITE

This is a good time for India to invest in the Quad. The appearance of privileging BRIC/RIC meetings over engagement with like-minded partners is discordant.



American diplomat — Alice Wells

Star kids are taught acting and groomed for the job while outsiders get one chance after years of struggle. And that is make or break for us.



Actor — Radhika Madan

It is unthinkable...the things that are happening in Delhi against the amendment to the Constitution...Listen to the media. Look at the meetings being organised in India.



Nepal's Prime Minister — KP Sharma Oli

Narasimha Rao represents the worst of the cynical Congress, of deceitful Indian politics and of the weak ambivalence of the Indian state in the face of challenge but not praise.



AIMIM chief — Asaduddin Owaisi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too large a risk

Sir — The debate around the world about herd immunity from COVID-19 is picking up pace. Epidemiologists are suggesting it as one of the solutions for the pandemic. The lockdown was termed as a period for preparation of the health infrastructure to battle the virus and now, living with it looks like the only option. The development of a viable vaccine is still under way and letting antibodies develop naturally is a big risk. If we do let the virus spread under the guise of herd immunity, vulnerable sections will be exposed and the mortality rate will rise.

Herd immunity is not a process or a technique that can be implemented; it is a natural occurrence. The ideal way of achieving immunity is through a vaccine, in the absence of which the virus has to be contained by tracing, testing and treating. Since India has a huge population, we cannot take risks.

We are quite far from achieving natural immunity; even the serosurvey conducted by the ICMR shows that only one to two per cent of people

Ensure fair probe into Tuticorin deaths

This refers to the editorial, "Crying shame" (June 29). This is not the first incident of custodial deaths in India but the gruesome death of P Jayaraj and J Bennicks has shaken the conscience of Indians across the country. While everyone is expecting a proper inquiry into the allegations against the police — the case has already been transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) — hoping that the culprits will be given exemplary punishment, it is depressing that Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has said that Jayaraj and Bennicks died of illness. Will this not divert the course of the inquiry? If Palaniswami is convinced that they died of illness and not owing to the inhuman torture inflicted on them by the police, why has he announced a solatium of ₹10 lakh for each of the deceased and a job for one of the family members?

One expects that the CBI conducts a proper inquiry, one that is monitored by the High Court, and justice is meted out to the family of the deceased with-



out any external interference. At this juncture, I am also reminded of the golden period of the police when under the leadership of policemen like FV Arul, SM Diaz and EL Stracey, the police were real friends of the people. It is rare to find police officers of their stead nowadays.

Tharcus S Fernando
Chennai

have developed antibodies naturally in these three months.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli
Hyderabad

Language unites

Sir — As the world comes to grips with the "new normal" Coronavirus has wrought on us, the virus has led to an explosion

of new words and phrases, both in English and in other languages, that have become a part of our day-to-day communication.

Terms such as "lockdown," "hotspot," "community spread," "self-isolating," "pandemic," "quarantine," "contagious" and "key workers" among others have seen a rise in usage while neologisms are being coined quicker than ever in the wake of

the pandemic.

On the one hand, our medical faculty is busy analysing, experimenting and calculating ways to contain the pandemic, on the other, linguists are busy, trying to study and analyse these new metaphors. The outpouring of metaphors, neologisms and lexical innovations we have seen in the past few months points to the fact that linguistic creativity

is a key part of language, reshaping our ways of engaging with the world. Understanding the language surrounding the pandemic will be more important.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Unlock cautiously

Sir — State Governments are caught in a Catch-22 situation. On the one hand, lockdown cannot be enforced for an indefinite period, on the other, the rate of infection has been increasing. Given the fragile condition of the Indian economy, prolonged lockdown is injurious to the livelihoods of a majority of people. Locking up people indefinitely has another flip side of psychological stress and ailments it may cause. The best way is to unlock cautiously, making social distancing norms punishable with hefty fines. Markets must be opened on a staggered basis. Work from home must be encouraged.

Sweta
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Brotherhood during a crisis

Despite the fact that India is adversely affected by the virus, it has acted as a responsible stakeholder towards Africa and given it a helping hand



LOKESH KUMAR

COVID-19 created multiple challenges for the world and Africa is no exception. The healthcare system is very fragile and underfunded and there are only 200 ventilators on the continent. Even South Africa, which has one of Africa's best public health systems, has approximately 1,000 ICU beds, of which 160 are in the private sector. Dr Norman Matara, Secretary-General, Zimbabwe's Association of Doctors for Human Rights, says, "We knew (COVID-19) was coming. Our Ministry of Health continued telling us that they were prepared, but when the virus eventually reached here, we saw that the Ministry was not prepared at all. The isolation centres did not have the capacity to deal with severe cases of COVID-19. There were no ventilators, no ICU staff, no ICU nurses, no anaesthetists, so we don't know what they were saying. How were they prepared when they did not even have ICU facilities to deal with one patient?"

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) report warns of severe economic pain across Africa amid the pandemic, with growth contracting to 2.6 per cent in the worst-case scenario and an estimated 27 million people pushed into extreme poverty. The World Bank has said that sub-Saharan Africa could fall into its first recession in a quarter-century.

The relationship between India and Africa is rooted in shared values and principles mirrored in close bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The pandemic recently augmented India's image as a capable international partner as it proactively reached out to the African continent. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), more than 25 African countries are getting medicines including Hydroxychloroquine, Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, besides antibiotics, anti-diabetic, anti-cancer, anti-asthma and cardiovascular drugs. The list also includes other medical devices like injections and thermometers. In addition, India has extended telemedicine support by partnering top Indian institutions with local African institutions to engage and train healthcare workers of Africa to mitigate the crisis.

To meet the common challenge in this difficult time, India has also supplied essentials to Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros under 'Mission SAGAR.' This medical diplomacy is built on historical goodwill shared by India and Africa. India has been one of the largest suppliers of generic drugs in East and Southern Africa, comprising 40 per cent of its total export along with petroleum products. It has an existing telemedicine and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme for training Africans in the healthcare sector. In addition, India has also reached out to the Indian Diaspora in Africa by maintaining close contact with the community. They have been assured of all possible help within the limitations posed by the pandemic. A few weeks ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar took the personal initiative to call several presidents on the continent to assure them of India's support to Africa in fighting the pandemic. Despite the fact that our own country is adversely affected by the pandemic we have acted as a responsible stakeholder towards Africa and given it a helping hand. Our relationship with Africa thus goes beyond strategic reach and economic interest. It is more to do with the emotional connect that we share and solidarity that we feel for each other.

In the meantime, China, being Africa's largest trading partner, is providing medical protection equipment, Coronavirus testing kits, ventilators, medical masks and so on in African countries during this epidemic. The main objective of this Chinese collaboration is to raise Beijing's image globally as a leading provider of humanitarian aid and "public goods" in the global public health sector.

According to Professor Harsh Pant, an authority on international relations, this "Donation Diplomacy" of China is primarily aimed at achieving three immediate objectives. Since the origin of the Coronavirus in Wuhan, the first is to have a global outlook on China, to change it, to build goodwill abroad and to revive China's image globally. We see that China has also been successful in establishing this diplomacy in African countries to some extent, but the racial discrimination against African citizens that has taken place in the city of Guangzhou in China during the time of this epidemic has damaged China's policy to some extent. Overall, China's diplomacy towards Africa has received a mixed response during COVID-19, but it still has helped China successfully establish its economic and political influence in the entire world, including African countries.

Thus, we see that both India and China, through their respective health and charity diplomacy, have been strengthening their bilateral and multilateral relations with Africa. But there is a difference in this view of India and China. While China is mainly focussing on establishing its own political influence and structural development in African countries, India is focussing on the development of local capabilities in African citizens. That's why at the end of this disaster, India's historical, social, economic and cultural relations with African countries will be strengthened like never before.

(The writer is Assistant Professor and Research Scholar, Department of African studies, DU)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

MANISH SISODIA SAID THAT BY JULY 31 THERE WILL BE 5.50 LAKH PERSONS INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS. THIS CREATED FEAR IN THE MINDS OF PEOPLE IN DELHI.

—UNION HOME MINISTER
AMIT SHAH



WE HOPE THE SITUATION WILL IMPROVE AND NOT BE AS BLEAK AS IT LOOKED IN JUNE WHEN DOMAIN EXPERTS PREDICTED 5.5 LAKH CASES IN DELHI.

—DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
MANISH SISODIA

Foster the right to be a girl

Girls go missing not just in India. The preference for sons is entrenched all over the world. Globally, there were 1.2 million missing girl child births every year, says an UNFPA report



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Daylight was just breaking over Bhiwani in Haryana. As the sleepless Sunita watched the sunrise from the window of her room, she felt a shooting pain. But instead of exhilaration, Sunita was filled with a sense of sadness. She knew she would never get to see the baby she had nurtured in her womb for nine months. Neither her husband nor his family would allow her to keep the baby. After all, she had already given birth to two daughters and there was no way they would accept the third one.

Sunita had been allowed to retain this pregnancy only on the condition that the baby would be given away immediately after its birth. This diktat had been given soon after a sex determination test, conducted against her will, had revealed that Sunita was carrying a girl child.

Meanwhile, in a distant place, a young couple was waiting impatiently for the news that Sunita had gone into labour and the baby was about to come into this world. They had been waiting for the past seven months since they had been told that Sunita had agreed to give her baby to them. Having tried unsuccessfully for several years to have a biological child, the couple saw this as an opportunity to bring joy into their lives without having to go through the long and arduous adoption process.

So, neither the fact that the baby was a girl nor the knowledge that they would be circumventing rules by whisking her away secretly, mattered to them. They only wanted to bring home the baby.

In these circumstances, baby Laxmi was lucky she got loving adoptive parents who did not care that she was a girl. If they had not been found, there was every chance that Laxmi would have become one of the 46 million women missing in India between 2013 and 2017 either due to pre-natal sex selection or due to postnatal mortality. About 4.60,000 girls go "missing" at birth each year in India, according to the UNFPA *State of World Population 2020* report released today. The report, *Against my will: Defying the practices that harm women and girls and undermine equality*, highlights how harmful practices deny women and girls their rights and entitlements. It further states that such harmful practices were at a risk of getting exacerbated due to the economic disruptions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Girls go missing not just in India. The preference for sons is entrenched all over the world. Globally, there were 1.2 million missing girl child births every year, states the report. What is alarming is that the number of missing women has more than doubled over the last 50 years. Sadly, it is the two Asian superpowers — China (50 per cent) and India (40 per cent) — who together account for about 90 per cent of the estimated 1.2 million missing girl child births annually worldwide due to gender-biased (prenatal) sex selection.

Current statistics show that at present there are over 142 million women missing globally. A country's data on sex ratio at birth helps to measure the extent of gender-biased sex selection. In most parts of the world, the "natural" or normal sex ratio at birth is between 105/106 male births for every 100 female births. This means there should be between 943 to 952 girls per 1,000 male births in India. Any decrease in this natural sex ratio at birth indicates gender-biased

WHAT IS ALARMING IS THAT THE NUMBER OF MISSING WOMEN HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS. SADLY, IT IS THE TWO ASIAN SUPERPOWERS — CHINA (50 PER CENT) AND INDIA (40 PER CENT) — WHO TOGETHER ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE ESTIMATED 1.2 MILLION MISSING GIRL CHILD BIRTHS ANNUALLY WORLDWIDE DUE TO GENDER-BIASED (PRENATAL) SEX SELECTION



sex selection. The UNFPA estimates that this gender-biased (pre-natal) sex selection accounts for about two out of three of the total missing girls in India and post-birth girl child mortality accounts for about one in three missing girls. Equal cause of worry is the fact that India has the highest rate of excess girl child deaths, 13.5 per 1,000 births. This suggests that an estimated one in nine deaths of girls below the age of five is probably due to postnatal sex selection.

Till 2018, Sunita's State, Haryana, had a sex ratio at birth (SRB) below 900. Last year, it showed an increase, crossing the 900 barrier for the first time. The State announced that its SRB had gone up to 923 girls for 1,000 boys. But Bhiwani, the district in Haryana where Sunita resides, still hasn't caught up with the rest of the State.

