

**OPINION 6**  
AGE OF REASON

**WORLD 8**  
VIOLENT PROTESTS ENGULF US

**SPORT 12**  
'WE NEED AN ALTERNATIVE TO SALIVA'

RANCHI, TUESDAY JUNE 2, 2020, PAGES 12-13



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11 VIVACITY

## Booster dose for MSMEs, farmers Cabinet OK's ₹20k cr for MSMEs, hikes MSP for kharif crops

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Government on Wednesday announced a major scheme for the revival of micro, small & medium enterprises and enhanced the minimum support price for kharif crops to ease off the problems of farmers due to Covid-19 and protracted lockdown.  
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) announced ₹20,000 crore financial package for two lakh "stressed" MSMEs and ₹50,000 crore "Fund of Funds" equity infusion plan to the medium and small units to enable list in stock markets.  
Later Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a dedicated one-stop portal "Champions" for the MSMEs to avail the benefits announced in the Atmanirbhar package.  
Detailing the Cabinet announcement, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Prakash Javadekar said these two packages will help the millions of MSME units to tide over their bank NPA problems and get more loans as well as new fund infusion. "With today's approval, implementation modalities and road map



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a Cabinet meeting in New Delhi on Monday

for entire components of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package are in place. This will help in attracting investments and creating more jobs in the MSME sector," said Gadkari, adding that new single window portal "Champions" will take care of the grievances of MSME units and also monitor their applications to banks under the

Gadkari said the change in definition of MSME will help the small and medium enterprises to get more help from financial institutions. He said that the Government has also formed ₹4,000 crore distressed asset fund for the revival of small and medium units in the country. "The definition of

micro manufacturing and services unit was increased to ₹1 crore of investment and ₹5 crore of turnover. The limit of small unit was increased to ₹10 crore of investment and ₹50 crore of turnover. Similarly, the limit of a medium unit was increased to ₹20 crore of investment and ₹100 crore turnover. The revision was done after

## Community transmission well established: Experts

**They paint gloomy picture in report to PM, assert Covid can't be eliminated at present stage**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Contrary to the Government's stand, a group of health experts, including eminent doctors from the AIIMS and ICMR on Covid-19, has said that community transmission stage of the coronavirus infection has been well-established across large sections or sub-populations in the country.  
"It is unrealistic to expect that Covid-19 pandemic can be eliminated at this stage given that community transmission is already well-established across large sections or sub-populations in the country," they said while painting a gloomy picture of the state of the deadly disease in a report which has now been submitted to the Prime Minister.  
The report comes amidst spurt of cases in major States



Medics wearing protective kits work inside a mobile coronavirus testing facility bus in New Delhi on Monday

like Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Bihar.  
The report compiled by experts from the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM), and Indian Association of Epidemiologists (IAE) is damning in nature and also slams the Government for failing to take timely adequate steps to contain the disease for which "India is paying

## Haryana, Odisha too join the race Maharashtra, TN, Delhi, Gujarat, UP remain biggest contributors

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Haryana and Odisha on Monday recorded biggest single day spike in the number of Covid-19 cases after Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh remained the major contributors in sustaining the high figure on a daily basis for weeks.  
Haryana reported 265 new cases, which is its highest daily count, taking the total number of positive cases in the State to 2,356. Haryana has seen steady rise in the number of cases during the last one week. State's ruling politicians have blamed Delhi for the spike and sealed the State's border with the national Capital.  
Odisha reported 156 new cases on Monday which took its overall tally to 2,104. The State has seen a gradual increase in the number of cases since the migrants workers began to return in tens of thousands.  
Jammu & Kashmir reported 155 new cases — 56 from Kashmir division and 99 from Jammu division. Total positive cases in the Union Territory

**Covid-19 in India**

**TOTAL CASES: 1,98,214**  
**DEATHS: 5,608**  
**RECOVERED: 95,615**  
**ACTIVE: 96,980**

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	70,013	2,262	30,108
Tamil Nadu	23,495	187	13,170
Delhi	20,834	523	8,746
Gujarat	17,217	1,063	10,780
Rajasthan	9,100	199	6,213
Uttar Pradesh	8,361	222	5,030
Madhya Pradesh	8,283	358	5,003
West Bengal	5,772	325	2,306
Bihar	3,945	23	1,741
Andhra Pradesh	3,676	64	2,374
Karnataka	3,408	52	1,328
Telangana	2,792	88	1,491
Jammu & Kashmir	2,601	31	946
Haryana	2,356	21	1,055
Punjab	2,301	44	2,000

stand at 2,601 including 1,624 active cases. West Bengal added 271 new cases, which took its overall tally of Covid-19 positive cases to 5,772 while the death toll is at 253. Karnataka reported 2,187 cases which took its tally to 3,408.  
Maharashtra's count rose to 70,013 cases with 2,262 deaths. The State reported 2,361 new cases on Monday. The recovery rate on the coronavirus pandemic in Maharashtra

improved to 43.35 per cent in the month of May. As many as 40 deaths and 1,413 Covid-19 positive cases were reported in Mumbai on Monday, taking the total number of cases in the city to 40,877, Municipal Corporation Greater Mumbai said.  
Meanwhile, the State's doubling rate has also improved. It is 17.5 days now, as compared to 11 days earlier. After reporting 1,295 cases

## Delhi borders sealed for week to stem corona spike: Kejriwal

**PNS ■ RANCHI**  
As many as 26 new cases of Covid-19 infection surfaced in Jharkhand on Monday, taking the total count of cases reported in the State so far to 661, health officials said. New cases of infection were reported from eight districts on Monday, including East Singhbhum, which alone reported 10 cases in the day, officials added.  
Cases were also reported from Garhwa, Hazaribag, Koderma, Gumla, Ranchi, Simdega and Lohardaga on Monday. With Monday's findings, the number of migrants testing positive for Covid-19 reached 461, which is more than 70 per cent of the total cases reported in Jharkhand so far, health officials said.  
"At least 26 new cases of Covid-19 infection were reported today. Ten of them are from East Singhbhum," said Health Secretary Nitin Madan Kulkarni. Koderma also reported four cases on Monday, another health official said.  
According to figures with the NHM, at least 296 Covid-19 patients have recovered in Jharkhand so far. There are more than 360 active cases in the State as reported on Monday late evening. Ten of them are more than half of the 661 odd people infected by Covid-19 virus so far in Jharkhand are in the age bracket of 11 to 30 years — a trend that highlights how young people were as prone to the virus as their older counterparts, health officials said. Out of the 661 cases, 393 are in the age bracket of 11 to

## 26 new Covid-19 cases surface in State

**10 from East Singhbhum**  
**PNS ■ RANCHI**  
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Ranchi SDO Lokesh Mishra alongwith police personnel at Katarbagan under Nankom Police station, after found a Covid-19 positive case, in Ranchi on Monday

### CAPSULE

**NO BADGE NEEDED FOR DRIVING RENTED CAB**  
New Delhi: Tourists and others hiring cabs and motorcycles for self-driving will not be required to carry badges if they are holding a domestic driving licence or an international driving permit (IDP), the Government said on Monday.

**DANIEL PEARL CASE: PAK'S SC BACKS ACQUITTALS**  
Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday rejected a petition filed by the Singh Government to suspend a High Court verdict that overturned convictions of al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides in the kidnapping and murder case of American journalist Daniel Pearl.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR WAJID KHAN PASSES AWAY**  
Mumbai: Waheed Khan, Bollywood's one of the finest music directors, of the popular music composer duo Sajid-Wajid passed away in the early hours on Monday morning due to complications arising from a kidney infection, that included cardiac arrest and coronavirus infection. Close family and brother Sajid attended his last rites on late Monday afternoon. He was 42. He had a kidney transplant, and was on the ventilator for the last four days.

## 1,000 foreign goods delisting 'erroneous', CAPF to list afresh

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
After the Central Police Canteens that cater to the Central paramilitary forces issued a notice, a number of products manufactured by Indian companies also figured on the list. Now a new reworked list will be brought out, officials said.  
Maheshwari said, "It is clarified that the list issued by Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar (KPKB) on 29th May

2020 regarding delisting of certain products has been erroneously issued at the level of CEO. The list has been withdrawn and action is being initiated for the lapse."  
DIG-rank officer RM Meena is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KPKB that runs paramilitary canteens across India.  
The KPKB had formulated three categories of products to discriminate between locally manufactured and imported. In the first category, products made in India from scratch were included.  
The order issued by Department of Home, Prisons and Disaster Management, signed by Chief Secretary Sukhdeo Singh, allows intra district public transport in small commercial vehicles. However, the transportation will be guided by a Standard Operating Protocol, which includes social distancing, maintaining of record of passengers by drivers, end to end transportation and cap on the number of passengers sitting in the vehicles.  
The order further allows

## State unlocks with caution

**Intra-district public transport allowed with SOP**  
**PNS ■ RANCHI**  
The number of Covid-19 cases increasing at a rapid pace in Jharkhand the State Government on Monday issued an order enlisting relaxations under Unlock 1.0 towards opening a number of commercial activities. The relaxations, Chief Minister Hemant Soren tweeted, are for lockdown but not for ignoring precautions.  
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The order further allows



Commuters ride their vehicle near Albert Ekka Chowk during the first day of the 'Unlock-1' in Ranchi on Monday

opening of TV, Mobile, consumer electronics shops, refrigerator and air conditioners alongwith their service centres. It also allowed to open all call centres, which were earlier not allowed in a municipal area.  
The order also allows opening of jewellers shops, shops of watches, spectacles, automobiles, shops selling kitchenware and furniture, auto accessories, batteries, garages, motor workshops among others.  
However, restaurants in the district headquarters can open only for home delivery services. According to the order all relaxations that were already there before Monday's order will continue in the State.  
Chief Minister Hemant Soren, addressing media per-

200-bedded Covid-19 wing to come up at MGM Hospital

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

With spurt in cases of coronavirus in Kolhan, State's health department has decided to come up with a 200-bedded COVID-19 wing at MGM Medical College and Hospital.

increasing continuously, they have decided to come up with the new facility. The new building of MGM would be separated and developed as a COVID Hospital with a new boundary wall so that additional number of patients can be treated.



Gupta has also instructed the Civil Surgeons and Deputy Commissioners of the three districts of Kolhan to ensure that the patients found in the district are treated in the same district, as well as to arrange for better treatment and food.

Gupta said that there has been some incident in which positive patients have been found roaming, this is a serious matter. He directed the Deputy Commissioner to issue instructions to the local police to fix security arrangements in each of the Quarantine centres.

Health Minister also launched three hearses (Moksh Bahan) Talking to the reporters after the inauguration, he said that there were frequent complaints that private ambulances used to demand money to carry the body, along with occasional complaints of beating and abuse.

BSL continues to make inroads in export market



ASHISH SINHA ■ BOKARO

Steel Limited of India (SAIL)'s Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) continues to drive to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 lockdown in the global steel industry.

Now there is an abundance of opportunities available in the export market, to make the most of this opportunity available, the workers of BSL are focusing on the production of quality steel.

62 labourers relieved from quarantine centre

PNS ■ RANCHI

Sixty two migrant labourers, whose test samples were negative, were released from the Quarantine Center of Sub Health Center at Chatrohatti under Gomia Block. On the occasion, M.A. of Gomia constituency, Lombard Mahato said that it is a significant challenge to connect the migrant labourers with employment during the global epidemic so that they can be prevented from going out of their village by providing opportunities via employment generation.



labourers which were sent the sample today came reported as negative, after which all 62 workers are being sent home after giving certificates. He also told that everyone has to stay in home quarantine for 14 days as a precautionary measure & not to leave home.

Gap between Industry and workforce due to Covid-19

GUEST WRITUP

OP SHARMA

The COVID crisis seems to be an alarming situation in India specially for unorganized labourers, who are bound to move to their home town to protect themselves due to lockdown and non availability of work.



affected due to non-availability of labourers, specially in the sectors like construction, Textile, road and many more projects division in near future.

After a period of time and we can overcome from this situation of present economy that has gone derailed. Also we need to reform the outdated Labour Laws to prevent them from making the investment in the country to create the employment.

Wanted Maoist Rakesh Marandi held in Giridih

SURESH NIKHAR ■ BERMO

Giridih police today arrested most wanted CPI (Maoist) leader Rakesh Marandi, accused of several dozens cases, after a hot chase from Kulmurngi village of Bhowaghathi police station area near north forest area.

was arrested from the forest close to Khorimahua where he was hiding during holding a meeting with Maoist members by the joint anti-Naxalite combing team of state police and 7th CRPF battalion.

combing team returned fire. The Naxalites soon dispersed and ran towards the forest. During the pursuit, Rakesh Marandi was arrested by the combing team officers, said the SDPO.

around Giridih and Dhanbad. Police claimed that it was a major breakthrough for the district police. The naxal was evading arrest from Giridih and other district police for last several years. Police also recovered important documents from him.

NPU gets Pro-VC after nearly 1 year

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

After nearly a year Nalambor Pitamber University, Daltonganj on Monday got a pro vice chancellor in Deep Narayan Yadav, who joined his new assignment here following an appointment by Raj Baharan recently.

No upper hand of extremists in J'khand: DGP

DALTONGANJ: State Director General of Police (DGP) M V Rao did not see Maoists 'upper hand' in the Chaibasa episode where Maoists speaking assault took a toll of two lives there. Depecting to this correspondent today Rao said, "To describe this single incident as one of an resurgence or upper hand of the Maoists is not fair and proper at all."

per their 'sweet will' to which DGP Rao in a voice more louder on this query said, "I cannot say what the sweet will is of the extremists but we know our drive against them is intense and acute."

Rao had his stint here as DIG Palamu too when extremism was at its notoriously high pitch in this range of 5 districts Garhwa, Latehar and Palamu.

कायालय, जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक-सह-नोडल पदाधिकारी (RTE Cell), बोकारो आम सूचना

बोकारो जिले के कुल 39 मान्यता प्राप्त निजी विद्यालयों की प्रवेश कक्षा में RTE 2009 की धारा 12 (1) C के अंतर्गत विद्यालयों की प्रवेश कक्षा के 25% की सीटों पर प्रथम चरण के नामांकन हेतु विद्यालयों को भेजी जाने वाली औपबधिक रूप से चयनित एवं अचयनित बच्चों की सूची का प्रकाशन कर दिया गया है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय तेनुघाट बांध प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट, बोकारो

कार्यालय आदेश संख्या- 482, तेनुघाट, दिनांक- 29.05.2020 कार्यालय आदेश

कार्यालय : जिला नोडल पदाधिकारी, जिला एन-ओ सीओ डीओ सेल, धनबाद

विद्यार्थियों के नामांकन हेतु प्रथम सूची में नहीं हुआ है, आवेदन चॉपित दस्तावेजों सहित दिनांक-01.06.2020 से 06.06.2020 तक जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक-सह-अनुमंडल शिक्षा पदाधिकारी, बोकारो के कार्यालय में जमा कर सकते हैं।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय तेनुघाट बांध प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट, बोकारो

कार्यालय आदेश संख्या- 482, तेनुघाट, दिनांक- 29.05.2020 कार्यालय आदेश सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व के वर्षों की तरह इस वर्ष भी तेनुघाट जलारण्य के जल स्तर में वृद्धि होने पर आगामी 16.06.2020 से 15.10.2020 तक किसी भी दिन बांध/बर्षों के पानी को छोड़ने हेतु लिफ्ट में गेट को आवश्यकतानुसार खोला जा सकता है जिसके फलस्वरूप दामोदर नदी के जलस्तर में अनाक वृद्धि होगी।

Jharkhand Bilva Vitran Nigam Ltd.

Application are invited for registration as an Electrical Contractor under Electric Supply Circle, Dhanbad for the erection/maintenance work for 33 KV Line, 11 KV Line, LT Line, PSS, DSS & other work. Interested contractors are requested to submit their application with following required documents in the office of the undersigned by 30.09.2020. Details are given below:-

Rebels target construction site in Gumla

PNS ■ RANCHI

Around a dozen armed rebels of CPI (Maoist) torched construction equipment and vehicles of a road construction company at Lavkhamman locality under Palokt police station of Gumla district on Sunday night about 70 km from district headquarters.

Labour Minister flags off relief distribution vans

PNS ■ RANCHI

In a bid to help the needy in the urban pockets of Ranchi City, Anupam Mishra, Union Minister for Labour and Employment Minister SatyanandBhokra and State head of PHIA Foundation Johnson Topno, who flagged off the relief material with relief vans.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय तेनुघाट बांध प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट, बोकारो

कार्यपालक अभियंता, तेनुघाट बांध प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट, बोकारो का कार्यालय आदेश संख्या- 482, तेनुघाट, दिनांक- 29.05.2020 कार्यालय आदेश

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# Sigh of relief for Hindpiri residents after 2 months

**Area was freed from containment zones today**

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

It was a feeling as if caged birds released for residents of Hindpiri, Purani Ranchi and Lake Road when these localities were freed from the tag of containment zones. The Ranchi district administration on Sunday late evening decided to free Hindpiri from containment zone. In a meeting headed by Deputy Commissioner, Rai Mahimapat Ray it was decided that as Hindpiri has not recorded any positive case in last 28 days the area should be freed from containment zone. As per Disaster Management directive, if an area has not recorded any positive case in last 28 days then the area is out from containment zone.

According to the report presented before the District Disaster Management Committee, the last time a case came to the fore in the area of Hindpiri was 28 days back. Apart from this, the work of medical screening has also been completed in the entire area. Reports of potential people in whom corona-like symptoms were found have also been found to be negative.

The first case of Covid 19 was traced from Hindpiri area when a 22-year-old Malaysian woman tested positive on March 31 in the city. The woman, with links to a Tablighi Jamaat attendee at Nizamuddin in New Delhi, stayed in the same Hindpiri locality along with other foreign nationals.

After the woman was tested positive, cases in Hindpiri area started growing as cases were reported on regular basis from the area. The area has witnessed two fatalities which include a 60-year-old man and



People freely move after getting free from the Containment Zone at Hindpiri area, during the first day of the 'Unlock-1' in Ranchi on Monday. **Ratan Lal | Pioneer**

his wife, who died last month. The streets of the area were made containment zones in the first week of April after cases were reported from the area. The streets were cordoned off with barricades and police personnel deployed.

Locals say they had a hard time getting groceries and vegetables during the period. "As the area was in containment zone all shops including groceries and vegetables shops were closed. The district administration team used to make supply of regular items in

"Though the government used to make supply of essential items but many a times it was irregular, there was no supply of milk and fruits. Also with no source of income, many families here couldn't afford much."

"Many residents are well-off, but huge chunks are daily wagers and pursuing small businesses. They had no source of income," added Farook. Sources said that the residents of the area on several occasions had protested against district administration move with a demand to make the area containment zone free which resulted in ugly brawl between police and residents.

On May 16 night CRPF deployed at Hindpiri resorted to lathi-charge and rubber pellets to disperse the crowd after a clash with the locals living in the area over some trivial issue. CRPF was deployed at Hindpiri, largest containment zone in Jharkhand, to implement the lockdown strictly.

# Monsoon likely to hit State by June 15

**Pre monsoon showers recorded at 147.6 mm against normal amount of 35.8 mm**



People going at a waterlogged area after rains in Ranchi on Monday. **Vinay Murmu | Pioneer**

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

With the onset of monsoon in Kerala on June 1, the rainy season is likely to arrive in Jharkhand by June 15. This year normal monsoon is being predicted unlike last year when Jharkhand had a rain deficit of 18 per cent.

According to the Meteorological Centre, Ranchi normal rainfall with even distribution across the entire State is predicted. Rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent is considered normal.

"June 1 is the normal date for monsoon to onset over Kerala. It usually takes 15 days to reach Jharkhand and it is expected to arrive by June 15. The months of July and August are when maximum rainfall takes place. For July 103 per cent and 97 per cent for August is being forecast," said Deputy Director MET Centre Ranchi, Abhishek Anand.

From March to May the pre monsoon showers recorded across the State was 147.6 mm against the normal amount of 35.8 mm which is 312 per cent more than normal.

As per the MET Centre, pleasant weather conditions are in store for the residents of Jharkhand for the next few days with maximum temperatures expected to a few degrees below normal.

On June 1, 2019 the maximum temperature in the State capital was recorded at 40.6 degree Celsius whereas as on June 1, 2020, the maximum tem-

# Agriculture Dept issues statewide alert against Locust attack

**MRTUANJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI**

With India battling the worst desert locust attack outbreak in three decades, Jharkhand Government's Agriculture Department issued statewide alert to save farm products from the insect and it is completely ready to fight against the insect which heavily destroyed crops in various states of the Country.

Already the entire country is grappling with the global pest locust COVID 19, the locust attack in several states of the northern part of the Country and the various states issued advisories to prevent it to spread. In order to provide safety blankets to farmers of the Jharkhand, Agriculture Minister, Baddal constituted a three-member committee consisting of top officials of the Department and at the same time issued alert in the State to drive away the insect from the State.

Director Agriculture Department, Chavi Ranjan informed that the Department has assessed its resources to combat the menace. "We have arranged the vehicles to spray pesticide and insecticide to thwart the effort of the Locust attack in the State. We have arranged sprayer also both large and small to use as per requirements," he added.

The Department has chalked out strategy to combat the menace in which it issued alert at various levels like State, District and Block level. "Monitoring team have been formed at State level which lead by Directos SAMETTI, at District level it will lead by DDCs and at Block level it will be lead by Plant Protection officers," said Ranjan. Ranchi District Agriculture Officer, AK Sinha also held meeting with pesticide and insecticide supplier on Monday to evaluate the situation and after the meeting he said that the Department has arranged more than required insecticide to drive away the insect.

Notably the crop destroying insect now spread to states like Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat after arriving in Rajasthan from neighboring country Pakistan. Authorities in Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka too sounded alerts on Thursday to the possibility of locusts entering their territories even as UN's Food and Agricultural Organization warned that the insects could reach as far east as Bihar and Odisha in the coming week.

Birs Agriculture University (BAU) Director Extension Education, RS Kureel said that there aerial spray of insecticide is needed to completely drive away the swarms of Locust amid their worst invasion of the years. It comes in every 20 to 30 years and there is no permanent plan to control it, only nodal agencies deployed when it comes to India, he added.

"It can't be tackled by single State Government. It can be tackled with joint effort of the Central Government and various state governments to drive to the insect from the Country before advent of Kharif season," said Kureel.

Meanwhile, Garbha district put on high alert against locust attack which spotted 200 km away from the District. With the advancing locusts reaching as far as Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, may be enter in Jharkhand through border District Garbha. District Administration had asked people to alert if they spot a swarm. "This is an emergency, and we need to remain vigilant," Deputy Commissioner Harsh Mangla said.

# Centre must provide more aid to J'khand to feed poor farmers: Oraon



JPCO State President and Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon distributes food grains among 150 auto drivers, during the first day of the 'Unlock-1' in Ranchi on Monday. **Vinay Murmu | Pioneer**

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) on Monday demanded Central Government to provide more aid to the State for distribution of free of cost food grains among poor and needy for next six months. The Central Government should open the door of Food Corporation of India (FCI) so that the poor farmers could get food in coming monsoon season, he said.

Talking to media persons JPCC Chief and Finance Minister of the State, Rameshwar Oraon said that monsoon is coming and the farmers will have to face two main challenges, one to arrange seeds, fertilisers and other resources for their farming work and other to arrange food and ration to feed their family members. He urged the Central Government to provide maximum assistance to the farmers during the hour of pandemic so that their livelihood could not be affected.

"The State Government will not only provide employment to the migrant workers who have returned home but also it will give job to all the workers living in Jharkhand to deal with the crisis arising out of the lockdown," said Oraon.

The Finance Minister said that now the monsoon is coming so the work related to soil will have to stop along with the works which going on under MNREGA and rural road construction plans will also be closed. But the State Government will provide employment to the people by planting saplings across the State during the rainy season, he added.

Oraon said that plantation work will not only provide employment to people but will also increase greenery

**The Finance Minister said that now the monsoon is coming so the work related to soil will have to stop along with the works which going on under MNREGA and rural road construction plans will also be closed. But the State Government will provide employment to the people by planting saplings across the State during the rainy season, he added**

The construction work goes on during the rainy season, the Government will give complete relaxation in the construction work and will also help in providing cement, rods sand and other necessities to the people, he added.

The Central Government announced lockdown-5 and provided many relaxations and at the same time it has passed the responsibility on to the State Governments. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, concrete strategies are being chalked out to give impetus to future activities, economic revival and to provide employment to the State's workers and returning home based migrant workers according to their efficiency," said Oraon.