In 2019, its SRB was 894 girls to 1,000 boys. Ironically, Bhiwani is known to be a seat of spiritual learning. Located 128 kilometres west of New Delhi, it is also at the centre of regional politics, being the hometown of three former Haryana chief ministers. Yet, gender equality remains an elusive dream.

Eight States guilty of having a sex ratio at birth below 900 include Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, Delhi and Uttarakhand. The sex ratio at birth, in the 2016-18 period, was 899 girls for every 1,000 boys born according to the 2018 Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report. But for families like Sunita's that had two daughters, the sex ratio at birth dropped even further to 708 girls for every 1,000 boys born, points out the report.

Despite a plethora of Government programmes like "Beti Bachao, Beti

Padhao" to address the decline in child sex ratio and improving the social value of girls, gender inequality and son preference remain the main drivers of gender-biased sex selection. The balance has further tilted against girls with the continuing misuse of technology. Laws like the Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PCPNDT) meant to prevent sex determination have had limited success. Offenders take advantage of technicalities to escape penal action. The best known face against the misuse of technology and the ugly face of gender-biased sex selection prevalent even among the urban educated families was Dr Mitu Khurana.

The first woman in the country to file a complaint on sex determination under the PCPNDT, Khurana fought for over 11 years against the doctors who allegedly conducted an ultrasound to illegally determine the sex of her twin daughters, apparently in collusion with her husband and in-laws. Unfortunately, her complaint was dismissed by the Supreme Court in 2017 on the basis of technicalities.

Although this was a big blow, Khurana did not give up and continued to raise her voice against gender injustice. Her death in March this year has ended her personal battle but not silenced her voice, say her friends and supporters. They have created a website on her behalf, chronicling articles written on her fight to save her twin daughters.

The site also encourages dialogue and discussion on ways to sustain the fight against gender-biased sex selection and gender inequality. They want to amplify Khurana's assertion that unless there was accountability at all levels, girls would continue to die due to gen-

der-biased sex selection and no one would care because the value of boys was far greater than theirs.

It is an established fact that where there are many more men than women of marriageable age, women are more vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence. This was seen in many Indian States like Haryana where several villages, which had zero population of girls, resorted to buying girls from other States for their marriageable sons. The girl was usually from a poor family and whose parents were happy to marry their daughter off without having to pay dowry. What they didn't realise was that they were pushing their daughter into an unending cycle of sexual violence, since one bride was expected to pander to the sexual needs of all the males in the family.

India was among 179 governments that committed to "eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which result in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and prenatal sex selection" at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It reiterated its commitment at the 2019 Nairobi Summit held to look back at the 25 years of ICPD and look forward to accelerating accountability.

India has also endorsed Sustainable Development Goal five for gender equality. However, harmful practices and human rights violations persist. Clearly, rooting out deeply-entrenched beliefs and customs needs more than just laws. Their strict and sincere implementation along with prosecution and punishment can help. More important is fostering respect for women and girls by giving them an equal status.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Remote working hits informal workers in cities

If work from home is to become a sustainable strategy, there is a need to understand and plan for the effects of this on the whole urban ecosystem



PROMIT MOOKHERJEE AAKANSHA JAIN

Historically, high urbanisation has been one of the major drivers of economic growth. As cities grow and offer new opportunities, they become attractive to the rural population. In turn, this inflow of workers helps sustain urban economic growth. However, the COVID-19 has brought cities to a standstill and one of the crisis' most visible effects — the shift from an office-based system to work from home (WFH) arrangements — is likely to have spillover effects on many sectors of the urban economy. With many firms planning long-term strategies for WFH and reducing office

space, remote working is here to stay. For example, Infosys recently announced permanent WFH for 33 per cent of its employees.

Though adapting to this new normal may be initially difficult, white-collar workers stand to benefit from low travel costs and the stress associated with travelling in a congested and polluted environment.

However, the effect of this shift to a WFH culture on informal workers, who largely depend on formal sector demand, has not received much attention. In India, 80 to 90 per cent of the workers are employed in the informal or semi-informal sector. For many who work in the cities, livelihoods are heavily dependent on demand from an office-based working system. So, it is clear that workers who are going to be badly hit include cycle rickshaw pullers, autorickshaw and taxi drivers, and street vendors who sell food and other commodities outside offices and Metro stations. Additionally, with the lower in-person presence of professionals in

the workplace, offices will also require fewer personnel for housekeeping and administrative services. Thus, remote working has created long-term uncertainty for the informal workers.

More than 10 million street vendors in India are likely to be impacted. A common sight in most cities used to be vendors selling a wide cornucopia of products outside Metro stations and large office spaces. A significant share of this workforce also relied on street-food vendors for their meals. However, the fear of COVID-19 exposure and normalisation of WFH has led many people to switch to the more contactless online ordering and the livelihoods of street vendors are now in question. Many have already chosen to go back to their villages or are at the mercy of donations and Government aid to make ends meet.

In order to provide relief to these vendors, the Government recently announced its scheme for the provision of loans. However, many vendors have not been able to avail of this benefit due

to the requirements of the associated paperwork and registration process. Additionally, many vendors are not willing to take the loan scheme as it will only put an extra burden of repayment on them in a no-business scenario. Hence, apart from additional reforms to safeguard the livelihoods of street vendors, there is a need to build back consumer confidence to shop from vendors. If demand continues to stay low, the State Governments will need to rethink how alternate livelihoods and support programmes could be provided for these vendors.

The earnings of taxi, autorickshaw drivers and other informal mobility service providers have also taken a hit, even after easing up of lockdowns. The revenues of Ola and Uber driver partners have fallen significantly, and about 2,000 drivers have been removed by these platforms till date. Those still in business are struggling to stay afloat; many claim that their earnings are down by up to 80 per cent.

This situation is likely to persist, as

a large volume of demand for these services came from work trips. Much before the lockdowns, cab driver earnings had already fallen due to changes in incentive schemes. Whereas a driver could earn over ₹50,000 in the initial years of cab aggregation, their earnings have fallen to around ₹20,000 in recent years. Most are struggling to afford basics and pay rent, and the situation is even worse for those who had purchased vehicles on EMIs.

The informal mobility services providers such as rickshaw, autorickshaw and Grameen Sewa drivers are also struggling due to lack of demand. Social distancing measures have necessitated business at reduced capacity, making the trips unaffordable for shared mobility services like Grameen Sewa and shared autos. These services were also used heavily as a last and first-mile option, and this demand is also likely to remain low with Metro services shut and public transport limited. Some State Governments had provided monetary help to all these oper-

ators when the lockdown had begun. But this could not be availed by many due to lack of paperwork. Now with the lack of demand likely to sustain due to WFH being mainstreamed and reduced leisure trips, these workers are still in need of major assistance. Since a large percentage of them also own vehicles, shifting to alternate livelihoods will also be difficult.

If remote working is to become a sustainable strategy, there is a need to understand and plan for the effects of this on the whole urban ecosystem. While WFH may benefit companies and foster some environmental benefits, it will also negatively affect other parts of the system. The most affected are from lower-income groups and those not covered by most Government safety nets. There is also likely to be very little scope to shift to alternate livelihoods with the expected economic contraction. Many people had already invested in physical capital which will now no longer be able to generate the expected income,

leaving them burdened with unpayable debts. In addition to providing further loans, the Government must consider how to provide immediate relief to these sections of society. Immediate relief can be provided in terms of waiving penalties and permits such as challans for transport service providers. Many vendors also face undue evictions and are forced to bribe officials; theft of property or goods is another threat that their community faces. Hence, the regulatory systems need to be strengthened to safeguard vendors from such incidents.

The Centre needs to expand the unemployment claims programme to include the informal sector workers. They should be able to avail benefits for a certain number of days in a year, in case their businesses become unsustainable. If we can't provide sustainable livelihoods to them, then the actual cost of the pandemic will be much higher. (Mookherjee and Jain are Research Associates, Centre for Sustainable Mobility, TERI)

Worst virus fears are realised in poor or war-torn countries

AP ■ CAPE TOWN
For months, experts have warned of a potential nightmare scenario: After overwhelming health systems in some of the world's wealthiest regions, the coronavirus gains a foothold in poor or war-torn countries ill-equipped to contain it and sweeps through the population.

Now some of those fears are being realised. In southern Yemen, health workers are leaving their posts en masse because of a lack of protective equipment, and

some hospitals are turning away patients struggling to breathe.

In Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region, where there is little testing capacity, a mysterious illness resembling COVID-19 is spreading through camps for the internally displaced.

Cases are soaring in India and Pakistan, together home to more than 1.5 billion people and where authorities say nationwide lockdowns are no longer an option because of high poverty. In Latin America, Brazil has a confirmed caseload

and death count 2nd only to the US, and its leader is unwilling to take steps to stem the spread of the virus.

Alarming escalations are unfolding in Peru, Chile, Ecuador and Panama, even after they imposed early lockdowns.

The first reports of disaster are also emerging from hospitals in South Africa, which has its continent's most developed economy. Sick patients are lying on beds in corridors as one hospital runs out of space.

At another, an emergency

morgue was needed to hold more than 700 bodies.

"We are reaping the whirlwind now," said Francois Venter, a South African health expert at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Worldwide, there are 10.1 million confirmed cases and over 501,000 reported deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University of Government reports. Experts say both those numbers are serious undercounts of the true toll of the pandemic, due to limited testing and missed mild cases.

South Africa has more than a third of Africa's confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 138,000 as of Monday.

It's ahead of other African countries in the pandemic timeline and approaching its peak.

So far its facilities have managed to cope, but if they become overwhelmed, it will be a grim forewarning because South Africa's health system is reputed to be the continent's best.

Most poor countries took action early on. Some, like Uganda, which

already had a sophisticated detection system built up during its yearslong battle with viral hemorrhagic fever, have thus far been arguably more successful than the U.S. And other wealthy countries in battling coronavirus.

But since the beginning of the pandemic, poor and conflict-ravaged countries have been at a major disadvantage, and they remain so.

The global scramble for protective equipment sent prices soaring.

Testing kits have also been hard to come by. Tracking and

quarantining patients requires large numbers of health workers. "It's all a domino effect," said Kate White, head of emergencies for Doctors Without Borders.

"Whenever you have countries that are economically not as well off as others, then they will be adversely affected." Global health experts say testing is key, but months into the pandemic, few developing countries can keep carrying out the tens of thousands of tests every week needed to detect and contain outbreaks.

"The majority of the places that

we work in are not able to have that level of testing capacity, and that's the level that you need to be able to get things really under control," White said.

South Africa leads Africa in testing, but an initially promising program has now been overrun in Cape Town, which alone has more reported cases than any other African country except Egypt. Critical shortages of kits have forced city officials to abandon testing for anyone under 55 unless they have a serious health condition or are in a hospital.

Daniel Pearl murder case Pak SC refuses to suspend Sindh High Court judgement

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday rejected a plea to stay a high court verdict that overturned the conviction of al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh in the kidnapping and murder of Daniel Pearl in 2002.

Pearl, the 38-year-old South Asia bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal, was abducted and beheaded while he was in Pakistan investigating a story in 2002 on the alleged links between the country's powerful spy agency ISI and al-Qaeda.

On April 2, a two-judge Sindh High Court bench overturned the death sentence of British-born 46-year-old al-Qaeda leader, who was convicted in the abduction and murder of Pearl in 2002. The court also acquitted his three aides serving life sentences in the case.

The Sindh Government and parents of Pearl challenged the high court verdict in the Supreme Court, where a three-member bench led by Justice Mushir Alam heard the case on Monday.

The Sindh Government lawyer, Farooq Naek, urged the top court to issue a stay order but the judges refused to grant the stay in the case.

They also observed that the court cannot accept the plea unless some glaring discrepancy was cited in the decision of the high court.

Justice Alam asked as to how the apex court could suspend the SHC's judgment pertaining to the acquittal of three accused persons without solid reasons.

Naek told the court that unless the stay was given, the Government would be forced to release the accused who were held for three months under the Maintenance of Public Order regulation.

Two days after the Sindh High Court overturned Sheikh's conviction on April 2, the Sindh Government invoked the Maintenance of Public Order to keep the convicts in jail. Their imprisonment would end on July 2.