He said that the speed of revenue collection has also slowed down due to the lockdown, in such a situation the Government is constantly striving to provide employment to the people by providing more funds for development schemes and to promote micro and small scale industries.

# Deferred RS polls to be held on June 19

**Contest among JMM, Cong and BJP for 2 seats in J'khand**

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday announced polls to 18 Rajya Sabha seats to be held on June 19, while counting of votes will be held on same day.

The 18 vacancies includes two Rajya Sabha seats in Jharkhand apart from four vacancies each in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, three each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and one each in Meghalaya and Manipur.

The elections to 18 Rajya Sabha seats were deferred owing to the lockdown necessitated to check Covid 19 transmission. The ECI decided to hold the election based on Home Ministry's May 30 guidelines and inputs from the Chief Electoral Officers of the States concerned.

For two Rajya Sabha seats in Jharkhand the main fight is between JMM, BJP and Congress. JMM candidate Shibu Soren is likely to be elected unopposed while in second seat the election is necessary. For the second seat BJP state president Deepak Prakash and Congress candidate Shahzada Anwar are in fray.

Both the JMM and BJP have welcomed the ECI decision to hold Rajya Sabha election. JMM general secretary and spokesperson, Supriyo Bhattacharaya said, "JMM welcomes the decision of ECI to hold the pending Rajya Sabha election. The party is confident that JMM nominees will win maximum seats including two

Rajya Sabha seats of Jharkhand. The party is hundred per cent sure of JMM patriarch Shibu Soren's victory in one seat, while in other seat the Congress candidate who is supported by JMM and BJP too will win the election." The JMM leader claimed that UPA candidate will be benefited with inner conflict of BJP and its ally partners.

The BJP too has welcomed holding of Rajya Sabha election and the party too is confident of victory of its nominee. BJP state vice president Pradeep Verma said, "We welcome the decision of ECI to hold pending Rajya Sabha election. The party candidate Deepak Prakash will easily win the election as the number is in favor of BJP candidate." Verma, claimed that apart from BJP members supporting Prakash's candidature he is also getting support from independents and AJSU party.

For winning the election, JMM requires the support 27 MLAs and the party has support of 29 MLAs in such situation JMM Chief Shibu Soren is sure to enter Rajya Sabha. After the first preference 27 MLAs, 52 MLAs are left and then any party needs the support of 27 MLAs as first preference for winning the election.

BJP has 25 MLAs and including Marandi the strength the party is 26. The party requires the support of only one MLA for saling the Rajya Sabha election.

The party also has support of independent legislators from the party's constituency east MLA Sarayu Roy for supporting Prakash.

# INBRIEF

## FUNDRAISING FOR NEEEDY JOURNALISTS



Joining hands with 'Jharkhand Journalist Association', Ranchi based social organization 'The Butterfly Project Foundation' has started fundraising for the journalists of Jharkhand through mlaapp, who are in dire need of ration. The organization has announced a payment of salary for past five to six months. The campaign which started on Saturday has raised Rs 9,000 till date. A part of this fund was utilized on Monday for five members of JJA Ranchi unit going through acute financial crunch. Five ration kits including 15 kg wheat flour, 10 kg rice, 1kg mustard oil, 1 kg lentil, 1 kg sugar, 1kg packet, 500 gm Soya bes, 500 gm chuda, 500 gm pappam, 500 gm tea, 1 kg detergent powder, 4 soaps, 100 gm of chilly powder, coriander powder, turmeric powder, and garam masala respectively were given to JJA. Plans for generating more funds for the cause is in pipeline for JJA district units in Giridih, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Palamau, Ramgarh and Hazaribag along with five districts of Bihar and three districts of Uttar Pradesh.

## CLASH BETWEEN VILLAGERS AND COPS IN PALAMU

A police vehicle was damaged and a couple of policemen and villagers clashed with each other at village Rama this Monday afternoon when the villagers planned to march to Paton police station. Hundreds of villagers led by AISA group have squatted in the village Rama accusing police of not doing anything in a case of death of a minor girl whose body was found hanging from a babul tree in May month. The clash resulted in the hurting of a couple of people on both the sides said police. SP Palamu Ajay Linda said the allegation of the villagers is not true as police are still investigating this case since right from the day our police found this girl hanging had raised suspicion of foul play and now with her post mortem report which spoke of strangulation of this girl to the death the suspicion of the police stands proved of foul play.

## 71 COVID-19 CASES IN HAZARIBAG

The total number of COVID-19 cases has reached to 71 in Hazaribag district. Out of 71 patients, 34 have discharged by the HMCH management. Three positive cases came in light after their reports reached on Monday. Out of three new positive cases, two came from Delhi and one from Mumbai. All were quarantined by the administration at the time of registration. All new active cases have been admitted to Covid 19 Arogyam hospital.

## NEW VBU VC TAKES CHARGE

Mukul Nayan Dev has taken the charge of New vice chancellor of Vinoba Bhave University on Monday. The new vice chancellor was welcomed by the officials of the university. The registrar of the university introduced Dev to the present officials and other dignitaries. After joining as vice chancellor Dev said that the government's priority will be certainly the priority of the university. "I will try my best to provide the all basic facilities to the students as well as quality education," he said.

## GANGA DUSSEHRA CELEBRATED

On the occasion of Ganga Dussehra, the river was worshipped by the workers of Vikas Bharti Bishnupur at North Koyal River, Bishnupur block in Gumla district. The prayers were this year for good rains, for cultivation and also to save water! Joint Secretary Mahendra Bhagat, Senior Scientist cum Principal Doctor Sanjay Pandey, Educational Officer Mukul Kumar, Scientist Neeraj Kumar Vaish, Aji Oraon, Vinod Kumar, Vipin Tiwari, Sanjay Kumar, Shrawan Kumar, Muni Devi, Suryamanti Bhagat, Mayanti Devi, Saugandha were present on the occasion.



# Labourers from Jharkhand stuck in Goa stadium

**VJAY DEO JHA ■ RANCHI**

In despite commitment and care shown by Jharkhand government to ensure safe return of labourers to Jharkhand from other states; over 1000 labourers from Jharkhand are still stranded in Goa from the past couple of days.

All of them were dumped at Bambolim stadium by local district administration of Goa government on May 29, workers said. Desperate to meet their family back in Jharkhand, they left for Karmali railway station on getting information that a special shramik special train is set to leave for Jharkhand on May 29.

"We were already in problem due to lockdown but it further turned worse," said Horil Pandit. Pandit who is a native of

Ratanpur village under Tundi block of Dhanbad district works as a labourer in Goa from the past one year.

"Many people like me from Jharkhand had approached Jharkhand government through online for our return and our request was accepted and processed. Accordingly, we also received notice that special train for Jharkhand will depart from Karmali station. A large number of labourers even from other states turned at the railway station. But, not all were allowed to board the train. Later on remaining people were taken at this stadium," said Pandit.

Polus Malto; a resident of Littiapara block of Pakur district is among labourers who has been facing hardship. "We are not given enough food to eat. The worse thing is that we have been told to keep disposable



Migrant labourers of Jharkhand staying at a stadium during nationwide Covid-19 lockdown, in Goa on Monday. **Pioneer photo**

Surendra, a native of Giridih district, works as a waiter at a hotel in Goa from

the past 10 years. "The number of crowd accommodated on the ground

is not less than 2000. They are from other states also. There is no proper facility of food and lodging here. We sleep on the ground and we go outside to attend nature's call. There is no social distancing," he said. Giridih based social worker Sikandar Ali who works for labourers expressed concern over the situation.

"Some of them are in regular touch with me. They have no means of communication and also they are not well enough money to survive. As the state government has been bringing stranded labourers from other state the government should also take care of labourers stranded at this stadium," said Ali.

On being contacted state transport secretary K. Ravi Kumar said: "Till last person reaches Jharkhand we will keep making arrangements."

# BJP Bihar campaign to start with 'virtual rally'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the BJP is set to unlock its poll campaign in Bihar next week with a 'virtual rally' by Union Home Minister and former BJP President Amit Shah who will address the people of the State through video conference and Facebook Live.

Shah's virtual rally will be followed up by BJP President P Nadda's 'digital rally' in the State that is slated to begin in October-November this year to elect 243 members of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. The term of the current Assembly, elected in 2015, will expire on November 29, 2020. The BJP has been sharing power with the JD(U), headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar since 2005, barring a four-year gap from 2013-17. Bihar would be the focus on most of the 2,000 virtual video conferences, rallies or meetings announced across the States by the BJP in the next one month. The Central and State leaders, to begin with, will address the mobilise both-level workers in the State through video-conferencing.

According to Bihar BJP President Sanjay Jaiswal, the

party has set a target of roping in 'at least one lakh people across the 243 Assembly segments in Bihar' for the video conference, besides those who may prefer to listen to the speech on the social networking site.

"The virtual rally can be very clearly called as the opening of our digital campaign for Assembly elections in Bihar. The June 9 rally by the Home Minister will be followed by similar public addresses from party president P Nadda on a later date. Itinerary for the same will be made known in due course. Nadda is expected to address the people in two phases covering north and south Bihar," he said at Patna.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal is also planning to counter Shah's 'virtual rally' by its own 'Garib Adhikar Divas' rally on June 9. The BJP's national president this week said that Coronavirus has restricted the scope of real poll campaigning but the party would launch electrifying sticking to new to begin with, will address the mobilise both-level workers in the State through video-conferencing.

Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, had, interestingly, spoken of the possibility of virtual cam-

aign' and even 'online voting' replacing old-style rallies and the long queues outside polling booths in the times of pandemic. The election commission will have the last say on the date of polling and the mode of campaign if the pandemic curve is not beaten effectively before the year-end, sources said.

While large gatherings are prohibited under what is being termed as 'Unlock 1.0', it remains to be seen whether conventional poll campaign involving rallies and roadshows will be allowed by the time the election schedule is announced. Rival parties in Bihar apprehend that a campaign restricted to the 'digital' mode would be of disproportionate advantage to the BJP, which has a well-oiled IT cell, and by virtue of being in power at the Centre for more than six years, can marshal resources with far greater ease than its rivals.

Last month, Nadda had addressed a meeting of Bihar core committee leaders through video-conferencing and exchanged views relating to electrifying, including the subject of stranded migrants from the State.

ARCHANA YOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 case-wise, India may have moved up viciously from the 10th position to 7th position within a week since May 25 but the fatality rate at 2.83 per cent of the total death of nearly 5,400 is much lower than the global 6 per cent.

The recovery rate in India also improved to 48.13 per cent on Monday. On May 25, India with 1,38,645 infected cases was at tenth position piping Iran which currently has 1,54,445 cases. On May 31, India with 1,90,535 cases replaced France to move to 7th position.

A senior official from the Union Health Ministry said that infection and fatality might seemingly be moving at the faster pace in India, but when compared to the other worst-hit countries, it is comparatively low (See Box).

The case fatality rate is 2.83 per cent. On May 18, it was 3.15 per cent while on May 3, it was 3.25 per cent and on April 15 it was 3.30 per cent.

"A steady decline can be seen in the case fatality rate in the country. The relatively low death rate is attributed to the continued focus on surveillance, timely case identification and clinical management of the cases," he said.

In comparison, said the official, the USA has 5.92 per cent, UK (14.07 per cent), Italy

## THE CASE FATALITY RATE FOR COUNTRIES HAVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF DEATHS

COUNTRIES	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
World	367,166	6.19%
USA	1,01,567	5.92%
UK	38,376	14.07%
Italy	33,340	14.33%
Spain	29,043	12.12%
France	28,717	19.35%
Brazil	27,878	5.99%
Belgium	9,455	16.25%
Mexico	9,413	11.13%
Germany	8,500	4.68%
Iran	7,734	5.19%
Canada	6,996	7.80%
Netherlands	5,951	12.87%

(14.33 per cent), Spain (12.12 per cent) and other around eight other developed nations where case fatality is comparatively higher than India.

Through a graded, pre-emptive and pro-active approach, we are taking several steps along with the States/UTs for prevention, containment and management of Covid-19.

These are being regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level," he added. The official also said that two specific

trends are being noticed: while the recovery rate is increasing on one hand, case fatality is going down on the other.

A total of 91,818 patients have been cured of the disease, with recovery rate at 48.19 per cent against Covid-19 patients.

The testing capacity has increased in the country through 472 Government and 204 private laboratories (total 676 laboratories). Cumulatively, 38,37,207 samples have been tested so far for the infection.

# IMA urges Govt to extend MSME benefits to clinics, nursing homes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has urged the Government to extend the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) benefits, recently announced by the Finance Ministry, to clinics, nursing homes and small hospitals run by single doctors, couple doctors and group of doctors who are grappling with financial crisis owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"There are thousands of single doctors, couple doctors and group of doctors who have established clinics, nursing homes and small hospitals providing healthcare in almost all the districts and towns of the country. They provide affordable healthcare and are accessible 24x7."

"Most of them fail to come under the definition of MSME. It is also true they have been badly affected in the current lockdown situation. Many of them have been closed. Some of them may not revive at all."



All of them are important in the current stage of exit to provide non-Covid services and perhaps even Covid-19 related services," IMA national president Dr Rajan Sharma said.

This stimulus package, which requires clarity will allow these institutions to survive and continue serving the people. Dr Sharma added, the IMA represents private medical professionals in the country.

The Government has announced a major economic package for the MSMEs which have been given a special consideration to help them bail out from financial crisis in the wake of Coronavirus pandemic.

# Naidu, Birla multivirtual Parliament in long run

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday discussed the conduct of Monsoon Session of Parliament under social distancing norms in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Naidu and Birla also explored 'virtual Parliament' as an option in the long run and to adopt technology to enable Parliament Sessions to tide over situations when regular meetings are not possible.

Both the Presiding officers also referred the issue of virtual meetings of parliamentary committees to the Rules Committees of both the Houses in view of the confidentiality aspect of the deliberations.

Parliament officials said several options are being considered including holding the meeting of Lok Sabha in the

Central Hall, with the Rajya Sabha, which has less members than the lower house, shifting to the chamber of Lok Sabha. Also the sittings of both the Houses can be held on alternate days.

Taking note of reports suggesting that the fight against the coronavirus is likely to be a long haul, Naidu convened the meeting at his official residence which was also attended by the Secretary Generals of both the houses.

The presiding officers directed the Secretary Generals to examine the feasibility of using the central hall of Parliament appropriately to ensure social distancing norms during the upcoming monsoon session.

They noted that since there is no requirement of maintaining confidentiality of the proceedings of both the Houses, which are open to the general public besides being

telecast live, virtual Parliament is an option to be explored in the long run.

The two officials were also directed to examine in detail various technical and other arrangements to be ensured to enable smooth functioning of both the Houses.

Parliament usually meets in July-August for the monsoon session. It was adjourned since due on March 24, ahead of schedule, amid growing concerns over the Covid-19 outbreak.

Both the Secretary Generals briefed the Chairman and Speaker on issues connected with the proposed virtual meetings of various committees of Parliament," said the officials.

Measures include providing a safe technological platform, complying with the rules of confidentiality of the deliberations in such meetings and the difficulties in ensuring the

same in case of virtual meeting, they said.

Infrastructure upgrade to be undertaken to enable virtual meetings and the time likely to be taken in this regard were also discussed.

Taking cognisance of the long existing rules regarding confidentiality in respect of meetings of the committees and the technical aspects of holding virtual meetings, Naidu and Birla opined that it would be necessary to refer the issue of virtual meetings to the Rules Committees of both the Houses, the sources said.

Regarding the view expressed in some quarters that presiding officers can suspend the Rules, officials have pointed out that such suspension requires a motion to be carried in the House and presiding officers cannot supersede rules by issuing directions.

Both Naidu and Birla noted that the chairman of various

committees of Parliament including the department-related Standing Committees are empowered to convene regular meetings of respective committees on their own.

However, in view of the feedback being received from some members of Parliament about their inability to travel on account of quarantine norms in various states, they felt that it may be better for the chairman of various committees to convene meetings after ascertaining the likely attendance of Members.

Officials informed that the average attendance in the meetings of the eight department-related Standing Committees of Rajya Sabha over the last three years has been about 45 per cent.

This in effect means that on an average, 14 of the 31 members of each committee attended the meetings, they said.

# Take political parties, country into confidence over China border issue, Cong tells Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday asked the Government to take all political parties and the country into confidence over restoration of the status quo ante on the border with China.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said there can be no compromise on India's security and territorial integrity and posed a set of questions to the Government on the situation at the border in Ladakh.

He questioned the "silence" of the Government on the "brazen Chinese transgression" into Indian territory. The Congress leader also expressed concern over issues raised by Nepal and hoped the Government would find a lasting solution to it.

"Why has the Modi Government not taken the nation into confidence vis-a-vis

the actual position on the ground?", the Congress asked. "While the Government has briefly commented upon the situation, diplomatically, the Modi Government must take all political parties and the country into confidence on restoring the status quo ante and protecting India's territorial integrity," Surjewala demanded at AICC Press conference.

The Congress said that unmet news reports reflect that Chinese forces have made serious transgressions into Indian Territory at three points in Ladakh and Sikkim.

"Reports of Chinese Army moving thousands of troops in Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso lake Area in Ladakh are shocking and audacious attempt on our 'territorial integrity', said the party leader. The grand old party said if these reports are true, the

Modi Government must answer 'Have the Chinese troops occupied Indian Territory in the Galwan River Valley and Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh?'

It asked from the Government to clarify that the Chinese transgressions into Galwan River Valley threaten the operation of 'Darbuk-Shayok-DBO Road' vital to servicing Indian troops in Sub-Sector North and Karakoram pass.

Have they crossed into Indian Territory even beyond China's own 'Claim Line', pitched hundreds of tents, constructed concrete structures and built a few kilometres of road along the LAC in Galwan River Valley as also on the north bank of Pangong Tso Lake? And is it correct that Chinese troops have occupied the 'Finger Heights near Pangong Tso Lake?' asked the Congress.

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### NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT E-VOTING TO THE MEMBERS

Members are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013, as amended (the "Act") read with Rule 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Himalaya Food International Limited (the "Company") is seeking approval from its Members by passing the resolution as set out in the Postal Ballot Notice dated May 28, 2020 ("Notice") by way of remote e-voting.

Members are also hereby informed that pursuant to Sections 109 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Companies Act"), read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 ("Management Rules"), each as amended from time to time, and the General Circular Nos. 14/2020 and 17/2020 dated April 8, 2020 and April 13, 2020, respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (the "MCA Circulars"), the Company has completed dispatch of the postal ballot notices along with explanatory statement (in electronic form) on May 1, 2020 to all shareholders whose names appear in the register of members/ list of beneficial owners, as on the close of working hours on May 22, 2020 ("cut-off date"), as received from the National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") and Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL") (together referred to as "Depositories") and who have registered their e-mail addresses in respect of electronic holdings with the Depositories through the concerned depository participants and in respect of physical holdings with BEETAL Financial & Computer Services Pvt. Ltd., Share Transfer Agent of the Company ("STA"). A member who is not holding the shares as on the cut-off date shall treat the notice for information purpose only.

Members may also note that in compliance to the above MCA Circulars the communication of assent/disassent of the members on the resolution proposed in this notice will only take place through the remote e-voting system.

To enable participation in the remote e-voting process by those shareholders, to whom physical Postal Ballot Notice could not be dispatched, the Company has made appropriate arrangements with its STA for registration of email addresses, in terms of the MCA Circulars.

For the purpose of registration of email address and voting in the resolution proposed in the Postal Ballot through remote e-voting, members who have not registered their email address may get their email address registered by sending an email to the Company's Share Transfer Agent at [bstatara@small.com](mailto:bstatara@small.com). Member(s) may also intimate the same to the Company by writing at [www.himalayafoodcompany.com](mailto:www.himalayafoodcompany.com). The members shall provide the following information in the email:

1. Full Name
2. No. of shares held
3. Folio Number (if shares held in physical) and PAN
4. Share certificate number (if shares held in physical) and PAN
5. DP ID & Client ID (if shares are held in demat)
6. Email id to be registered as per MCA Circulars

Post successful registration of the email, the member would get soft copy of the notice and the procedure for e-voting along with the User ID and Password to enable e-voting for this Postal Ballot.

The Company has appointed CDSL as service provider for facilitating e-voting to enable the Members to cast their votes electronically. Further, M. B.S. Goyal Practising Company Secretary shall act as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the Postal Ballot process in a fair and transparent manner.

Notice is hereby given that the Members can vote on the business specified in the Notice during the period commencing Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and ending on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter and voting through electronic means shall not be allowed thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by a Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter.

Please also note that the results of Postal Ballot process (by way of remote e-voting) will be declared on or before Friday, July 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (IST) at the Registered Office of the Company by the Managing Director / Executive Director.

In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com) under the section or write an email to [helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com) or to Ms. Surabhi Maheshwari Company Secretary at [cs@himalayainternational.com](mailto:cs@himalayainternational.com).

This Notice is available on our website at [www.himalayafoodcompany.com](http://www.himalayafoodcompany.com) and the website of CDSL at [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com) and also on the websites of Stock Exchanges at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

Place: Delhi Date: 01.06.2020  
Sd/-  
Surabhi Maheshwari  
(Company Secretary)

# Odisha, Sikkim, Mizoram join 'One Nation-One Ration Card'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three more States — Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram — have joined the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme, taking the number of states and union territories (UTs) which have joined the scheme to 20.

Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Manipur will also be added to the national cluster by August. Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Monday said necessary infrastructure work — upgradation of electronic Point of Sale (ePos) software, integration with central Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS) and Annavaran portals, availability of ration cards/beneficiaries data in central repository and requisite

testing of national portability transactions — required for ration card portability has been completed in these three states: Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram. So far, ration card portability has been enabled in 17 states and UTs — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

Under the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' initiative, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any Fair Price Shop in the country

using the same ration card.

Further, constant efforts are being made by this Department to expand the reach of national portability to the beneficiaries of other states/UTs also in association with respective state/UT governments, Paswan said. A central technical team has imparted the requisite orientation training to the technical teams and concerned officers of these states through video conferencing and necessary guidelines/instructions for the implementation of national/inter-state portability were also provided to them, Paswan said.

Urban Affairs (MHA) on Monday launched PM Svanidhi or Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhar Nidhi scheme, which is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March. The scheme is valid until March 2022.

Under the scheme, vendors can avail working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within one year. On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on six-

# PM Svanidhi for street vendors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

months basis. There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.

The scheme is applicable to vendors, hawkers, thelwallas, rehriwallas, thelphadwallas in different areas/contexts who supply goods and services. Street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban/rural areas are also included.

The scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors, who had been vending on or before 24 March, 2020, in urban areas including those from surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas.

The duration of the scheme is till March 2022. The street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas are being included as beneficiaries under the urban livelihoods programme for the first time.

India by Australia. The two and a half feet 16th-century idol which was kept in the gallery in Adelaide, Australia for 17 years was traced a year ago.

Three years ago, Australia had returned three artefacts, including an idol of goddess Pratyangira, stolen from a Shiva temple in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu. In 2014, then Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott had returned two statues of Nataraj and Ardhanarishwar stolen from temples in the state.

Both India and Australia are a party to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transport of Ownership of Cultural Property.

ARCHANA YOTI ■ NEW DELHI

A virtual meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison scheduled on June 4 is also likely to witness the latter handing over online the exquisitely carved stolen artefacts, including two Nayak period dwarapalas or temple gate guardians and a 6th or 7th century serpent king (Nagaraja) of Rajasthan (Madhya Pradesh, stolen from India.

The Australian Government had earlier planned to return the three antiquities of cultural significance during the official visit of Morrison to India in January this year. But the plan went for a toss, first owing to forest fires in Australia followed

by the Covid-19 pandemic which has brought the world on its knees.

Sources in the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) said that the three culturally significant artefacts, a pair of 'Dwarapala' (door guardians), dating back to 15th century, are from Tamil Nadu. The 'Nagaraja' (serpent king), belonging to 6th or 8th century, either from Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh, was at display at National Gallery of Australia. It had reportedly purchased them from idol smuggler Subhash Kapoor.