He told the court the men acquitted by the high court were dangerous terrorists and would cause problems.

The court observed that the provincial government was empowered to extend their detention or even change laws regarding keeping them in custody.

Later, the court adjourned the case and announced that the next hearing would be held in September.

Early this month, the apex court refused to suspend the Sindh High Court judgment.

The US had criticised the Pakistani court for overturning the death sentence of the al-

Qaeda leader, terming the verdict an "affront" to the victims of terrorism everywhere.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has mounted pressure on Pakistan by demanding justice for Pearl.

"The United States will not forget Daniel Pearl," Pompeo said in a tweet in early April. "We continue to honour his legacy as a courageous journalist and demand justice for his brutal murder," he said. Last month, the US prodded Pakistan by seeking justice for Pearl.

"On the eve of World Press Freedom Day, we honour the legacy of journalist Daniel Pearl. We appreciate the Govt of Pakistan's 4/22 appeal to reinstate guilty verdicts against Daniel's murderers, now buttressed by the filing of the Pearl family's appeal before the Supreme Court," State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells tweeted on May 3.

Pearl's murder took place three years after Sheikh, along with Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, was released by India in 1999 and given safe passage to Afghanistan in exchange for the nearly 150 passengers of hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814. He was serving prison term in India for kidnappings of Western tourists in the country.

AFGHAN OFFICIAL Bomb, mortars kill 23 civilians in Helmand

AP ■ KABUL

A car bombing and mortar shells fired at a busy market in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province on Monday killed 23 people, including children, a statement from a provincial governor's office said. Both the Taliban and the Afghan military blame each other for the attack in Sangin district.

Details of the reported attack could not be independently confirmed as the area, which is under Taliban control, is remote and inaccessible to reporters.

The statement from the office of the governor, General Mohammad Yasin, did not provide further details and there was no claim of responsibility for the attack.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, denied the insurgents were involved in the bombing.

The Taliban claimed the military fired mortars into the market while the military said a car bomb and mortar shells fired by the insurgents targeted the civilians.

The army also said there was no military activity in the area on Monday and that two Taliban fighters were also killed when the car bomb detonated

at the marketplace.

Livestock that the locals were selling on the market, sheep and goats, were also killed. A statement from the presidential palace said Afghan President Ashraf Ghani strongly condemned the "brutal and inhumane act," and stressed that targeting civilians, especially children and adults, is against Islamic and human values. "The government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan once again calls on the Taliban to refrain from war and violence and to accept the will of the Afghan people, which is the end of the war and the start of negotiations," Ghani's statement said.

The United Nations in recent reports and statements has asked both sides in the conflict to be more careful of civilian casualties, saying they are on the increase. Still, violence has continued unabated in Afghanistan, even though talks between the Taliban and Kabul representatives could start as early next month in July in Doha, Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office.

One of the obstacles to the start of the negotiations has been the exchange of prisoners, envisaged under a deal the Taliban signed with the United States at the end of February.

Trump denies briefing about reported bounties on US troops

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has denied he was made aware of US intelligence officials' conclusions Russia secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing American troops in Afghanistan.

The Trump administration was set to brief select members of Congress on the matter Monday.

The intelligence assessments came amid Trump's push to withdraw the US from Afghanistan and suggested Russia was making overtures to militants as the US and the Taliban held talks to end the long-running war.

The assessment was first reported by The New York Times and then confirmed to The Associated Press by American intelligence officials and two others with knowledge of the matter.

There were conflicting reports about whether Trump was aware of Russia's actions.

The intelligence officials told the AP the president was briefed on the matter earlier this year; Trump denied that, tweeting Sunday neither he nor Vice President Mike Pence had been briefed. Trump tweeted Sunday night he was just told intelligence officials didn't report the information to him because they didn't find it credible.

The intelligence officials and others with knowledge of the matter insisted on

anonymity to discuss the highly sensitive matter.

The White House National Security Council wouldn't confirm the assessments but said the US receives thousands of intelligence reports daily that are subject to strict scrutiny.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who gulfed with Trump on Sunday, tweeted a day earlier it's "imperative Congress get to the bottom of recent media reports that Russian GRU units in Afghanistan have offered to pay the Taliban to kill American soldiers with the goal of pushing America out of the region."

GRU is a reference to the Russian military intelligence agency.

Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the No. 3 Republican in the House, called for the White House to share more information with Congress, saying, if true, lawmakers need to know "who did know and when?" and, referring to Russian leader Vladimir Putin, "What has been done in response to protect our forces & hold Putin accountable?"

Democratic presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden said reports Trump was aware of the Russian bounties would be a "truly shocking revelation" about the commander in chief and his failure to protect US troops in Afghanistan and stand up to Russia. Russia called the report "nonsense." This unsophisticated

plant clearly illustrates the low intellectual abilities of the propagandists of American intelligence, who instead of inventing something more plausible have to make up this nonsense," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The Kremlin on Monday echoed that sentiment and called the report "a lie." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he regretted "the biggest, respectful and high-class international media organizations have not been above publishing absolute hoaxes in recent years."

A Taliban spokesman said the militants "strongly reject this allegation" and aren't "indebted to the beneficence of any intelligence organ or foreign country." John Bolton, a former national security adviser who was forced out by Trump last September and has written a tell-all book about his time at the White House, said Sunday "it is pretty remarkable the president's going out of his way to say he hasn't heard anything about it."

One asks, why would he do something like that? Bolton told NBC's "Meet the Press" he thinks the answer "may be precisely because active Russian aggression like that against the American service members is a very, very serious matter and nothing's been done about it, if it's true, for these past four or five months, so it may look like he was negligent. But, of course, he can disown everything if nobody ever told him about it."

UK judge warns Assange on US extradition hearing attendance

AP ■ LONDON

A British judge said Monday that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange must attend his next court hearing unless he

can provide medical evidence to support his absence.

Lawyers for Assange said he could not attend the latest hearing on his US extradition case by video link from prison

for medical reasons. District Judge Vanessa Baraitser set another hearing date of July 27 and said Assange must appear "unless there is medical evidence" to explain his non-attendance.

The 48-year-old Australian has been indicted in the US on 18 charges over the publication of classified documents. Prosecutors say he conspired with US army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to crack a password, hack into a Pentagon computer and release secret diplomatic cables and military files on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last week the US Justice Department added a new, superseding, indictment that

alleges Assange conspired with members of hacking organizations and sought to recruit hackers to provide WikiLeaks with classified information.

The indictment does not add any new charges, but broadens the allegations against Assange.

Assange was arrested last year after being evicted from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he had sought refuge to avoid being sent to Sweden over allegations of rape and sexual assault.

Assange was arrested last year after being evicted from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he had sought refuge to avoid being sent to Sweden over allegations of rape and sexual assault.

China warns of visa bans on Americans over Hong Kong

AP ■ BEIJING

China said on Monday that it would retaliate against US moves to punish officials tied to political crackdowns in Hong Kong by imposing visa restrictions on Americans it considers to have "performed badly" on matters regarding the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian gave no details in making the announcement at a daily briefing. It wasn't clear if the measure targeted only US Government officials or those in the private sector as well.

It comes as China's legislature is expected to pass a national security law for Hong Kong on Tuesday that critics say will severely limit opposition politics and freedom of speech in the city.

The US says it will respond by ending favourable trading terms granted to the former British colony after it passed to Chinese control in 1997.

The Senate on Thursday unanimously

It wasn't clear if the measure targeted only US Govt officials or those in the private sector as well

approved a bill to impose sanctions on businesses and individuals - including the police - that undermine Hong Kong's autonomy or restrict freedoms promised to the city's residents. Zhao reiterated China's insistence that the law was "purely an internal affair of China, and no foreign country has the right to interfere."

"The US side's attempt to obstruct China from promoting Hong Kong's national security legislation through the so-called sanctions will never succeed," Zhao said. "In response to the above-mentioned wrong behavior of the US side, China has decided to impose visa restrictions on US personnel who perform badly on Hong Kong related issues."

32 people drown as ferry capsizes in Bangladesh's Buriganga river

PTI ■ DHAKA

At least 32 people were drowned and many were missing on Monday when a ferry carrying over 100 passengers capsized in Buriganga river after it was hit by a bigger vessel in the Bangladesh capital here, officials said.

"It appeared to be an accident caused by the negligence of the drivers," an official of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) told reporters.

Rescuers feared several passengers were trapped inside the ferry, which sank at around 9:30 am with nearly 100 passengers on board in the Buriganga river along the Shyambazar area of Old Dhaka.

"Thirty two bodies have been retrieved so far. Search is on for the missing ones," the BIWTA official said. Most of the dead bodies have been identified and handed over to their families.

The ferry 'Morning Bird', which was coming to Dhaka from Munshiganj, capsized in the river after it was hit by a bigger vessel 'Moyur-2' near the Sadarghat launch terminal.

According to police, Moyur-2 was rushing towards a terminal to pick up passengers to be ferried to central Chandpur district, while the Morning Bird lowered its speed as passengers on board were preparing to disembark.

Following the accident, the master and other staff of Moyur-2, which was carrying some 1,000 passengers, immediately left the scene and went into hiding, police said. "We have launched a manhunt for the master in particular," a police official said.

The Morning Bird ferries people between Dhaka and Munshiganj on the outskirts of

the capital with most of its regular passengers being ordinary traders and employees of different government and private offices.

Officials, meanwhile, found a CCTV footage which shows a fast moving Moyur-2 hitting the dilapidated Morning Bird from behind and capsizing it in less than a minute.

"What it appears initially from the CCTV footage, it could be a staged event...A planned massacre," junior minister for shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters.

He said an investigation has been ordered into the incident and if the probe finds it as a deliberate accident, punitive action will be taken against the culprits for planned murders. Navy and coast guard divers joined the fire service rescuers, while a BIWTA salvage ship was deployed to retrieve the sunken Morning Bird.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that (i) Prof. Neera Chandhoke (W/o Late Shri. Late Late Lt Col Dewani Indar San Sawmry R/o D-380, Defence Colony, New Delhi; (ii) Crude Ravey Sawmry S/o Late Lt Col Dewani Indar San Sawmry R/o D-380, Defence Colony, New Delhi and (iii) Lt Col Sanjeev Sawmry S/o Late Lt Col Dewani Indar San Sawmry R/o House No. 100, Sector 37, NOIDA in relation to the joint and absolute owners in possession of property No. C-515, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 ("said property") have revoked/ cancelled the General Power of Attorney dated 13.01.2019 ("GPA") executed in favour of Shri. Harshul Chudra, Authorised Signatory of M/S. Saaju Construction Co. Ltd. ("Developer"), vide a Deed of Revocation/Cancellation dated 10.06.2020 bearing Registration No. 380 in Book No. 4, Vol. No. 235 on page 65 to 69 on 12.06.2020 at the office of Sub-Registrar (V), Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. In view of the revocation/cancellation of the GPA, the Developer and/or its representatives/nominees/assigns) have ceased to have any right, title or interest in the said property and consequently, have no power to deal with the said property or transact any business in relation to the said property in any manner whatsoever. All prior transactions pertaining to the said property executed by the Developer and/or its representatives/nominees/assigns) are hereby cautioned against dealing/transacting with the Developer and/or its representatives/nominees/assigns) in relation to the said property. Any person who indulges in any dealing/transaction with the Developer or its representatives/nominees/assigns) in relation to the said property shall be doing so at his/her own risk, costs and consequences, and the Owners assume no liability or responsibility for any loss or damage, which may be occasioned to any person on account of any such dealing/transaction. G/S Legal LLP, Advocates & Solicitors-2/23, FF, Jangpura Extn, New Delhi-14 Place, Delhi

SPORTKING INDIA LIMITED
CIN: L17122DL1989PLC035050
Corporate Office: Village Kanesh, Near Sahnewal, G.T. Road, Ludhiana-141120 (Phone: 01612845456)
Registered Office: 5/69, Guru Mansion, Padam Singh Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 (Email: cs@sportking.co.in)