However, extensive research undertaken by the Gujarat prompted it to voluntarily return these artefacts to India. "We are expecting the Australian leader to virtually handover the idols to our Prime Minister Modi when



they have a virtual meeting on June 4. After that, we will send the two Dwarapalas to idol wing of Tamil Nadu which has registered a theft case in the matter while the Serpent King will be handed over to a museum in Red Fort," the sources



said. In September last year, a 600-year-old Nataraja idol worth Rs 30 crore which was stolen 37 years ago from a temple at Kallidai in Tirunelveli district, Chennai, Tamil Nadu was returned to

India by Australia. The two and a half feet 16th-century idol which was kept in the gallery in Adelaide, Australia for 17 years was traced a year ago.

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Both India and Australia are a party to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transport of Ownership of Cultural Property.

1,162 test positive in TN, 11 die

Total Releases 23,495 KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The day Tamil Nadu chose to relax the lockdown and allow factories, IT companies and business establishments to resume operations saw 1,162 persons testing positive for coronavirus, the highest number of cases to be registered on a single day. On Sunday, 1,149 persons had tested positive for the pandemic.

According to the release issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu on Monday, 23,495 persons have been tested positive till date in the State. Taking into account the number of persons cured and discharged from hospitals, there were 10,138 active cases in the

State as on Monday. The day also saw 11 persons succumbing to the pandemic taking the tally to 184.

Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts topped the table with the highest number of covid patients. Dr Ram Subramanian, member of the medical team advising the Tamil Nadu Government said the increase in the number of patients need not cause any kind of apprehension in the minds of the people. "The responsibility of the citizens is to make sure that they wear masks and observe social distancing," said Dr Ram Subramanian, a specialist in infectious diseases.

Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy on Monday laid the foundation for a ₹ 235 crore Software Park to be built by Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation at Pattabiram, a Chennai suburb. The park named as Tidel

UNLOCK 1.0

Park would offer 25,000 direct employment in the field of futuristic technology, said a release by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Despite the ever increasing number of patients, the State is limping back to normalcy as the lockdown which was in force for the last 65 days has entered its last phase. Barring the four districts of Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu, lockdown is being relaxed all over the remaining 33 districts, though remnants of the restrictions are still visible.

State-owned transport buses started plying in 33 districts with stringent regulations like social distancing and face masks. Employees of Tamil Nadu State Transport

Corporation, the public sector that operates inter-district bus services looked joyful and pleased as they welcomed the passengers onboard by offering them hand sanitizers.

It has been lifeless 65 days away from the growling of the engines and the cacophony of the passengers. We have never experienced such a phase in our three decades of service," said Manoharan, a driver in Sivagangai bus station while getting ready for the routine trip to Karakudi.

M K Stalin, leader of the Opposition, who is also the president of the DMK said in a statement that the hike in the number of coronavirus cases in the State is due to the failure of the government to properly conduct the tests.

At a crucial time ahead of the next year's Assembly elections which the BJP is seeing as a chance to rebound about a second change in Bengal.

The reshuffle --- which further tightens the stranglehold of Ghosh in the State party --- also takes place ahead of the five-day video conference with Shah who would speak to all the party workers and office bearers from June 8 onward, sources said.

Meanwhile Ghosh on Monday made it clear that his party was switching on to the agitation mode keeping in mind even as he brought new allegations against the "MTC Government accusing it of large-scale housing corruption. Crores have been siphoned off in housing scam which is a big scam and the party will take up this case soon along with other issues," he said.

Reshuffle in Bengal BJP ahead of 2021 polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A head of the June 8 video conference with Haryana Minister Amit Shah, the Bengal BJP has effected massive organisational reshuffling that saw shunting of a known "plain-speaker" senior leader Chandra Bose a scion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The name of Bose who was a vice president of the Bengal party unit would not appear in the new list of office bearers even as State BJP president announced the new list of functionaries even as critics said the new list makes it apparent that the party is looking for street fighters rather than ideologues to counter the Trinamool Congress in the next year's Assembly elections.

According to the new list Barrackpore MP and a former strongman of the TMC Arjun Singh has been promoted to the

post of vice president. Along with him Bankura MP Dr Subhas Sarkar, Hooghly leader Rajalpal Sarkar, Ritesh Tewari, Prapat Banerjee, Raju Banerjee, and Mehfuz Khatoun to have been made the party's State vice presidents.

Former women's wing leader Locket Chatterjee, the current Hooghly MP has been made the General Secretary of the party along with JP Singh Mahato and others. Locket Chatterjee is replaced by fashion designer Agnimitra Paul as the State Party Mahila Morcha president. Sabayashi Dutta another TMC turncoat and close associate of senior leader Mukul Roy has been made the party's state secretary. Vocal leader Sayantan Banerjee too have made a general secretary while party MP Soumitra Khan has been made the Yuva Morcha president.

The reshuffling takes place

Chennaites face difficulty to reach other TN dists

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

For the first time in recent history, Chennai has become out of bounds for people from other districts in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, every Chennaiite desiring to go out of the city limits to other districts in the State should undergo tests for coronavirus, according to the guidelines formulated by Department of Health.

Though auto-rickshaws are plying in the city, only two passengers could travel at a time making the common man's vehicle literally out of his rich. The auto drivers are fleeing the passengers due to a host of reasons which include restrictions in travel. Chennai and the three neighbouring districts

are devoid of public transport. This has made life difficult for employees in government and corporate offices who do not have their own vehicles for commuting.

Travellers who are planning to come to Tamil Nadu have been asked to collect e-passes from the portal tnepass.tnega.org. Both air and train passengers coming to Tamil Nadu have to get a pass from the Government portal, said the department of health.

Eateries and restaurants are the establishments which have been hit hard by the coronavirus and the resultant lockdown. Most of these reasons which include restricted migrant labourers as tea makers, cooks and suppliers. Since

they have gone back to their villages in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the proprietors are struggling to get workers.

"The local people would not agree to work on the salary which we pay to the migrant labourers and hence it is not viable to open the shops," said the owner of a popular eatery. Most of the tea and coffee shops in Chennai were owned and operated by Keralites.

With the advent of coronavirus, they returned to their native places in Kerala, which has dampened the spirit of the population in the Metro, because the Malayali coffee and tea were an essential ingredient in the lives of Chennaites.



A shopkeeper assists customers at a shop after the authorities eased restrictions, during Covid-19 lockdown 5.0, in Srirangam on Monday

76 new cases, 34 discharged in Andhra

Amravati: Andhra Pradesh's 76 new coronavirus cases took the state's total tally on Monday to 3,118 even as 34 patients were cured and discharged to their homes. Reporting that eight of the positive cases detected in the past 24 hours had visited the Chennai market. IANS

the state's death toll climbed to 66 on Monday morning. The Koyambedu market connection again surfaced on Monday with the state nodal officer reporting that eight of the positive cases detected in the past 24 hours had visited the Chennai market. IANS

People crowd streets on Day 1 of unlock 1.0 in WB

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The City of Joy tended to miss a heart beat on Monday the first day of 'unlock 1.0' even as things degenerated into a mega mix-up when citizens threw all cautions to the wind thronging public places and boarding packed up public buses --- that ran far and few between --- in mad desperation to reach their work places.

While people spilled over to the streets thronging market places in thousands at the end of 67 days confinement, the enforcers of law were hardly to be seen around, sources complained.

"We have been forced to come out of our houses taking great risk on our lives as we have been asked by our respected offices to join work. But here we have no adequate public transport because the large majority of public buses are not running because they have an

issue with the Government with increased fare," said Nalini Goswami, an IT professional.

As the people tried to avail of the skeletal public transport whatever government buses were running got jam-packed with passengers, the more conscious people complained adding the policemen were nowhere to be seen to enforce the social distancing norms.

Monday saw a number of religious places opening up in Bengal with the exception of Kalighat, Dakshineswar temples and Behar Math. While busy religious places like the three 'Shakti Peeths' of Birbhum district, Thanthania Kali Temple and Lake Kali Temple in Kolkata opened up with limited visitors.

The Jute, mining and Tea industry to functioned normally after the Government allowed these sectors to function with 100 per cent atten-

dance.

The Bengal Government had extended lockdown on June 1, permitting total attendance in MSMEs, mining, jute and tea industries.

Expressing great concern over the way things were shaping up post lockdown Dr, Sumi Jana said "it seems that the people are preferring jhaan (livelihood) to jaan (life). People don't seem to understand that they are at great risk and the way the number of cases are going up we soon climbed up the list of worst affected cities in the world."

Dr AK Nandi a virologist said, "the people will have to understand that they have been given a respite from lockdown because to remain aloof economically and not to go and party. If they do not understand it now then they will be in for a big trouble as the cases are going to rise in June and July in heaps and bounds."

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 45 Years, Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: Dark, Build: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue and White Colour Shirt, Black Pant and bare footed. Place of Recovery: Found dead on 19.04.2020 at Footpath, Telephone Exchange, Asaf Ali Park, Delhi.

In this regard DD No. 46-A, Dated 19.04.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Darya Ganj, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersigned.

SHO PS. Darya Ganj, Delhi DP/137/CD/2020 Ph.: 011-23274683 & 23279331

Metro Railway, Kolkata advertisement for UP-KEEP OF TRACK AND TRACK BED tender. Includes details of work, cost, and contact information.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION advertisement regarding a dead body found in front of Hanuman Mandir, Under Flyover, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Includes details of the body and contact information.

Guj offices, shops re-open, buses are back on roads advertisement. Includes details of the Gujarat Chief Minister's announcement and the government's response.

INDIAN RAILWAYS advertisement for E-TENDER NO. 2020RS1741TC regarding the procurement of 36,000 Nos. of Uprated Diesel Tensile CPC Freight Stock for Indian Railways.

Advisory issued for prayers in UP mosques

Lucknow: The Islamic Centre of India has issued a fresh advisory regarding opening of mosques from June 8.

Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali, chairman of the Centre, said that people should wait for 15 days before going to mosques.

He asked people not to crowd in mosques and added that people above 65 years and children below 10 years should not visit mosques in the pandemic.

The Maulana said that the Friday prayers would be held in four different groups so that social distancing is maintained. He said that all carpets and rugs would be removed from mosques and a distance of six feet would be maintained between each person.

The mosque would be cleaned with disinfectants before and after each prayer. The cleric said that soap would be provided for 'wuzu' (washing of hands and people should bring skull caps from their homes, instead of using the ones provided in a mosque.

All those visiting the mosques should wear masks, the advisory said. IANS

Goa likely to allow more activities, hints Sawant

IAIS ■ PANAJI

Goa may make room for allowing more activities, other than those specified by the central government in Unlock 1. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant hinted on Monday. "All activities which have been allowed by the Central Government will be allowed in Goa, but as Goa, we may take some other steps too. We will finalise the decision by today evening about some other relations which can be made," Sawant told reporters outside his office residence. IANS

Yogi to give ration kits, ₹1,000 to each destitute

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to provide ration kits and ₹1,000 to all destitutes who do not have ration cards.

In his meeting with Team 11 officials on Monday, the Chief Minister said that efforts should also be made to provide ration cards to those people in the rural areas, the ration kits and ₹1,000 will be given from the funds allotted to village heads while in the urban areas, the same will be provided by municipal corporations, the Government spokesman said.

"If any such persons are not registered under the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, Ayushman Arogya Yojana, he should be provided necessary treatment all the same," he said. IANS

Patients recovery rate goes up in Maha in one month

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Some good news emerged from the west-Scoronavirus affected Maharashtra on Monday in the form of increase in the rate of recovery of patients by 26.47 per cent during the last one month --- from 16.88 per cent on April 30 to 43.35 per cent on May 31, even as coronavirus claimed 76 lives and left 2,361 others infected in various parts of the State during the last 24 hours. The number of deaths dropped in Maharashtra from 89 on Sunday to 76 on Monday. There had been a total of 591 deaths in Maharashtra during the previous six days. On May 26 (Tuesday) the state had witnessed 97 deaths, while there were 105 deaths on Wednesday, 85 deaths on Thursday, 116 deaths on Friday and 99 deaths on Saturday. Sunday's Covid-19 toll was 89.

The number of new infected cases dropped from 2487 on Sunday to 2361 on Monday. At a time when Covid-19 appears to be peaking in Maharashtra, the increase in recovery rate has brought some solace to doctors waging a relentless battle against the pandemic.

As per the statistics put out by the state health department on Monday, the recovery rate stood at 12.91 per cent on March 31, twenty two days after the

first person tested positive for coronavirus in the state on March 9. In the following month from April 1 to April 30, the recovery rate rose marginally from 12.91 per cent to 16.88 per cent. However, during the period from May 1 to May 31, the recovery rate increased by 26.47 per cent from 16.88 per cent to 43.35 per cent, which doctors fighting the Covid-19 battle is pretty impressive.

In terms of numbers, as many as 39 out of total 302 patients recovered from March 9 (when the first coronavirus case was recorded in the state) to March 31. In the following month from April 1 to April 30, 1,773 patients out of total 1,048 patients were discharged from various hospitals after full recovery.

NOTICE REGARDING E-TENDER NOTICE advertisement for the supply of electrical engineering services. Includes details of the tender and contact information.

विहार सरकार (Bihar Government) advertisement regarding the opening of mosques. Includes details of the advisory and contact information.

## Another push

Cabinet decisions on MSMEs and the agricultural economy are well-intended but depend a lot on implementation and sub-text



**T**he Coronavirus and its shape-shifting effect on the economy have been debilitating but the Government has been reacting to them in fits and starts. And while the stimulus packages announced in a series so far haven't been as stimulating, the Cabinet decisions with regard to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the agricultural economy are well-intended but depend a lot on implementation and details. The definition of MSMEs has been changed, their turnover limit revised upward to ₹250 crore from ₹100 crore. The Government has infused ₹20,000 crore into

the sector as subordinate debt for stressed units. And although the Finance Minister in her first tranche of the stimulus had included ₹3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loans for them, many MSME owners claimed that about 97 per cent of them were not in the corporate sector and were either partnerships or proprietorships. So only a minuscule number of firms, that were either private limited or LLP, benefited. Besides, this badly-hit sector, which contributes up to 30 per cent of the GDP, has not quite recovered from demonetisation and many units are almost on the verge of closure. And for all the detailing, the fact of the matter is that credit channels like banks and NBFCs will have to ease loans to this sector no matter what the Government says. Even now, MSME credit is a very small percentage of total outstanding bank credit and that pie was declining even before the pandemic, decelerating industrial growth. The proposed fund of funds would help list MSMEs on stock exchange, hoping it would encourage private sector investments in them. But without good ratings and financials, that would not deliver immediately. Farmers, too, got some incentive in the form of a hike in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 crops, which will be 50-83 per cent more than the cost of production. But the Government's loan facility to them (₹3 lakh with a two per cent interest subvention) and the credit scheme for street vendors still do not address the dire need for fund infusion. Of course, more decisions guaranteeing farmers' incomes, encouraging crop rationalisation and making agri-business investment worthy are expected like getting rid of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act and facilitating easy inter-state trade for farmers. They are currently bound to sell agriculture produce only through APMC mandis, which restrict the free flow of farm products and lead to cartelisation. Though APMCs were meant to protect farmers from commission agents and middlemen, over time they embodied the very ills that they were meant to cure. But to their credit, they did ensure a steady procurement of foodgrains to avoid our food crises. So though farmers may have free market benefits, dismantling a regimented procurement structure would have to be followed up by creating an efficient marketing and distribution system that does not compromise our food security. Free market policies may not look at such altruistic priorities as creating a bubble. Yet we must remember that at least our surplus food reserves helped us somewhat during an emergency brought about by the pandemic. The dairy industry would be a good comparison. With private dairies refusing to buy extra milk produced, only cooperative dairies picked it up and converted it into other milk products, thereby easing the pressure on dairy owners. The Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation is even providing free milk to migrants to take care of the glut in supplies. Also, over 90 per cent of our farmers do not have access to regulated markets, so dismantling them wouldn't really have a cascading impact. A better bet would be to widen a network of well-distributed mandis and invest in longer shelf life of produce by way of attendant infrastructure like cold chains, storage, grading, transportation and so on.

Also, many of these measures were intended and discussed before to revive a slowing economy and are not particularly a palliative to the pandemic. We still have a slowing GDP to take care of and that will need big bang reforms and a fund infusion in the short run. Second, this year's GDP projection has fallen to 4.2 per cent and a consistent downward revision of growth means that figures aren't sacred. And for all the push to the agricultural sector, nothing is being done to generate demand in urban hubs or tackle joblessness without which no reform would make sense. Our manufacturing and construction growth is almost flattening and certain sectors are just not being considered for incentivisation. Till this piecemeal approach continues, no matter how reinvigorating each is, there is no rescuing the economy.

## Back to space

The privately-funded SpaceX mission not only marks America's return to manned space flight but is much more



**A** comment on Twitter read, "2020 in the US resembled 1968." A statement by aviation journalist Jon Ostrower has a historical context to it. For those of us in India, it is worth recalling that in the late 1960s, as the US reached for the moon, race riots and civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King reached a crescendo. Similarly, protests following the "effective" murder of an unarmed Black man George Floyd, just as America launched its first manned mission to space after almost a decade, is a telling commentary on the US: The world's only superpower can

climb the greatest heights and plumb the lowest lows all at once. However, one must not lose sight of the tremendous achievement of the SpaceX Crew Dragon mission to the International Space Station (ISS) undertaken by astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley. For one, while funded in part by the US' space agency, NASA, the rocket that carried the astronauts to space, the Falcon 9, the Dragon capsule and even the spaceuits the astronauts wore, were all developed by the Elon Musk-promoted SpaceX. Musk, who also founded electric carmaker Tesla, is a divisive figure for many but only the most petulant will deny that he is a technology visionary. Developing a commercially-viable space launch system from scratch and now using it to launch astronauts from American soil, he has done something that was previously unthinkable. A private, commercial organisation without Government support, funded by Musk's billions among other investors in a sector previously dominated by Government money across the world, he has proven, like he himself with electric cars, that change is possible.

This acquires even more significance as India, too, is opening up its space sector for commercial opportunities. Of course, we might not be able to find a man like Musk but even small private sector development, starting with a satellite that can use existing technology from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), can drive India's space industry. Musk's development with SpaceX alongside the work by fellow American billionaire Jeff Bezos with his "Blue Origin" has created large volumes of research as well as high-tech jobs across the US. India can emulate this and create jobs for legions of its best and brightest engineers, many of who emigrated to the US to work with the likes of Musk and Bezos as well as the larger aerospace and space industries. Arguing that opportunities exist and allowing industry access is not, however, the be-all and end-all of policy. The Indian Government, ISRO and private Indian industry will have to walk the talk if we want to emulate Musk.

# Age of reason

Amid border tensions, India must beat China at its own game by playing to its strengths, lowering rhetoric, strengthening its military-economic muscle and posturing peace



BHOPINDER SINGH

**T**he crest and trough of the Sino-Indian relationship has been witnessing its lowest ebb ever since the Doklam standoff of 2017. Now, an expected reversion of course-narratives is ensuing on both sides. Hard facts have become a casualty. The primary driver for the present jingoistic fervour is the cold reality of extreme "political vulnerability" following mismanagement of the COVID pandemic and its accompanying impact both in Beijing and New Delhi. Thus, the common urge for some societal distraction. The ability to spin the situation (however severe) towards their own advantage has been the hallmark of both regimes.

While this is certainly not the sort of distraction that would appeal to New Delhi's sensibilities, it is clearly up the Chinese path of circumstantial preference. The Xi regime is legitimised and galvanised by the hegemonic "Chinese Dream" and the sudden undoing of the same due to the socio-economic cost of COVID-19. Alongside came the trade war with the US, impulsive tendencies flaring up in Hong Kong, Tibet and with the Uighurs. The re-election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who has brazenly slammed the door on the Chinese offer of "one country, two systems", dealt a further blow. Chinese President Xi Jinping is desperately looking for distraction and is showcasing some "wins". He is punting on the tried and tested formula of patriotism to "manufacture" distraction.

In such times, the media becomes the foremost weapon for subterfuge and inflaming passions that tend to divert passions from real issues. It is in this backdrop that a rather bizarre, loaded and factually questionable game was made by Xi when he said, "It is necessary to explore ways of training and preparing for war because epidemic control efforts have been normalised." The supposed "enemy" was not named. It could be anyone — Taiwan, the US or India — given the prevailing dissonance. The Indian media does no service in biting the bait with its own provocation for war-mongering and provoking the citizenry to adopt their own divisive views. Uber-nationalism is also fodder for TRPs. Besides, it also ostensibly projects a "positive" outlook of Indian capabilities.

Amid the media din, the official dissonance has maintained an unusual silence, unlike the fuming free-for-all against Pakistan. Somewhere, the chinks in our foreign policy (especially with our neighbours) are getting embarrassingly exposed with traditional allies like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, too, rolling their eyes gently at China. Indian diplomacy seems to have got carried away with its own supposed stridency and circumstantial "pivot" with an ultimately futile



US ignoring the virtues of quiet diplomacy and humility.

The fact is that China has an expansionist agenda while India does not. This is reflected in Chinese realpolitik and its chessboard moves. Denial and deception are a standard feature of Chinese diplomacy and no amount of serving tea on a swing can undo that basic instinct. When Xi was being personally charmed in Ahmedabad, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was engaged in a border fracas at that very moment. The same China, which selectively posts a "Dragon-Elephant tango", will have no qualms to veto India in favour of an international terrorist like Masood Azhar.

To get carried away by "hometown diplomacy" is reminiscent of *Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai* (India and China are brothers) naively. Border issues between India and China date back to decades but a consensus on delinking the same was established by way of improving bilateral relations. Today, a breakdown of that diplomatic understanding is apparent. Rhetoric on both sides needs to be lowered and not escalated. Beyond a point, the Chinese themselves cannot afford to open yet another "front" in these trying times.

So when the dust settles, both sides will claim to have "bloodied each other's nose", their cadres will be electrified and then, the leadership on both

“  
**THE CITIZENRY HAS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO REVERT TO OLD-FASHIONED AND PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMACY THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY CONDUCTED UNDER THE GLARE OF THE MEDIA LENS OR WITH ONE EYE PERMANENTLY FIXED ON ELECTORAL PROSPECTS**  
 ”

sides will move on to the next set of distraction after having "won" this round. But the essential point of "tripping diplomacy" is well-nigh forgotten.

Reality is that 2020 is not 1962 even though the Indian armed forces are numerically and materially lesser than the PLA. However, the Chinese would know better than most that numeric superiority is not enough. Limited combat operations against India in 1967 at Nathu La and Cho La or the more expansive war against the Vietnamese forces in 1979 would validate this but the Chinese did get a bloody nose, both times.

Worse for the Chinese, today's PLA is also the largest military to have never partaken in any tangible combat experience whereas Indian soldiers are combat-experienced and tested. The Chinese are masters of knowing when to bargain as also just how much. They will limit their activism to the levels already established and keep the kettle boiling with existing and new-found proxies in the sub-continent. They just found a convenient opening for limited distraction as the Indian diplomacy and the Government inadvertently afforded the chance.

The foremost lesson for India is to not be taken in by its own charm offensives and instead strengthen its "core" in defence and economy. As it is, the diplomatic dice is loaded and

we make it worse with thundering blusters that unsettle smaller neighbours and send them scurrying into the willing arms of China. Uber-nationalism that is seen and heard in political rallies need to be inked where it matters, that is in defence budgets. All talk of mass exodus of US firms from China to India is more social media fantasy, like the cadre call for boycotting Chinese products. A bulk of this lopsided trade with China is done by the Indian Government itself.

Instead, the citizenry has to put pressure on the Government to revert to old-fashioned and professional diplomacy that is not necessarily conducted under the glare of the media lens or with one eye permanently fixated on electoral prospects. China fears India as a "moral idea" which intrinsically resonates across global capitals. We cannot look and sound like China, Xi's "thought on diplomacy" is unapologetic about its hegemonic intent. India needs to "manage" the same by lowering rhetoric, strengthening military-economic muscle and yet posturing peace and reason. Basically, beat China at its own game by playing to its strengths. The elephant needs to remain calm, wise and powerful. It must never forget the ignoble fire-spewing instincts of the dragon.

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

## SOUNDBITE

If you take the modern-day game, India has two best players in Virat and Rohit, who play orthodox cricket but they are absolutely destructive in any form of the game.

Former Sri Lanka captain — Kumar Sangakkara

I've never been hell-bent on having a birthday celebration. I find great joy in the simplicity and modesty of things. I like and find comfort in a lack of pomp and fair.

Actor — Shobhita Dhulipala

The WHO needs to reform. What the President said, if it reforms, ends corruption and reliance on China. The US will very seriously consider coming back.