Date: 29-06-2020

To Respective Shareholder
Subject: Reminder for Payment of Pending /Balance Allotment Money to the holders of partly paid-up equity shares
Dear Sir/Madam
Pursuant to terms and conditions of Prospectus dated 13.11.1995 for issue of 928500 equity shares of Rs. 10/- per share at a premium of Rs. 25/- per share, a sum of Rs. 10/- per share was payable on application and balance Rs. 25/- per share was due and payable on allotment. The Company completed the process of allotment of equity shares to the successful applicants on proportionate basis on 20th February 1996.
By Allotment Advice - cum - Allotment Money Notice dated 20.02.1996, successful allottees of the equity shares were intimated for payment of the balance allotment money(s) (after adjusting the excess application money, if any) by 31st March, 1996 and thereafter with interest. In spite of the said allotment money notice and various reminders through Annual Report(s) dispatched/uploaded on website from time to time, you have not yet paid the balance allotment money and your shares remain partly paid even today, the detail of which are as under:

Folio No.	No. of Partly Paid up Equity Shares	Balance Allotment Money Due on Partly Paid up Equity Shares (Rs)

You are once again reminded to pay the pending/ balance allotment money alongwith interest @ 15% per annum from 01.04.1996 to 10.09.2014 and 10% per annum, from 11.09.2014 till the date of payment on or before 31st July, 2020 by pay order/ demand draft favoring "Sportking India Limited" payable at Ludhiana/ anywhere in India (Please mention your Folio No. and Name on backside of the pay order/demand draft) and same should be sent to: Corporate Office: M/s Sportking India Limited, Village Kanesh, Near Sahnewal, GT Road, Ludhiana-141120.
Or
Registered Office: M/s Sportking India Limited, 5/69, Guru Mansion, Padam Singh Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005
The Shareholder can also send the money through RTGS/NEFT directly to the Company's bank account as below:

Particular	Detail
Name of the Bank	State Bank of India
Address of the Bank	IFB Branch, Golden Tower, Dholewal Chowk, Ludhiana
Current Account No.	31460056877
IFSC Code	SBIN0004046

However the RTGS/NEFT should also mention the Folio No and /Name in the sender detail and details of the same should be sent to Company's Email at cs@sportking.co.in.
The Shareholders are also requested to update KYC Details by filling the Annexure -1 (available on website www.sportking.co.in) and send the physical copy of same along with original pay order/ demand draft/ NEFT/RTGS details. The KYC details can also be sent to Company's email at cs@sportking.co.in.
Thanking you
Yours faithfully
For SPORTKING INDIA LIMITED
Sd/-
Lovlesh Verma
Company Secretary
(ACS: 34171)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Dy.Chief Materials Manager, N.Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi-110034, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Opening date
01	48-GSD-SSB-COVID20	Hiring of any modal trucks of 09 MT Cap.	10000 KM	30.06.2020

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No. Manual offer will be entertained. No.: 48-GSD-SSB-Covid20
Dated: 26.06.2020. 1449/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namedly Pramod S/o Paras Ram, R/o Unknown, Age: about 52 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Build: Thin, Face: Oval, Wearing: Hospital Clothes, was found dead during treatment at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, New Delhi on 21.06.2020. In this regard a DD No.05 U/s 174 CrPC dated 21.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.
SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Ph.No.: 011-23967889
DP/319/N/2020 23968730



SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a man namedly Daya Ram Yadav, S/o Balkram Yadav R/o A-Block, Gali No. 10, Kandi Vihar, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 13.06.2020 from area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a D.D. No. 35-A, dated 13/06/2020 has been registered at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing man is as under:
Name: Daya Ram Yadav, Gender: Male, Age: 80 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, Wearing: Black colour pant, red colour check shirt and sports shoes in his legs. If anyone has any information regarding this missing Man, kindly inform SHO/ Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/301/ON/2020
SHO P.S. Swaroop Nagar Ph. No. 011-27811415, 27811738



'Delay in imports clearance may impact vehicle production'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile industry bodies ASIAM and ACMA on Monday expressed concern over import consignments from China being subjected to manual inspection, saying that inordinate delays in clearance at ports could lead to disruption in vehicle manufacturing across the country.

The industry bodies said such act is best avoided as the sector is limping back towards growth. The auto sector has been trying to recover from the setbacks of a prolonged slowdown last year and the impact of coronavirus pandemic induced lockdown.

"Inordinate delays in clearance due to congestions at port could eventually impact manufacturing of vehicles in India," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Rajan Wadhwa said in a statement.

He added, "The industry is piecing itself together as growth is limping back; any further disruption at this juncture is best avoided."

Earlier in the day auto components makers body ACMA had sought timely clearance of imports from China, saying that delay in clearing such items could lead to disruption in vehicle manufacturing across the country.

According to the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) import consignments from China were being subjected to one-hundred per cent manual inspection resulting in inordinate delays in clearance. "The automotive value chain is a highly complex, integrated and interdependent one; non-availability of even a single component can, in fact, lead to stoppage of the vehicle manufacturing lines," ACMA President Deepak Jain said.

Some of the items imported from China are critical components such as parts of engines and electronics items for which the domestic auto component industry is yet to develop competence, he added.

Post the lockdown, production in the components industry is gradually picking up in tandem with growth in vehicle sales, it is therefore in the best interest of the industry and the economy that any further disruptions are best avoided, Jain said.

He said the auto component industry in India is committed to the "Atma-nirbhar vision" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The entire automotive value chain in the country is around USD 118 billion of which import of auto components is USD 4.75 billion, 4 per cent of the total auto industry turnover, Jain noted.

Amid heightened border tensions with China, Indian customs officials have started physical inspection of all consignments coming from the neighbouring country based on intelligence inputs, official sources had told PTI last week.

Sources further said that although physical inspection is resulting in delayed clearance of goods, in current situation the customs officials would have to work in coordination with other intelligence agencies.

Sensex ends below 35k as Covid cases rise

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian stock market declined on Monday, although the indices trimmed major losses by the end of the day's trade.

At the end of the session, BSE Sensex was down 209 points and had to settle below the psychological mark of 35,000 points. Earlier in the day, it lost as much as 509 points to touch an intra-day low of 34,662.06.

The fall was in line with the Asian markets, where investor sentiments weakened amid the resurgence in new Covid-19 cases.

Rahul Sharma, Market Strategist, Equity99 Advisors, said: "Selling pressure in metal, technology, auto and banking stocks dragged the markets down today. Traders refrained from building new positions on weak clues in other Asian markets."

He added that the rising number of Covid-19 casualties worldwide is hurting investor sentiments globally and no clarity of vaccine has also cre-



ated nervousness in the markets.

Sensex closed at 34,961.52, lower by 209.75 points or 0.60 per cent from the previous close of 35,171.27.

It had opened at 34,926.95 and recorded an intra-day high of 35,032.36 points.

The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange closed at 10,312.40, lower by 70.60 points or 0.68 per cent from its previous close.

The top gainers on the Sensex were HDFC Bank (up 1.97 per cent), Hindustan Unilever (up 1.30 per cent) and Kotak Mahindra Bank (up 1.27 per cent). On the other hand, the major losers were Axis Bank (down 4.78 per cent), Tech Mahindra (down 3.47 per cent) and State Bank of India (down 2.87 per cent).

Auto exports slump 73% in May due to lockdown disruptions: EEPIC India

Mumbai: The auto exports plunged 73 per cent last month to \$230.3 million (about Rs 1,736 crore) as compared to the year-ago period with shipments to key markets like the US and Mexico registering a sharp decline owing to supply-chain issues due to lockdown, EEPIC India said on Monday.

The exports of auto components, too, suffered a major setback during the month with important markets including the US, Mexico, Germany and Japan reporting "de-growth in the range of 34-68 per cent", the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPIC) India said in a release. "COVID-19 public health

crisis has taken a massive toll on exports of India's automobiles in May 2020 with as much annualised erosion as 98 per cent and 65 per cent in shipments to key markets like the US and Mexico, respectively," it said.

The exports to the US last month in value terms stood at a mere \$1.37 million as against \$79.82 million in the same month last year while shipments to Mexico dropped to \$42.50 million from \$122.98 million, the Council said.

"Supply chains broke down due to mobility restrictions and the wave of postponement of foreign orders in the sector led to such a massive

drop in exports. Out of 33 engineering panels, 28 panels recorded negative growth in exports during May this year vis-à-vis May 2019," EEPIC India chairman Ravi Sehgal said.

In the April-May period of the ongoing financial year, the exports dropped by 83 per cent to \$281.1 million from \$1,632.7 million in the year-ago period, it said.

The total export of auto components and parts recorded 65.5 per cent decline at \$163.2 million during May 2020 from \$473.6 million exports in the same month last year, it said.

PTI

Tata Power board to mull raising funds on July 2

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The board of directors of Tata Power will consider raising funds through equity shares, debt securities or other instruments on July 2 (Thursday), the company said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

The board will look into raising funds through "one or more instruments including equity shares, convertible securities of any description or warrants or debt securities, through preferential issue, private placements, rights issue or any other methods or combination thereof as may be permitted under applicable laws," it said.

Banks should prioritise loans to MSMEs with higher credit rankings under GECL: Report

Mumbai: Nearly a fifth of the 45 lakh small businesses identified by the government to benefit from a credit guarantee scheme have low credit rankings, and banks should prioritise the remaining 80 per cent while extending loans under the Rs 3 lakh crore package, a study by Transunion Cibil said on Monday.

The Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility is applicable to all MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) borrowers with industry-wide aggregate credit exposure of up to Rs 25 crore and industry-wide delinquency less than or equal to 60 days as of February 29, 2020.

As per the government, there are 45 lakh MSMEs in the country who have been identified as eligible for the scheme. The largest difficulty seems to be in the category classified as "medium", with 38 per cent of the companies marked out as "sub-prime" borrowers, while the lowest risk seems

to be with the "micro" segment which has only 18 per cent of the borrowers in the same segment, it said.

Eligible MSMEs can borrow up to 20 per cent of their aggregate credit exposure. The loans have four-year tenor with the first 12 months of principal covered under moratorium to further assist MSMEs benefitting from the scheme, a statement from Transunion Cibil said.

The credit information company relied on its MSME ranking solution and went into results of it as of February 29 to identify the companies which should be prioritised by banks.

PTI

NAVEEN GULATI (IRSEE) JOINS AS AGM NORTHERN RAILWAY

New Delhi: Naveen Gulati (IRSEE, 1986) has taken over as the new Additional General Manager (AGM) of Northern Railway (NR). He succeeds Ms. Archana Joshi (IRTS) who has been transferred to Railway Board.



Naveen Gulati, B.Tech (Electrical) is a Gold Medalist from IIT BHU. He has extensive experience in designing and production of railway coaches. He was associated with the project for redevelopment of New Delhi Railway Station as World Class facility. While posted at CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems), he was instrumental in setting-up the Data Centre. An IT enthusiast, he has contributed to creation of several IT applications for Indian Railways. Prior to joining as AGM NR he has worked as DRM Chennai.

Dinesh Bhagat takes over as Additional Zonal Manager, LIC

New Delhi: Dinesh Bhagat, has taken charge as Additional Zonal Manager, Northern Zone comprising of Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Leh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Union Territory of Chandigarh. Prior to this, he was holding the position of Zonal Manager (Incharge) of Eastern Zone, Kolkata comprising of the state of West Bengal, Assam, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Union territory Andaman & Nicobar.



Mr. Dinesh Bhagat joined LIC in 1985 as a Direct Recruit Officer of the 14th Batch. He is an Honors Graduate in the field of Finance/Commerce from the University of Delhi. During his illustrious stint in LIC, he has extensively contributed in the area of Marketing for almost 26 Years. Being a self motivated and result oriented marketing professional he has largely contributed in key areas of Marketing, Pension & Group Schemes, Personnel and has a comprehensive knowledge of Marketing and Human Resource Development.

FCI provided adequate and timely Food Grains to State Govt during corona pandemic

Jaipur: During the last three months of varying degrees of restrictions on movement and economic activity, one of the biggest challenges faced by the State Government - apart from the public health challenge posed by COVID-19 - has been to ensure food security for state's population - millions of whom have had their incomes wiped out or drastically reduced leading to a curtailed ability to afford food.