US NSA — Robert O'Brien

If (the BJP) does not have any experience of administration at the national level... in States, it's a different matter... Now they don't know how to face this pandemic.

Congress leader — Kapil Sibal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Condemnable act

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Racist attack" (June 1). George Floyd's death is a dastardly and brutal act. The image of him begging for air to breathe is tragic. The circumstances around his death are a shame not only for the US, which still follows racism in this computer age, but also for the rest of humanity. It is nothing but a vulgar display of authority and arrogance by the police and is a case that must be condemned in harsh terms. It is a sheer violation of human rights. The hope is that the law and judiciary will do justice to Floyd.

NR Ramachandran  
 Chennai

### III-effects of e-learning

Sir — Though just some time ago, youngsters, especially school-going kids, were prohibited from using mobile phones and computers for a longer period of time, nowadays, they are the ones who use digital devices for long hours as online classes have become a norm, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Things Government must set right

**O**n March 24, when a three-week nation-wide lockdown was announced, the Government's concern was to save human lives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi borrowed an idiom from Urdu poet Meer Taqi Meer, "*Jan hai toh jahaan hai*" (If you have life, you have the world) to drive home his point. The Corona pandemic had just begun spreading its tentacles then. On the day when lockdown 4 ended to be replaced by unlock 1, India reported 8,380 cases and 193 deaths, taking the total tally to 1,82,143 cases and 5,164 deaths — a big leap from just 10 earlier. The idiom, too, was tweaked to, "*Jaan bhi and jahaan bhi*" (Life also, the world also). All of this seemed to echo the insensitivity shown by US President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, though to a lesser extent. There has been a marked attitudinal change by the Government towards the virus and life. However, the notion of the two Western nations is too obsessive to be emulated in India, which has to take care of millions of people on the roads, under tin roofs and in thatched huts across the country; in short those who have been facing myriad existential issues for ages. The Central Government is insistent on adopting a uniform strategy. There is perceptible reluctance on its



part to let State Governments rule and regulate without Central interventions. Further, it is either ignorant about the diverse environment in States or is ignoring the pattern deliberately. It remains a fact that COVID cases and deaths in many so-called rich States show exponential rise every passing day. Possibly, it is this political expediency that is forcing the Government to drag its feet from devising State-specific strategies to unlock the Corona-driven crisis. Yet, let us not underestimate the enemy. There is an urgent need for a new template now.

Harijassan Rajan  
 Kozhikode

### Be a responsible citizen

Sir — The Corona pandemic has affected almost every sphere of our lives. All sectors of the economy remain paralysed, thus affecting their financial position. It's only now that the economy is resuming activities. But with life slowing down, this is the time for us to inculcate positive changes. The vacuum created due to COVID-19 also reminded us of an old saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Even as life remained stagnant, we learnt to remain "self-dependent" and practise "self-reliance". Barring a few cases, in general people were cooperative, confining themselves to their homes and maintaining minimum interaction. Now that our fight against the COVID pandemic will continue until a vaccine/cure is found, it is for the people to stay safe. The lifting of curbs will see a spontaneous rise in cases. But people must voluntarily observe safety protocols while going about their lives.

Gobardhan Singh  
 Ranchi

M Pradyu Kumar  
 Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

**Beware the dragon's moves**

China's recent actions at the LAC have only gone to prove the long-term and diverse strategies that the nation follows



AMRIT PAL SINGH

China is doing what it does best — confuse and confound. Its recent actions have only gone to prove the long-term and diverse strategies that the nation follows. It began with the sequential escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Naku La in Sikkim and then at Pangong Tso in Ladakh. This has been followed by a face-off at the Galwan Valley in the Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) sector of the LAC in Ladakh. The activities, with soldiers engaged on three border points, have the potential to escalate due to the intrinsic linkages between and the changed circumstances of the present clashes from the earlier incidents. There were also some indirect actions on both sides that have been in focus like the objection by Nepal to the development and inauguration of the road from Dharchula to Lipulekh in the Kailash region. This is despite an agreement between India and China to have trade across the pass in the tri-junction of Nepal-India-China. Beijing accepted the pass as one of the commercial and cultural transit points with India under its 1954 Peace and Tranquillity Agreement. This was reiterated when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China in 2015. The route has deep-rooted spiritual and civilisational significance for India. In contrast, the recent broadcasting of weather reports of Gligi-Balistan on Indian news channels and the pre-conditions set for Foreign Direct Investment in segments of the Indian economy have definitely upset the ante for the Chinese.

The three sectors where India and China have recurrence of disputes are in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh. The Arunachal sector is largely dormant despite China's claim to the entire State. The Sikkim sector is strategic as any Chinese road and infrastructure development in its proximity can threaten the narrow Siliguri Corridor which is the gateway from India to the seven States of North-East India. The Doklam stand-off for 73 days from June to August 2017 amply demonstrated the strategic relevance of this sector.

It is in the Ladakh sector that the geo-strategic implications of the face-off and incursions assume significance. The Chinese have made an immense investment of \$62 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Recent assertions by India on its right to Gligi-Balistan through which the CPEC passes — on its way to the Karakoram Pass in the Shaskgan valley (liberally conceded by Pakistan to China) have obviously rocked the boat. China does not make short-term tactical moves without a long-term plan which may unfold in the winter when terrain and weather put India at a disadvantage. Unlike Doklam, where the Chinese movement was restricted to the single track which they were trying to develop along a narrow valley, in Ladakh the LAC is open and rugged. There are various "disputed areas" and "areas of differing perceptions" from the DBO in the north to Fokche in the south (the point of entry of the Indus river from Tibet to India). The scene of the recent scuffle has been on the banks of the Pangong Tso Lake. Its centrality to the entire LAC in Ladakh and proximity to the Spangur Gap and Chushul make it the south bank of the lake a secure flank for large-scale moves by the Chinese. Hence, it holds operational importance to both armies.

The western Ladakh region of DBO provides a buffer against Chinese direct access to Shaskgan valley and the Siachen heights. India therefore, strongly holds on to DBO. Here the Galwan valley has witnessed similar stand-offs in the past with Chinese encampments detected far inside the alignment of the LAC into the valley. Strong deployments along the Line of Control (LoC) at Kargil and Drass opposite Pakistan have also to be maintained by India at all times. Reinforcements and additional forces will be moved into Ladakh mostly from the plains and will require acclimatisation to operate in high-altitude areas of 11,000 to 16,000 feet. Logistics and sustenance of forces are a key factor, especially in Ladakh.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces involved in the skirmishes are not their regular army but the Border Defence Regiments (BDR) backed by PLA garrisons and camps with acclimatised troops along the Chinese East-West Highway. In contrast, Indian regular troops get sucked in as reinforcements and readjustments of command and control are necessitated as the Indo-Tibetan Border Police force (ITBP) readjusts from its border posts held in peace-time.

Hence, two imperatives for the Department of Military Affairs and Ministry of Defence to resolve in the present will be in the fields of command and control of border management forces and logistic preparedness. The office of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is best suited to resolve intra-service coordination of both areas as also inter-ministerial resolution of the command and control lacunae of forces on the LAC. India's approach must include a myriad of agencies and all elements of national power. The annual defence allocations have been shrinking regularly (experts say the percentage available for modernisation has shrunk from 40 per cent to almost 32 per cent) and cannot sustain the human and equipment investment needed to effectively deter China. In such a situation and in the post-Corona reduced resource basket, the prioritisation of requirements rather than a dilution of weapon qualitative requirements, is recommended. There must be a push towards operationalising the Raktang tunnel to full capacity especially in view of logistic sustenance and troop reinforcements for the road closed period starting in November.

(The writer is a veteran and co-author of 'Maotist Insurgency and India's Internal Security Architecture'.)

THESE THUGS ARE DISHONORING THE MEMORY OF GEORGE FLOYD, AND I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN. WHEN THE LOOTING STARTS, THE SHOOTING STARTS. —US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



AFTER STOKING FIRES OF WHITE SUPREMACY YOUR ENTIRE PRESIDENCY, YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO FEIGN MORAL SUPERIORITY BEFORE THREATENING VIOLENCE? —SINGER TAYLOR SWIFT

**Hope sprouts in the farm**

The Government deserves some credit for at least putting on the table long-pending reforms in agri-marketing, which if carried through, will be truly revolutionary



UTTAM GUPTA

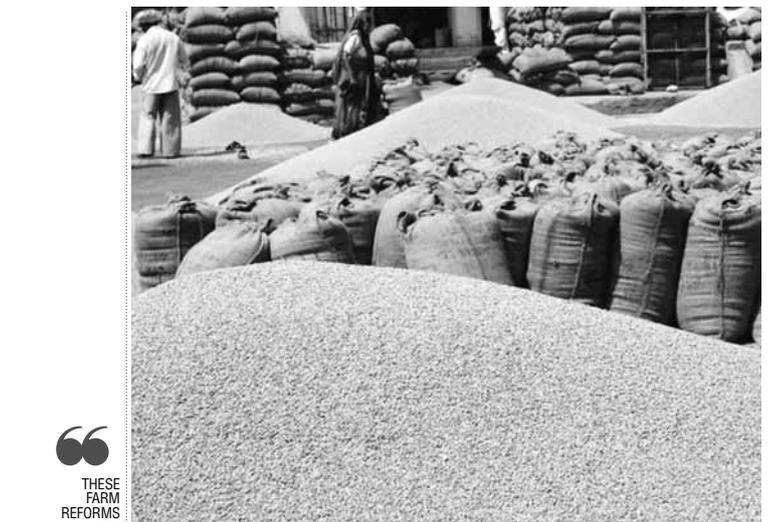
Heralding a new chapter in agricultural market reforms in India, on May 15 Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made three major announcements under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. The first announcement was about the Centre's decision to enact a legislation to enable direct purchase of specified commodities — under entry 42 of the Union List and entry 33 of the Concurrent List — from farmers outside the designated Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs). Next was the move to enact a Central law on contract farming to provide a legal framework for farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers and exporters in a fair and transparent manner. Third was the decision to amend the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1954 and take off pulses, cereals, edible oil, oil seeds, onions and potatoes from the purview of this archaic law.

To understand the full ramifications of the proposed enactments, at the outset, let us take a look at the existing regulations. At present, trade in agri-commodities is governed by a highly-restrictive legislation viz. the APMC Act. This empowers State Governments to specify market areas — where farmers bring their produce for sale. These are operated and regulated by market committees. There are a total of about 5,000 such markets or mandis across the country. The stated objective of the APMCs is to promote organised marketing of farm commodities to ensure fair play, achieve an efficient system of buying and selling of commodities, protect farmers from intermediaries and traders and to ensure better prices and timely payment for the produce. Far from achieving these objectives, farmers are being exploited by a network of licensed traders and middlemen, who have a complete stranglehold over these platforms.

While on one hand, farmers don't get to sell their entire produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), on the other, no alternative platforms are available where they could sell. Even Government agencies don't come forward to buy when the market price dips below the MSP. This has to do with a cozy nexus between politicians and grain traders that has existed and flourished for decades. A grain trader has a fundamental interest in ensuring that he minimises his payout to the farmer for the grains he buys. He can succeed in this gameplan if the farmer is left high and dry by State agencies. So, he collaborates with the politicians in the ruling establishment to ensure that State agencies remain weak and de-motivated.

This nexus has also come in the way of amending the APMC Act to make way for alternative channels of selling, such as direct purchase by bulk buyers, processors, exporters and so on (the revenue State Governments get from levy of market fee on transactions at the mandis has proved to be another major deterrent). In 2017, the Modi Government had passed a Modern Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Law containing provisions to give more options to farmers for selling their crop and greater flexibility to traders such as 'single pan-State licence' for buying from anywhere in the State.

True to its nomenclature, the model law is a mere showpiece as until hitherto (prior to the COVID-19 crisis, to be specific), a majority of the States showed no interest in amending their



THESE FARM REFORMS ARE INTENDED TO CREATE A PARALLEL ARRANGEMENT FOR SELLING FARM PRODUCE AND CAN CO-EXIST WITH THE APMCS. THESE AIM AT BREAKING THE MONOPOLY OF A FEW LICENCED TRADERS AT MANDIS. CREATE COMPETITION AND THUS HELP BOTH FARMERS AND CONSUMERS. WHETHER OR NOT THESE ACTUALLY SEE THE LIGHT OF THE DAY REMAINS TO BE SEEN

laws. In a daring move, the then BJP Government, led by Devendra Fadnis, had approved in August 2018, an amendment to the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 1963, in sync with the Centre's model law. That was done through the ordinance route. But Fadnis was forced to withdraw the Bill on November 28, 2018 from the legislative council, a day after it was passed.