FCI has to provide adequate quantity of food grains all over the State under the NFSA and PMGKAY so that there is no shortage of food in any corner of the Rajasthan. The FCI has fulfilled its responsibility with dedication. So far, 07.136 lakh metric tonnes of Wheat [under PMGKAY and the Atmanirbhar Bharat package] have been issued to the State. About one thousand employees and workers of FCI have been engaged in this effort which ensured that food grains reached to the beneficiaries.

AMCO INDIA LIMITED
 Regd. Office : 10795, SHOP NO. GF-7, JHANEWALAN ROAD, REXINE BAZAAR, NABI KARIM, NEW DELHI-110055
 CIN : L74899DL1987PLC029035
 PH : 011 - 23636320
 Email : amco.india@ymail.com
 Website : www.amcoindialimited.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
P.H.E (M&P) DIVISION, HMT, SRINAGAR.
Phone:- 0194-2496307, E-Mail:- xenmandp@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-02

Subject: - Extension of dates for Supply, Installation and testing of electronic gadgets for Online Monitoring Lab of PHE Jal Shakti Department Srinagar & Office of Chief Accounts Officer Kashmir PHE Jal Shakti Department Srinagar.

Ref: This office No.:/PHE/M&P/02 of 2020-21/ e-Tender Dated: 10-06-2020.
 The above referred e-tender is hereby re-scheduled as follows, as the said e-NIT is having no response.

1	Tender Notice No.	N. I. T NO: PHE/M&P/02 of 2020-21/ e-Tender Dated: 10-06-2020.
2	Date of Inviting Tender	10-06-2020.....10.00AM
3	Document Downloading End Date	07-07-2020.....02.00PM
4	On Line Document Submission End Date	06-07-2020.....04.00PM
5	Date of opening of Cover 1 st .	08-07-2020.....2.00PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
 QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti, HMT Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mentioned respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) CB_BB4928T REG. NO. RJ09GC0168 YOM 2018

2) BB2523CBGD REG. NO. HR55W7721 YOM 2015

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT

BRANCH ADDRESS: 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : AVINASH SAURAV KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 9643805296

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) II
H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-110089
PH: 27851040 (E-MAIL eenw2.djb@gmail.com)

PRESS NIT No. 18(2020-21) Press Notice Tender

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender	Earnest Money/ Tender Fee	Date of release of tender procurement Solution/D.No.	Last Date/ time of receipt of bid through e-procurement Solution
1.	Shifting of damaged sewer line at Jal Road in AC-13 Rohini under EE (NW)-II (Re-invite)	Rs. 32.03,193/-	Rs. 64,100/- Rs. 500/-	23.06.2020 2020_DJB_191975_1	07.07.2020 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt No. J.S.V. 87/2020-21

Sd/- SUDHIR KUMAR Executive Engineer (NW)-II

It is hereby informed that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 30th day of June, 2020, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter & financial year ended on 31st March, 2020 has been cancelled till further notice.

The Trading window shall remain closed from 1st April, 2020 till 48 hours after the declaration of audited financial results.

This information is also available on the Company's website at www.amcoindialimited.com and on the website of BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com

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

HDFC BANK
 Head Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013
 Regional Office: HDFC Bank Ltd ; Dept For Special Operations, 5th Floor, Ansal Classique Tower, J Block Community Centre, Rajouri Garden New Delhi-110027

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s), Guarantor(s) and security providers named below ("Obligors") that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Bank ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, AS IS WHAT IS, WHATEVER IS THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 24/07/2020, for recovery of below mentioned amounts due to the Secured Creditor from the Obligors against the below given reserve price and the earnest money deposit. The sale of the below-mentioned immovable mortgaged Properties shall be conducted by way of E-Auction through Web Portal: <https://www.bankauctions.com>

S. No.	Name of the Branch & Account	Name of the Mortgagor / Guarantors of the property	Details of property	Amount as per Demand Notice Date	Inspection Date and Time	Reserve Price EMD	Dated/ Time of e-Auction	Last Date for Receipt of Bids	Name of Authorised Officer/ Phone No./ Email id
1	HDFC Bank Ltd, Delhi M/S R/S Trading Co. Account No. 10022790000014	Mortgagor / Guarantor : Mrs. Veena Tandon Guarantors: Mr. Nikhil Tandon, Mr. Anil Tandon & Mr. Sunil Tandon	Entire 2nd Floor, 3rd Floor, with roof rights part of Commercial Property bearing No. 6182-89, Basti Harphool Singh, Ward No. 14, Sadar Bazaar, Delhi admeasuring 193 square yards	Rs. 5,88,88,586.30	20/07/2020 01.00 PM to 03.00 PM	Rs. 1,35,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	24/07/2020 10.30 AM to 11.30AM	22/07/2020 up to 4.00 PM	Mr Anirudh Bhargav Mobile : 8802112088 anirudh.bhargav@hdfcbank.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, WHATEVER IS THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"
- The interested bidders shall submit & upload their EMD details and required documents in Web Portal: <https://www.bankauctions.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://www.bankauctions.com>) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through NEFT / RTGS in the following Account: 5020006492171, Name of the Account: ONLINE AUCTION ACCOUNT-RPM LEGAL, Name of the Beneficiary: HDFC BANK LTD., IFSC Code: HDFC0000240 or through Demand Draft drawn in favour of HDFC Bank Ltd Account No. 5020006492171 latest by 4.00 P.M. on or before the dates mentioned in the table above. Please note that the Cheques shall not be accepted as EMD amount.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance as per Bank's record on the property/statority dues like property taxes, society dues etc. The Bank however shall not be responsible for any outstanding statutory dues/encumbrances/tax arrears, if any. The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties/ES&T to inspect & satisfy themselves.
- The intended bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact our service provider M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Plot No 301, Gulf Petro Chem Building, UdyogVihar, Phase 2, Gurgaon, Helpline No's: 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24. Mr. Vinod Chauhan Mobile: 9813887931. Help Line e-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com and for any property related query may contact the Authorized Officer as mentioned above in office hours during the working days. (10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.).
- The highest bid shall be subject to approval of HDFC Bank Limited. Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept/ reject all or any of the offers so received or cancel the auction, without assigning any reasons whatsoever. His decision shall be final & binding.
- (FOR DETAILED TERMS AND CONDITIONS PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE www.hdfcbank.com and www.bankauctions.com)

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

This may also be treated as notice under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to borrowers/mortgagors and Guarantors of the above said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date. The borrower/ guarantors/mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Auction, failing which the Properties will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 30-Jun-2020, Place: Delhi
 Authorised Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Kusum, W/o Dharmender Kumar R/o H.No. 18, Dheerpur Village, Delhi** has been missing. In this regard, **DD No. 5-A dated 18.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing lady is as under:

Name: Kusum, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** about 38 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Heavy, **Wearing:** Orange colour suit and salwar.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
 Fax : 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.
 Ph. No. 011-27654675, 27654668

DP/216/NW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Jaya D/o Sh. Sunil Das, R/o E-2913, JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi**, Age : 21 yrs., Height : 4'8", Complexion : Fair, Face : Long, Built : Medium, Wearing : Black Colour Suit-Salwar and White Colour Chappal in Feet, has been missing / kidnapped since **05.06.2020 at 01:30 pm** from her house. In this regard a case **DD No. 58-A dated 07.06.2020** has been lodged at PS. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. if anyone has any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax : 011-24368639

SHO DP/304/ON/2020. PS. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi Ph.: 011-27787593, 7065036324

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Gungun, D/o: Sunder Lal, R/o: H. No. 404, Bajit Pur Thakran, Delhi**, Aged: 14 years has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Bawana, Outer North Distt, Delhi since 21.06.2020 at 06.00 PM. In this regard a FIR No. 379/20, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 22.06.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:

Height: 5' feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Physique/Built:** Medium, **Clothing:** Orange Colour Top, Black Colour Lower and Red & Black Colour Sleepers in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, Bawana, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O P.S. Bawana, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-27751949, 27756090

DP/313/ON/2020.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one person namely **Jagan @ Chintu S/o Chand Singh R/o Village Tajpur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnaped since 14.06.2020 from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi. In this regard a case vides **DD No. 63-A dated 16.06.2020** has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnaped person is as under :-

Name : Jagan @ Chintu, **Father's Name :** Chand Singh, **Age :** 31 yrs., **Built :** Medium, **Height :** 5'5", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing :** Khaki Pant, Checkdar Shirt Blue and Hawai Chappal in feet.

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

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

SHO P.S., Alipur, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-27202290
 27202265, 7065036325

DP/307/ON/2020

Trend Slazer

Bhumi feeds families as a tribute to SSR

Actor **BHUMI PEDNEKAR**, who worked with Sushant Singh Rajput in *Sonchiriya* last year, is deeply shocked with the sudden demise of her co-star. She recently took to Instagram and penned an emotional note remembering the actor.

In a mark of tribute for the late young actor, she is joining hands with director Abhishek Kapoor's wife Pragya's *Ek Saath-The Earth Foundation*, to feed 550 impoverished families.

"I pledge to feed 550 impoverished families. Let us show compassion and love towards everyone that is in need, now more than ever," says she.



The lockdown and the growing emphasis on hygiene have given a new twist to the beauty industry, simply because it has made people realise that there are many essential items that can be found in their kitchen, which can help them deal with their grooming and looks. Recently, many brands, which have lost out on shelf sales and pickups by salons and parlours, are therefore rolling out DIY kits for replicating salon-like experiences at home.

Given the realities of working from home, following all the precautionary measures such as social distancing and mandatory wearing of the masks, the desire to wear make-up and fragrances is declining. As a result, along with the rise in DIY treatments — which had increased even before the pandemic hit — users are logging online to buy grooming kits that include products such as eyebrow shapers and tweezers, face massagers and hair trimmers. The next most sought after products are those that work on your skin routine.

Whether you want to make your own scrub or a home-made manicure at the fraction of the cost of your usual one, there are all sorts of kits in the market. Vibha Khanna Rastogi, Director of Sawadhee Traditional Thai Spa, shares the reason why customised kits are the way for the future, now more than ever. She says, "DIY treatments are on the rise right now as a lot of people are working from home and have more time on their hand than usual to experiment with ingredients easily available. Earlier, they had the luxury of stepping out of their homes to grab a professional service. Now they don't have that liberty. Many beauty brands are also regularly sharing tips and tricks for easy DIY methods, encouraging more people to indulge in them."

Dr Blossom Kochhar, founder and chairperson of the Blossom Kochhar Group of Companies, tells us that since the lockdown started, she herself has been teaching her clients to do DIY treatments with kitchen ingredients as they are natural and can work wonders for the skin.



The beauty fix

Many brands, which have lost out on shelf sales and pickups by salons and parlours, are therefore rolling out DIY kits for replicating salon-like experiences at home, says **AYUSHI SHARMA**

There will be more clamour for buying DIY products online, notes Shahnaz Husain, founder and chairperson and MD of The Shahnaz Husain Group. She has also been planning to launch her new range of herbal sanitisers soon.

In view of the global health crisis, debates and conversations around building immunity and inner wellness have reached the zenith. "At-home experiences like facials, face-masks (sheets), hair colour are on the rise. Brands are doing tutorials to create a salon-like feel at home using the same products available at a salon or a spa. It's amazing to see people preferring lasting wellness over instant gratification," says cosmetologist Seema Nanda, founder of Estetico — The Facial Bar.

Companies have suddenly redirected their pitches to express that their products are still relevant. Now, they have been targeting consumers by promoting various make-up routines on how to look your best while attending virtual meetings and video conferences. Also, they are presenting "skincare" as a calming ritual that offers a quick breather from the lockdown-induced anxieties. Recently, LOreal India shared that they were engaging with users online to help them colour hair at

'DIY treatments are on the rise right now as a lot of people are working from home and have more time on their hand than usual to experiment with ingredients easily available. Earlier, they had the luxury of stepping out to grab a professional service. Now they don't have that liberty'

home. "It might be time to take eyebrow grooming into your own hands," reads a line on an Instagram post of a makeup brand, Revlon, telling consumers that they can turn themselves into a pro. "You are doing your part by staying in, so we at Schwarzkopf want to help you feel like your best self at home," reads another caption on an Instagram post by the hair colouring brand. They recently shared ten foil methods to achieve the fully highlighted effect in order to help address consumers' concerns of limiting time outside of their homes. The ads and campaigns play up products in tune with the times such as skin, eye care and home hair-colouring kits. These are largely played out on social media instead of using television as a media.

The beauty industry has been resilient in the past but could this pandemic have a different outcome? And also, will this have a long term effect as people might start getting comfortable with the DIYs and avoid repetitive visits? Let's find out what experts have to say. "We believe people go to a luxury spa or salon, not just for the treatment but for the experience at large. DIY treatments have existed long before the pandemic hit us but people were



still preferring to go out as it's much more relaxing and done by a professional. The whole experience is very calming and rejuvenating and that cannot be substituted by DIY treatments," says Vibha.

Dr Kochhar and Seema add on that DIYs are great. With the products that brands are now offering, they can help you in taking care of yourself but what a professional service can do is way different. "It involves proper techniques, machines and the right kind of environment to give the right effect. May be off for a few months, people might not come for repetitive services but once they feel comfortable about the hygiene standards practised at the salons, they would be interested to visit," says Seema.

"The current DIYs that are trending are the use of seasonal fruits like papaya and watermelon for face packs and scrubs. Also, rice flour for scrub, honey and aloe vera for moisturising, banana and glycerine for hair nourishment are really popular when it comes to making packs at home," shares Dr Kochhar.

'The interesting part about the series is that it comes as a breath of fresh air on the digital platform which has a lot of dark content. While on one hand, it will entertain and has a lighter vein, on the other, it reflects some important issues of the society which we do not discuss aloud, such as the hypocrisy of a repressive society, adolescent sexuality and others.'

—**Swara Bhasker**

MANUSHI CHHILLAR has been roped in by UNICEF India to lend her voice in providing urgent support to children in severe Coronavirus crisis that's plaguing the nation.



Manushi says, "I have been blessed and fortunate enough to have had a safe, healthy and happy childhood. Today, I realise the importance of my upbringing that has impacted and shaped my value system, my perspective to the world and people and also made me the person that I'm today. I'm also disturbed knowing many children of my country don't get the childhood that they deserve."

'I'm as vulnerable as anybody else'

Hollywood actor **CHRIS HEMSWORTH** is as vulnerable as anybody else and grapples with uncertainties just like everyone.

The actor says he looks at vulnerability as an access point for the audience and feels they make the character more relatable. "I'm as vulnerable as anybody else," Hemsworth said.

"You know, anything involving children, children (being) in jeopardy or if their safety is threatened, having children myself, it's certainly easier to sort of draw upon the visceral nature of what that the circumstances would evoke in you," he added.



Canvas of realities

Artist **MAITREYI NANDI**'s works depict the truth, which consists of herself, family and the experiences that designed her destiny, says **UMA NAIR**



Artist Maitreyi Nandi put up collages/paintings on canvas that went beyond riveting. One look was enough to know her depth, density of thought and ability to weave metaphors and allegories that flit back and forth through time's tapestry. Her first painting — *It Does not Die*, depicts a foetus within a womb. The womb and the details are sensitively intricate and deeply inchoate in terms of resonance and reverie. Redefining the notion of hybridisation, Maitreyi conflates the symbols of Eastern and Western art historical traditions and political events to explore the intersection of individual experience and broader manifestations of culture. This collage is based on personal

experience and the trauma and grief of losing her son.

CONSTRUCTION AND COMPOSITION

It is her construction and composition that endears, its almost as if we are looking at an image of the earth. She has constructed small and detailed replicas of historic architecture of nature's intensities. Maitreyi emphasised the earth as a shelter and space as a vessel for life.

Its almost an exploration that unfolds like a series in which various creatures and characters emerge. She expands upon this theme with magical recreations. When we look closely at her little vines and creepers and forms that surround the little baby, its almost



as if we are looking at fertile basins from which culture springs. In her second image, *Fleeting Feet* again, we see an iconic structure of two feet with bangled thorns.

FLEETING FEET

This one is fascinating. She quotes Frida Kahlo: "Feet what do I need you for when I have wings to fly?" Maitreyi is a voracious reader. You can't create such works of deep thought and substance without literary associations. She places her feet on lush aqua flora:

planting them with a variety of foliage, as well as a foreground of scaly biological exotica; it's almost as if she reimagines these seedbeds for a more peaceful life, but in effect renders them inert. The branches that ensue on top of the feet are more about the earth's soil and what lies above the horizon. But she draws our attention to the anklets of thorns. Tied down by despair and sorrow such a Frida Kahlo moment.

Maitreyi is like a mute planter, her symbols of sorrow and deep grief grow into ruined relics, as creeping vines cover

the façades of her canvas. Her works continue to subvert traditional modes of thinking and cultural stereotypes. She extols the virtues of experience which teaches that even if there are scars, they give us sombre reveries drowned in melancholia.

Sadness gives us time to think; Maitreyi has an uncanny ability to dissect cultural and aesthetic creations on canvas and create seemingly distinct juxtapositions which unfold into nuanced takes on history, natural identity, and artistic practice.

She tells us, "My earlier works were soft, soothing and happy, but things changed after a life-altering event. At some point we have all faced it. Whether it be the death of a loved one, a serious illness or some experience that reminds us of what really matters in life. In the blink of an eye, everything can change. Often, these life experiences can teach us valuable lessons, help us discover inner strength, and help us realise what is truly important in our life...I lost my son in 2014. He was only 22 years old.

Being a single mother, life has taught me a lot! I've learnt that the only real thing in this world is our consciousness. Physical matter is all a holographic illusion... Life has changed me this way and these concepts reflect on my paintings too..."

And once again Maitreyi brings back the unforgettable words of Frida Kahlo. "I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality." For this, Maitreyi from Gurugram is a rare artist who transcends her real world to enter into the meandering islands of surrealism, conjoined to Mother Earth. Her reality consists of herself, her family and those experiences that designed her destiny, to influence her surrealism — agonised poetry on canvas.

'Time to reflect upon the music industry'

Singer **Sona Mohapatra** has a constructive message on the ongoing discussion on the music mafia.

In the midst of the raging discussion around nepotism and music mafia in the industry, Sona put out a candid video on her social media which is heading to a million views with a thumbs up from viewers and musicians alike.

Known for her outspoken views, Sona believes that the whole musical eco-system needs to be re-hauled from the ground up. The Indian music industry is merely an extension of the film industry and hence places too much emphasis on film music and mirrors the systemic problems of the film industry too. This has created a chronic lack of variety, quality and cultural influence, while strangling the chances of forthcoming talents.

She believes that almost everyone in the entertainment industry, seems to have a 'struggler' mindset. They refuse to feel secure enough to be able to look out for others. This has led to a myopic, short term view of the future of the industry because that can only happen by nurturing new, genuine talent of tomorrow.

The gatekeepers and tastemakers of the industry would only benefit by adopting more inclusive practices that welcome diversity. The gender disparity itself is telling, there are not more than eight odd songs in female voices for every 100 released in the mainstream. This, from the industry that spawned titans like Lata Mangeshkar & Asha Bhosle. While the world has progressed, our industry has regressed in that sense.

Elaborating her stance, she says, "The fact that we don't have a real music industry in a country as big as India should bother all of us. It's a mere subset of the film industry with a few interconnected families calling the shots. There is more talent and love for music for us to have built a thriving independent industry. Music sells almost everywhere in this country including election



campaigns, toothpaste, sporting events and bid budget films but is sadly the most undermined commodity in the media landscape. Mainstream musicians go through a miserable and humiliating rejection and ragging process while making a soundtrack. The creator of a song doesn't even have the right to cast a singer and that itself is so disrespectful to the process of creativity. It is the reason why so many people are dubbed for 'scratches'. My belief is that ultimately, the song suffers. It is akin to it being 'flogged' in a sense."

She adds that while it is critical to have a discussion about music label monopolies and the lopsided clique driven power structure in the film industry, it is equally time for all of us to self reflect. It is important that audience aspire for world class standards in entertainment which comes from being more demanding of authenticity and integrity from our entertainers.



HEALTH

MakeInIndia

Many imported components, including semiconductor display, magnets and capital intensive equipment, could be made by Indian firms if they were assured policy certainty because they required big investments, said authors of an article published in the International Journal of Drug Regulatory Affairs

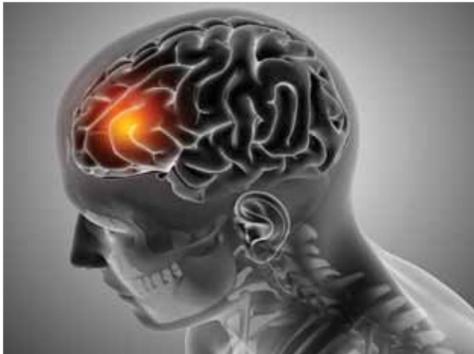


DOCYARD

DR PUNEET GULATI

Consultant Neurosurgery

SAROJ SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI



Brain tumours are curable

Brain tumour is the tenth leading cause of morbidity in India. The incidence of this deadly disease is rising and different kinds of tumours manifest at different age groups. As per the Globocan 2018 report, issued by the International Association of Cancer Registries (IARC) associated with the World Health Organization (WHO), in India over 28,000 new case of brain tumour were reported annually. Around 24,000 patients lost their lives battling this neurological ailment.

A brain tumour is a collection, or mass of abnormal cells in the brain. These tumours can be cancerous (malignant) or non-cancerous. When a benign or malignant tumour grows, they cause immense pressure in the skull. This can lead to brain damage and it can be life-threatening.

Symptoms and signs of brain tumour depend on the size and location of the tumour. Some tumours can directly affect by invading the brain tissue while some cause pressure on the surrounding brain. Major symptoms of brain tumour include:

- Headaches (worsens in the morning).
- Vomiting
- Blurred vision or double vision
- A change in mental functioning

Early detection and treatment can prevent complications that can occur as a tumour grows and puts pressure on the skull and brain tissue. In case of any symptoms, one should consult the doctor immediately

- Seizures
- Weakness of a limb or part of the face
- Difficulty in physical movements

The risk factors of brain tumour include:

Family history: As per a recent study, only five to 10 percent of cancers are genetically inherited, or hereditary. It's rare that brain tumour can be inherited but if you have family history of the disease then you should get health screenings done at regular intervals.

Age: Though the frequency of this disease is likely to affect people above the age of 55 years, but many such cases have also been seen in children in the age bracket of three years to 15 years of age, irrespective of the gender.

Exposure to radiations and chemicals: People who have been exposed to ionising radiations and chemicals have an elevated risk of developing brain tumour.

Endoscopic surgery can help

Endoscopic brain tumour surgery is minimally invasive treatment procedure that allows neurosurgeons to find and treat the conditions that are deep within the brain or access them through the nose.

During this surgical method, thin tubing that transmits the video images of the brain is inserted through one or two small incisions in the skull or through an opening in the body. This tube like instrument is called an endoscope which contains a small camera that allows the neurosurgeon to see the problem area of the brain. The ultimate goal is to remove tumour without causing damage to healthy parts of the brain.

Early treatment can prevent complications that can occur as a tumour grows and puts pressure on the skull and brain tissue. If experiencing any symptoms then one should consult the doctor immediately.

Endoscopic surgery is also commonly used by the surgeons in case of treating pituitary gland tumors, skull base tumors or those tumors that are deeply seated.

SUMMERCoolERS

PEACHES: The look of the fruit itself is beckoning. Then there is the taste — the sweet juicy flesh on a not summer day is sure to cool the body. But this is not all, the fruit packs a punch when it comes to vitamins and minerals especially Vitamin C.

The fruit has antioxidant properties and plays a vital role in forming collagen. Collagen acts as the support system for the skin, promoting wound healing and enhancing skin strength.

A cup of diced peach provides 319 mg

of potassium; a cup of diced peach also has 0.42 mg of iron, which accounts for at least 2.3 per cent of an adult's daily iron requirement, depending on age and sex.



Covid yes, but malaria too

Come monsoon, and there is a surge in mosquitoes. While we are busy focusing on the pandemic, we need to make sure that vector borne diseases are not neglected, says DR MUKESH SANKLECHA



The entire nation has collectively been battling the deadly Coronavirus that has claimed millions of lives globally. The pandemic has changed the course of our everyday life and has demanded attention towards revised hygiene practices. As India grapples with the pandemic, the threat of vector borne diseases has also been emerging. While it is difficult to navigate the way forward, what can be said without doubt is that there will have to be comprehensive safety protocols in place to ensure overall protection.

The months beginning from May to September are those that witness a rise in mosquitoes. According to the data provided by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Program (NVBDCP) all over India, there have already been 29,340 cases of malaria reported until the month of March, 2020. The states with the highest number of malaria cases are Chhattisgarh with 10,929 malaria cases, followed by Orissa with 8,381 malaria cases, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh have 2,037 and 1,959 cases respectively, and lastly Maharashtra is at 1,533 cases of malaria. Although in the past two decades, cases of malaria have reduced, this year there has been a clear acceleration in the number of cases. Around this time last year we had not more than two malaria patients, however this year, there have been close to 10 cases in the span of just one month.

With the monsoons just around the corner, there is possibility of a surge in mosquitoes owing to the widespread availability of breeding grounds. As the country has been focusing on the pandemic, we need to ensure that vector borne diseases

are not neglected in the bargain. As fumigation practices had witnessed a hindrance owing to the lockdown, it is crucial to take precautionary measures at an individual level and use repellents like Goodknight, HIT, etc., to avoid further spike in cases. This is especially important because even if the fumigation practices resume, fumigation will only eliminate the adult mosquitoes and not the ones that are breeding in stagnating waters.

Children are more susceptible for contacting vector borne diseases. In accordance with the guidelines stipulated, although children going outdoors to play has reduced, we cannot restrict them for too long. When children start to go out to play, we recommend that they wear full sleeved clothes to reduce the area of exposure for mosquito bites. Secondly, children can be protected from mosquitoes with the use of repellents that can be applied on clothes that are made available by reliable brands such as Goodknight Fabric Roll-on and patches, as it is better to have repellents applied on clothes than on the skin. Apply these on the back so that there is no direct contact with the skin and there is no threat of the child putting it in the mouth.

To evade what could be yet another wave of diseases, some precautionary measures will have to be observed at individual capacity. It begins with the check of your surroundings to see if water has been stagnating anywhere. It is important to regularise checks of water tanks to ensure that our surroundings do not become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. To prevent this from happening, get your water tanks

It is important to regularly check water tanks to ensure that our surroundings do not become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. To prevent this from happening, get your water tanks examined by professional authorities to ensure that they are clean and covered

examined by professional authorities to ensure that they are clean and covered. With the unprecedented lock-down upon us and the lack of house help, people might forget

about cleaning their garages, balconies or terraces where there is a possibility of water stagnation.

For an overall protection, it is important to ensure that you are protected from mosquitoes both indoors as well as outdoors. Contrary to popular belief, mosquitoes don't only arrive during the night. We are used to employing repellents late in the evening or at night however, malaria mosquitoes are active between the hours of 9 pm to 5 am whereas dengue mosquitoes peak biting periods are early in the morning and in the evening before dusk. This is why it is important to ensure protection throughout the day even while you are indoors with mosquito repellent formats such as liquid vaporisers, coils and incense sticks. For those who use incense sticks to repel mosquitoes, it is important to be aware of which ones to use. The market has spurious incense sticks that are harmful for health and cause several problems because of their pesticide laced formulations. It is important to use branded products that are legally approved so that you don't harm yourself while repelling mosquitoes. If you are using liquid vaporisers, it is important to use effective ones that ensure eliminating mosquitoes from all corners of the room.

It is crucial to understand that while we focus on individual hygiene measures such as washing hands at regular intervals or wearing masks to contain the spread of the pandemic, we have to extend these measures to our surroundings as well so that we are protected against vector borne diseases.

The writer is Paediatrician

NO ROOM FOR TOXICITY

With so much stress in our lives, it is important to surround ourselves with people who support us for our mental and emotional wellbeing, says TIESTA DUGGAL



In life, we come across all kinds of people. Some contribute to our growth, help us become a better person and provide us support and sometimes we come across people who instead of contributing to our growth, in certain ways may hamper it. The way to identify them is that either the relationship could be unhealthy, unsupportive or abusive in nature and rather than them bringing peace and support, this relationship does the opposite.

In such cases, it is important to ensure your well-being and cut ties with such associations as these not only impact your relationships but also your mental health in the longer run.

Some of the ways to do so are:

Be in awareness: Be aware of how you feel around these people, if they bully you, make you feel bad about yourself, constantly criticise or drain you, then you must know it's not the most contributing relationship/friendship.

Set firm boundaries: As opposed to what many of us believe, setting boundaries is actually one of the most healthy things you can do in a relationship and also for yourself. Until we learn to honour our space and time, we truly cannot expect others to do so.

You do not always have to be nice: Many of us pick being a placater, the good person in our early years of life and keep trying to please people by going out of our ways, but if someone is causing you more distraught than happiness, it's good to be firm and take a step back.

Understand that their opinion about you is a projection and not who you are: Often times, such people project their stored insecurities and traumas on other people and may lead you to believe there is something wrong with you but it's very important to know the distinction between who you are and what others are projecting to protect your mental and emotional peace.

Focus on your good qualities and loving yourself: Most of the time when you let go of toxic people, they may make you feel bad about yourself or make you feel as if you are doing something wrong, please constantly remind yourself that there is nothing wrong with you and it is okay to maintain your space and distance where required.

Do not feel guilty as you take stand for yourself: Already due to various reasons, one has so much stress in life to take care of, so to protect your energy if it requires you to cut ties allow yourself to do so without attaching any guilt.

While it may be difficult for us to sometimes take stand for ourselves, specially when we are used to being the giver/pleaser in a relationship but it is essential to identify, have clarity and set boundaries accordingly as this not only helps you with maintaining your space but also contributes to your emotional and mental health.

The writer is Internationally certified workshop leader and life coach

DadiKaKehna

Not all of us are blessed with a glowing and smooth skin. But fret not, a few simple kitchen ingredients can do the trick. ROSHANI DEVI shares home remedies that one can use for that perfect tone



Now is the best time to work on your skin. Since COVID-19 is keeping most of us home-bound, it is time to dig into some of the kitchen ingredients that can help one to get rid of the blemishes and stubborn marks that refuse to go even with medicinal creams.

Usually lemon and its juice is recommended for a skin whitening agent. But some skins are sensitive and lemon may irritate the skin. A good alternative is to mix a teaspoon of honey with yogurt with a pinch of turmeric. Make a smooth paste and apply it on the face. Leave it for 15-20 minute, wash off. Pat dry face. Apply alo vera gel

on the face, if you have and leave it overnight. Depending on how dark the marks and blemishes are, it can take anywhere between four to six week for good results to be seen.



Another option is to use just raw honey. Apply it over the blemishes and leave it on for five to 10 minutes. Wash off. Do this daily till blemishes disappear.

Make a scrub of coffee powder, sugar in equal parts and a couple of teaspoons of olive oil or pure coconut oil. Apply gently on the face and scrub. Do this twice a week till marks disappear.

The light is not so bright

The shift to online education has brought with it a plethora of eye problems. PAMMI JAMALPURIA shares preventive tips

The Coronavirus pandemic has reformed the learning process of a child. This crisis has not only impacted our regular habits and livelihood but also leading to new eye health issues for our little ones.

The main reason behind this issue is the paradigm shift of the education sector across the world following COVID-19 related restrictions. Online education has now become necessary. The merging of technology and learning has led to some unprecedented changes making children spend a considerable amount of time in front of digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets, laptops and desktops.

Now the textbooks have also been replaced with online assignments. With very little choices left the current situation has forced the parents to engage their kids with electronic devices to prevent any outside exposure.

Children these days often



complain about itchiness, irritation, redness in their eyes and the reason behind this issue is exposure to blue light or junk lights emitting from the digital screens. Blue light is a particularly intense light wave emitted naturally by the sun, and artificially by digital devices like smartphones, tablets and computers and even from the indoor LED lighting systems. It does not really matter if your kids have an eye power or not. It is advised to wear blue light pro-

protective lenses while using digital devices as it can help them to prevent eye strain or eye irritation. Additionally as blue light glasses act as filter for your eyes it actually helps in eye relaxation even when one is exposed to digital screens for a prolonged time.

Since blue light filters ensures that eyes are protected from unnecessary strains it is implied that using blue light filters can help you in combating your sleep disruption cycle.

Apart from digital eye strain, all these digital shifts in the lifestyle impacts a child's vision and subject them to the risk of developing other issues like myopia, dry eyes and early setting of macular degeneration.

It is extremely important to take preventive measures to check such fate among children by adopting a few simple steps:

- Making them use the right set of glasses/spectacles while using any electronic gadgets or digital devices.
- Maintaining a minimum distance of 50-60 cm between the screen and the eyes
- Controlling the brightness level of the device
- Discouraging usage of digital screens two hours before bedtime
- Eye exercises as suggested by your eyecare practitioner
- Mandatory annual eye check-up for every school going children.

The writer is VP- Corporate Marketing, Vision Rx Lab, Nova Eyewear

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Karim Benzema delivered another moment of magic on Sunday as Real Madrid took a two-point lead over Barcelona at the top of La Liga by beating bottom club Espanyol.

Benzema's volley against Valencia could be goal of the season and he might now have a claim to best assist too after his brilliant backheel teed up Casemiro to finish for a crucial 1-0 win.

Madrid's advantage in the table, coming after Barca's draw away at Celta Vigo on Saturday, is their biggest since February and puts them within sight of their second league title in eight years.

"It's a very important win," said Benzema. "I can't say we don't look at Barcelona, of course we do. But we're focused on our own league. There are not many games left and every game now is a final."

By the time his side play at home to Getafe on Thursday, they might even have the chance to move further clear, if in-form Atletico Madrid avoid defeat on Tuesday at Camp Nou.

Barcelona certainly have the harder run-in, with resurgent Villarreal side to follow Atletico and then local rivals Espanyol, who have shown they might yet finish strong after a determined performance under new coach Francisco Rufete.

Rufete, who was previously the club's sporting director, is Espanyol's fourth coach of the season after the sacking of Abelardo Fernandez on



Karim Benzema assists Casemiro for Real's opening goal against Espanyol during La Liga game on Sunday RMFC/Twitter

Five in a row

Real Madrid maintain perfect record since La Liga restart to open up two points lead at top

Saturday.

His task is now to make up a nine-point gap between his team in 20th and Celta in 17th.

They were undone by a piece of instinctive brilliance from Benzema, who has been the catalyst for Madrid sealing five wins out of five since La Liga restarted on June 11.

SENSATIONAL ASSISTS

Benzema's backheel came

on an afternoon of sensational assists after Villarreal's Santi Cazorla earlier set up Gerard Moreno with an incredible, cushioned touch in their 2-0 win over Valencia.

"I have to give huge credit to Karim," said Casemiro. "It was an incredible assist. We're used to how good he is, I know the quality he possesses so I was expecting something. He heard me asking for it and he played

it in a brilliant way."

Madrid, though, were scruffy and ponderous at the RCDE Stadium, this perhaps their least impressive win over the last three weeks.

But solidity and steel ensured they came through unscathed and it was no surprise that defensive midfielder Casemiro, arguably the team's best player this term, was named man of the match.

Xavi talks of Barca job

BARCELONA: Club legend Xavi Hernandez spoke about the prospect of taking over the coaching job at Barcelona where he spent all his European career, winning numerous trophies between 1998-2015.

Xavi spoke about his 'hope' of becoming the coach of the Catalan giants at a time when reports have been emerging from the Camp Nou that all is not well within the club.

"The biggest hope I have now is to be Barca coach and get Barca back to winning ways. Not me but these players and Barca triumphing. And as a consequence, our technical staff, who are preparing for a lot and it makes us really excited," Xavi said during a video conference as per *sports.es*.

"I'm a club man. I would like to return at the right moment to start a project from zero. I've said it a lot of times but I want to take footballing decisions at Barcelona.

"It's clear that after the elections the stage would be set, of course. I'm not ruling anything out. They came for me in January, we were speaking. I told them the circumstances and timing weren't right," he added.

Reports in Spanish media suggest that talisman Lionel Messi and other senior members of the team aren't happy with current manager Quique Setien's coaching style that has saw them fall two points behind Clasico rivals Real Madrid in the LaLiga title race. **IANS**

Man City set up semis date with Arsenal



Kevin De Bruyne celebrates after scoring Man City's first goal against Newcastle. AFP ■ NEWCASTLE

Pep Guardiola believes it is easier for Manchester City to focus on cup glory for the rest of the season as the holders reached the FA Cup semi-finals with a 2-0 win at Newcastle on Sunday.

City will face Arsenal at an empty Wembley in the last four next month after the Gunners beat Sheffield United 2-1.

Kevin De Bruyne's penalty and a stunning strike from Raheem Sterling got City back to winning ways on Tyneside after a 2-1 defeat at Chelsea in midweek crowned Liverpool Premier League champions for the first time in 30 years.

"In the Premier League we are struggling to focus," admitted Guardiola. "Now the Cup

and Champions League it is a little bit different."

City were utterly dominant in the first half but had to wait until Gabriel Jesus was pushed by Javier Manquillo inside the box eight minutes before half-time

Ole eager to take on Chelsea

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is looking forward to their semi-final clash against Chelsea at Wembley.

"We've had lots of games at Wembley against them and, of course, we've had quite a few cup games against them in the last couple of seasons as well," Solskjaer told *MUTV*. "They're a team that will know a lot about us and

for De Bruyne to break the deadlock.

"We should score more but we played really well and created enough chances to score a lot of goals," said De Bruyne.

"We know it is really weird (to play behind closed doors), it is not something that I enjoy, but we are professionals and we need to keep going. We wanted to respond in a good way. We are happy we are in a semi-final now."

Newcastle had a glorious opportunity to equalise when Dwight Gayle somehow fired over Allan Saint-Maximin's cross.

However, City possess plenty of firepower at the other end and moments later Sterling cut inside to curl into the bottom corner from outside the box to kill the tie as a contest.

they're a team we know a lot about too. We're looking forward to being at Wembley, any team who you draw there would be a top team anyway. I can't wait, it's been a while," he said.

This will be the 17th time the clubs have met in the FA Cup, with United winning nine times, Chelsea on five occasions and there have been two draws. **AFP**

Two defenders rescue Inter

AFP ■ MILAN

Alessandro Bastoni completed Inter Milan's late turnaround as they scored twice in the final six minutes to beat Parma 2-1 on Sunday, while Atalanta made it three wins in a row since the Serie A restart.

Gervinho gave Parma a first-half lead at the Stadio Ennio Tardini but Inter, who conceded a last-gasp equaliser at home to Sassuolo in midweek, fought back with headers from Stefan de Vrij and Bastoni to snatch a vital win.

Inter stay eight points adrift of leaders Juventus and four behind Lazio in second with 10 rounds of matches remaining.

"I thought it was a more than deserved victory. Thoroughly deserved," Inter assistant Cristian Stellini told *Sky Sport Italia*, with coach Antonio Conte forced to watch from the stands as

he served a touchline ban.

Atalanta consolidated their grip on fourth place thanks to two stunning goals from Luis Muriel, who came on as a second-half substitute in their 3-2 victory at Udinese.

The Colombia international put his team back ahead with a magnificent 71st-minute free-kick, after Kevin Lasagna had levelled for Udinese in the 31st minute following Duvan Zapata's early opener from away side.

Muriel then put Atalanta two goals ahead with a superb volley that ensured Lasagna's second three minutes from time made no difference to the result.

Also in Naples, Napoli beat bottom side SPAL 3-1.

Gennaro Gattuso's side, who have already won the Italian Cup this season, came out on top at the Stadio San Paolo thanks to goals from Dries Mertens, Jose Callejon and Amin Younes.



Klopp unhappy with Liverpool fans after title celebrations



LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp has urged Liverpool fans to celebrate "in a safe way" during the coronavirus crisis after chaotic scenes marred the club's Premier League title celebrations.

Thousands of Liverpool fans gathered at the Pier Head for a second night of celebrations on Friday after the club became champions of England for the first time in 30 years.

Police said officers were subject to violent confrontations and had glasses and bottles thrown at them as the celebrations continued in the city centre into the early hours. Klopp, in an open letter to fans in the *Liverpool Echo*, said he "did not love" the scenes that took place at Pier Head.

"I am a human being and your

passion is also my passion, but right now the most important thing is that we do not have these kind of public gatherings," wrote Klopp.

"We owe it to the most vulnerable in our community, to the health workers who have given so much and to whom we have applauded and to the police and local authorities who help us as a club not to do this," he added. Klopp said fans should celebrate in a safe way in private settings to avoid spreading the disease.

He added: "If things were different I would love nothing more than to celebrate together, to have a parade that would be even bigger than the one after we won the Champions League last year so that

Ings brace sinks Watford

WATFORD: Watford manager Nigel Pearson warned his side of the perils of relegation if they do not stop "gifting" points away after a 3-1 home defeat by Southampton on Sunday.

Danny Ings produced two fine finishes to further his case for the Premier League Golden Boot as Saints realistically secured their top-flight status for another season by reaching 40 points.

"We were second best for too long," said Pearson. "You can't concede goals like gifts to your opponents, it makes the job even harder."

Ings picked up where he left off before the three-minute stoppage. The former Liverpool forward bril-

liantly made space for himself on the edge of the box before curling into the far corner on 16 minutes to give Saints a deserved first-half lead.

Watford gave themselves a mountain to climb when Ben Foster's poor throw was pounced upon by Ings to drill home his 18th goal of the season and move within one of Jamie Vardy as the top scorer in the division.

Jan Bednarek's own goal briefly gave the hosts hope of a comeback.

However, Saints restored their two-goal advantage within three minutes as James Ward-Prowse curled a brilliant free-kick into the top corner. **AFP**

right we will celebrate," he said. "We will enjoy this moment and we will paint the city red. But for now, please stay at home as much as possible." **AFP**



Windies to wear 'Black Lives Matter' logo

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

The West Indies cricketers will sport a *Black Lives Matter* logo on the collars of their shirts during the upcoming three-Test series against England to protest against racism in sports.

Skipper Jason Holder, who has voiced his support to the cause that has once again come to the forefront after the killing of American George Floyd, said in a statement on Sunday: "We believe we have a duty to show solidarity and also to help raise awareness."

The ICC-approved logo, designed by Alisha

Hosannah, will be the one which featured in the shirts of all 20 Premier League football clubs since the sport's resumption earlier this month.

"This is a pivotal moment in history for sports, for the game of cricket and for the West Indies cricket team," Holder was quoted as saying by *ESPNcricinfo*.

"We have come to England to retain the Wisden Trophy but we are very conscious of happenings

around the world and the fight for justice and equality. "As a group of young men, we know of the rich and diverse history of West Indies cricket and we know we are guardians of the great game for generation to come."

Holder, who wants racism to be treated at par with doping and corruption, said they arrived at the decision to wear the logo after much thought.

"We did not take our decision lightly. We know what it is for people to

Root will miss 1st Test

PTI ■ LONDON

England skipper Joe Root is set to miss the opening Test against West Indies next week to attend the birth of his second child. Star all-rounder Ben Stokes will lead the team for the first time in Root's absence.

The first game of the three-Test series begins at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton from July 8 and Root's wife is due around the

same time. Root has thrown his weight behind the all-rounder for being the interim captain, describing him as a "natural leader."

"He's very well equipped to do a fantastic job for us," Root told the *BBC*.

Root is also a doubtful starter for the second Test as the skipper will be required to undergo seven days of self-isolation before joining the team.



Former Australian skipper Steve Smith hits the nets for the first time in three months on Monday. Steve Smith/Instagram

Nitin becomes youngest umpire to enter ICC Elite Panel

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's Nitin Menon on Monday became the youngest member of the International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires, replacing England's Nigel Long for the upcoming 2020-21 season after an annual review.

The 36-year-old, who has officiated in three Tests, 24 ODIs and 16 T20Is, is only the third from India to make it to the prestigious group after former captain Srinivas Venkatraghavan and Sundaram Ravi. Ravi was axed last year.

"To be officiating regularly along with the leading umpires and referees of the world is something that I always dreamt of and the feeling has yet to sink in," Menon was quoted as saying in an ICC statement.

England's Michael Gough, 40, was the youngest in the current panel before Menon's elevation.

Menon quit playing competitive cricket at 22 and by 23, he had become a senior umpire, officiating in BCCI accredited matches.

While standard of Indian umpiring has coped a lot of criticism globally, performance of Menon over the past few years has been a silver lining.

Menon is well aware of his responsibilities.

"We did not have any representation in the Elite Panel for a while. I now want to keep the Indian flag flying high. I hope to see more umpires from India at the top level," Menon told *BCCI.TV*.

"I see this as an opportunity and a big responsibility to take Indian Umpires forward and guide them in every possible way by sharing my experiences."

The elevation to the Elite Panel makes Menon eligible to officiate in next year's Ashes in Australia in case ICC revokes the local umpires for home series policy which has been approved owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Menon also becomes eligible to stand for all five Test matches that India will play against England at home early next year.

CSA gets Sports Ministry's approval to resume training

JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa (CSA) has received the go ahead from the country's Sports Ministry to resume players' training.

ESPNcricinfo reported that CSA will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the road ahead for resumption with the focus being on getting the men and women's national teams back to training.

Last week, CSA had to postpone a three-team exhibition event as it had not got the Ministry's approval to train or play.

Cricketing activities in South Africa have been suspended since March 15, when the domestic one-day event was in progression. Around the same time, the men's national team was touring India for a three-match ODI series, which had to be suspended after the rained off opener due to the pandemic.

CSA is hoping that India would tour South Africa for three T20s in August but it seems doubtful as the Virat Kohli-led team is unlikely to resume training anytime soon with cases rising rapidly in the country. However, the board has also made provisions to host the series early next year. **PTI**

Boxing national camp in July



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Boxing Federation of India's plan to resume the national camp for Olympic-bound pugilists in Patiala is expected to materialise in the next couple of days as the "requisite permissions" are "finally coming through".

The BFI wanted to start the camp

on June 10 originally but had been waiting to secure permissions from the state Government and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

"The camp will be held in Patiala. Permissions are likely coming in the next couple of days and this time it seems, things will work out. By July 1, the boxers can start assembling, followed by quarantine and testing and then resumption of training," a top federation official said.

"The paperwork is almost done, the logistics are a work in progress," he added.

The nine boxers, who have qualified for the Tokyo Games are Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Satish Kumar (+91kg), M C May Kom (51kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), and Pooja Rani (75kg).

The BFI will be conducting a joint camp for both the men and women, whose training base has been the national capital since 2017.

Hamilton targets Schumacher's record as F1 returns

IANS ■ SPIELBERG

Defending champion Lewis Hamilton will be targeting Michael Schumacher's record when Formula One returns this week after the 2019-20 season was savaged due to coronavirus pandemic.

Austria's Red Bull Ring in Spielberg will play host to the first race of the season, which otherwise would have been the 11th race on the normal calendar.

Six-time champion Hamilton, who is gunning to equal Schumacher's all-time record of seven titles, stated everyone will have to follow changes put in place by the authorities for the sport to operate successfully in the wake of the pandemic.

"We are preparing the best way we can for what is going to



be the most difficult season that Formula 1 and all of us has experienced," Hamilton told Mercedes earlier this week as per *Sky Sports*.

"With the difficult times that we're facing and the changes that we have to make in order to operate"

expressed his happiness with the prospect of getting back on the circuit after the long enforced break.

"We've been waiting now for quite a long time — and it has started to feel like a long time," Vettel told Ferrari as per *Sky Sports*.

"Having a tease in Mugello was nice but getting back in the real car for the real thing is definitely what we are looking forward to. Going racing, competing with the others

"Austria is a place that I like and a circuit that I like so it's good to know that we are finally allowed to get back," he added.

The 2020 season will kick off with the Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring on July 5, followed a week later by a second race at the same track on July 12.

Several laws have been put in place for safety of everyone involved which will see the F1 in a brand new avatar altogether.

Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, who had earlier announced that this will be his final year with Ferrari,