The continued writ of the APMCs has meant that there is no free movement of farm products even within the State, forget free inter-State trade. With several pieces of State legislation creating impenetrable zones, even the much-trumpeted electronic national agricultural market (e-NAM) has failed to take a major slice of what the latter pays. Needless to say, that the resulting low income not only keeps farmers poor but also boomerangs on overall economic growth through reduction in rural purchasing power. The extant state of affairs is not good for boosting exports on a sustainable basis either.

The COVID-19 crisis may have come as a blessing in disguise. It gripped India at a time when the Rabi crop, mostly the winter staple wheat, was ready for harvest. April-May is the period when farmers congregate at the mandis. Being the only platform where farmers could sell their produce, this would have led to overcrowding at the markets

which comes in conflict with "social distancing" — a pre-requisite for preventing the spread of the deadly virus. Due to the dire need for adhering to "social distancing", Modi asked the States to suspend certain provisions of their respective APMC laws for three months to make way for purchase of farmers' produce directly from their doorsteps by large farmers' producers organisations (FPOs), large buyers such as processors, millers, exporters, cooperatives, individual traders and so on.

Some States like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka responded by making amendments in their APMC laws (using the ordinance route as none of the State Assemblies are in session, courtesy the prevailing emergency). As per the amendment, the entire State is declared as a "single market" wherein a trader can get a single licence for purchase of agricultural produce from any mandi within it. Further, it allows trade in all farm commodities, including livestock, outside the regulated APMC markets.

This has not only kept COVID-19 at bay (as the traders went to the farmers' doorstep instead of the latter having to go all the way to the mandis) but also fetched a remunerative price for their produce by offering more choice, resulting in higher income. No wonder, amid the gloom and doom in most other sectors of the economy, agriculture is expected to show a positive growth rate of over three per cent during the current year (of course, this will be helped by normal monsoon predicted by the meteorological department).

In retrospect, there is some reason to rejoice over the changes in APMC laws by the aforementioned States, which has enabled private trade to complement efforts of State agencies in ensuring crop procurement from the farmers. While Modi had asked for suspension of the relevant provisions for

three months, these States have gone a step further by bringing an element of permanence. That serves as the icing on the cake. But some doubts remain. For one, most States continue to turn a deaf ear to the Centre's wish. Even in the four States, where the changes have been brought about, this will have to be passed by the State Assemblies in the end. Given the deep-rooted vested interest, a Maharashtra-type fiasco can't be ruled out. In this backdrop, the Centre's decision to enact a Central law, wielding the rarely-used power under the Constitution to regulate inter-State trade and intra-State trade, makes major sense. The law will enable an entity to buy farm produce from farmers directly anywhere in the country, even outside the regulated market yards.

At the same time, the amendment in the ECA to remove fetters such as stock limits (these limits will be imposed only in exceptional circumstances) will enable large buyers viz. processors, millers, exporters and so on, to scale up purchases, thus providing sustained support to farmers. The proposed Contract Law — enforceable in all States — will clearly lay down rules of the game for a processor/large retailer that it must follow to ensure that farmers are not taken for a ride.

These farm reforms are intended to create a parallel arrangement for selling farm produce and can co-exist with the APMCs. These aim at breaking the monopoly of a few licensed traders at mandis, create competition and thus help both farmers and consumers. Whether or not these actually see the light of the day remains to be seen. For now, the Government deserves some accolades for at least putting on the table long-pending reforms in agri-marketing which if carried through, will be truly revolutionary.

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



PRASHANT SINGH GOPURI

The recent killing of a one-day-old girl child in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannamalai district has brought to the fore the unending practice of female infanticide. The murder was discovered on the complaint of an alert medical officer who suspected foul play.

Being the second reported instance of female infanticide from the region, this case has demonstrated that this evil practice is alive even during the current pandemic. Nearly 30

years ago, economist Amartya Sen argued that 100 million women were "missing". However, much before this usage was coined, the phenomenon behind the phrase was a reality in India, reflected in the practice of sex determination, selective abortions and female infanticide. There were no less than 100 million "missing" women until the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) started collecting data on this crime in 2014. However, the consequences of killing the girl child before or after birth are clearly reflected in the skewed sex-ratios in the country.

In 2016, the Government released data based on the civil registration system. It showed that the sex ratio at birth (SRB) had fallen from 946 girls for every 1,000 boys in 1949 to 877 in 2014. A deeper crisis is revealed when the data on girls in the age group of zero-six years is examined. In 2011, the number of girls below six per 1,000 boys stood at 914 — which is the lowest since Independence. Now that the registration of births is compulsory, the SRB data is considered to be quite accurate. The problem is graver in five States (Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Tamil Nadu) which have an SRB equal to or below 940.

Prevention of female foeticide and infanticide has been the focus of a wide range of the Government's efforts since the 1960s, with some successes and many challenges. The child sex ratio has continued to be on the decline even after the enactment of a Central law in 1994 banning the use of prenatal diagnostic tests for sex determination. Aside from this legal measure, the Union and State Governments have undertaken several policy initiatives such as the National Action Plan of 1991 to Balika Samridhi in 1997 to the latest Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

campaign of 2015, to incentivise retention of the girl child. Several State Governments have also implemented innovative initiatives like the "Cradle Baby" scheme of the Tamil Nadu Government. Launched in 1992, the aim of the scheme was to encourage parents to give female children up for adoption by providing for cradles at Government hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The two-fold objective was to prevent female infanticide and also illegal sale of babies.

The measure of the Tamil Nadu Government also encouraged reporting of this crime unlike other States where the cases are massively under-reported. In addition to improving law enforcement and preventing access to ultrasonography, measures like "Cradle Baby" scheme are critical. The preference for the male child leading to a skewed sex ratio has been well-documented. However, another

major consequence of such preference poses a serious risk to bodily integrity of intersex infants and children. Intersex children in India are at constant risk of forced surgical and medical intervention in the form of sex normalising surgeries to align their body as per the normative definition of traditional gender identity, i.e. male and female. In most cases, intersex children are assigned as male at birth. This heinous practice is widespread in several Indian States, including Kerala, which claims to be a model State in terms of human development indicators. Even worse, the medical community also justifies such procedures, displaying a shocking ignorance of intersex human rights. For instance, doctors working in a hospital in Kerala have admitted performing such surgeries on intersex children and have also highlighted the preference of parents for the male child. In 2019, the Madras High Court outlawed this

**Don't take their right to life away**

Having given legal protection to intersex kids against unnecessary surgeries, India must proactively put an end to intersex and female infanticide

research and documentation on this subject globally. Further, it is also critically important to initiate a dialogue on the need for an international instrument to prevent intersex infanticide and a complete ban on sex-normalising surgeries.

Having already established a legal protection regime for intersex children against unnecessary surgeries, India has a unique opportunity to lead the intersex human rights movement if it can proactively put an end to intersex infanticide. To achieve these goals, the Centre and States must undertake urgent steps to ensure prevention and prosecution in cases of female and intersex infanticide.

(Singh is Executive Director, Srishri Madurai-LGBTQIA+ student volunteer movement and Madurai is the elected Intersex Representative and Executive Board Member of International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, Geneva)

# FLOYD ANGER PERVADES US

## Thousands arrested, nearly 40 cities under curfew

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US remained a tinderbox of anger and emotion as violent protests erupted for a sixth day across the country over the custodial killing of African-American George Floyd, resulting in the death of at least five people, the arrest of thousands and placing of curfew in nearly 40 cities, while forcing President Donald Trump to take shelter in a White House bunker.

Considered to be the worst ever civil unrest in the US in decades, the violent protests have engulfed at least 140 cities across America in the days following the death of Floyd, a 46-year-old man who was pinned to the ground in Minneapolis on Monday by a white police officer who knelt on his neck as he gasped for breath.

Some of the protests have turned violent, prompting the activation of the National Guard in at least 20 states.

"At least five people were killed in violence that flared as demonstrations in parts of the country devolved into mayhem," The Washington Post reported. Police have arrested at least 2,564 people in two dozen US cities over the weekend. Nearly a fifth of those arrests were in Los Angeles, it said.

The unrest initially began in Minneapolis in Minnesota but has now spread across the country, with reports of violence coming in from across major cities including Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Houston, Philadelphia and Washington DC.

"The United States remained a tinderbox of emotion, anger and continued violence on Sunday, the sixth day of nationwide unrest since the death of yet another black man at the hands of the police," The New York Times reported.

Birmingham, protesters started to tear down a Confederate monument that the city had previously covered with a tarp amid a lawsuit between the state attorney general and the city.

In Boston, a police SUV was set ablaze near the State House.



Protesters gathered in a city street during a demonstration.

sending up a column of black smoke after a large group of protesters had mostly dispersed.

In Philadelphia, police officers in riot gear and an armoured vehicle used pepper spray to try to repel rioters and looters.

In New York, demonstrators marched across the Brooklyn and Williamsburg Bridges, snarling traffic. The Manhattan Bridge was briefly shut down to car traffic. Chaos erupted in Union Square, with flames leaping up two stories from trash cans and piles of street debris, the Times said.

"It is the first time so many local leaders have simultaneously issued such orders in the face of civil unrest since 1968, after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr," the report said.

Police fired tear gas near the White House on Sunday night to dissuade protesters who had snatched the windows of prominent buildings, overturned cars and set fires, with smoke rising from near the Washington Monument, it said.

"For the past few days, thousands of protesters have gathered outside the White House raising slogans against President Trump. According to CNN, President Trump was briefly taken to the underground bunker for some time during the protest outside the White House, while First Lady Melania Trump and her son Barron were also taken to the bunker. President Trump made no

public appearances on Sunday, but in a series of tweets he blamed the media for fomenting hatred and anarchy in the country.

"The Lamestream Media is doing everything within their power to foment hatred and anarchy. As long as everybody understands what they are doing, that they are FAKE NEWS and truly bad people with a sick agenda, we can easily work through them to GREATNESS!" he said.

Earlier in the day, he announced that his administration will be designating ANTIFA as a Terrorist Organization. ANTIFA is regarded as a militant, left-wing, anti-fascist political activist movement in the US. It comprises autonomous activist groups that aim to achieve their political objectives through the use of direct action rather than through policy reform.

US Attorney General William Barr said that the violence instigated and carried out by the organisation and other similar groups in connection with the rioting is domestic terrorism and will be treated accordingly. The Trump administration alleges that it appears the violence is planned, organised, and driven by anarchistic and far left extremists, using ANTIFA-like tactics, many of whom travel from out of state to promote the violence.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, who is the presumptive

presidential nominee of the Democratic party, visited a protest site in Delaware on Sunday. "We are a nation in pain, but we must not allow this pain to destroy us. We are a nation enraged, but we cannot allow our rage to consume us. We are a nation exhausted, but we will not allow our exhaustion to defeat us," Biden wrote on social media postings on Sunday.

"The only way to bear this pain is to turn all that anguish to purpose. And as President, I will help lead this conversation — and more importantly, I will listen, just as I did today visiting the site of last night's protests in Wilmington," he said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, in a late night statement said several dozen covering the protests have been harassed, as well as arrested by law enforcement agencies.

TRUMP SLAMS GUVS AS 'WEAK', URGES CRACKDOWN ON PROTESTS

President Donald Trump derided the nation's governors as "weak" and demanded tougher crackdowns on protesters in the aftermath of another night of violent protests in dozens of American cities.

Trump spoke to governors on a video teleconference with law enforcement and national security officials, telling the local leaders they "have to do much tougher" amid nationwide protests and criticising their responses. AP

### SIDELIGHTS

**BIDEN MEETS WITH BLACK LEADERS AT LOCAL CHURCH AMID UNREST**  
Joe Biden vowed to address "institutional racism" in his first 100 days in office as he met with community leaders at a predominantly African American church in Delaware on Monday morning, leaving home for a second consecutive day to address exploding racial tensions that have begun to reshape the upcoming presidential election.

**GEORGE FLOYD'S FUNERAL TO BE HELD IN HOUSTON**  
George Floyd, the 46-year-old black man whose cold-blooded murder at the hands of a white police officer has sparked protests across the US, will be laid to rest in his hometown of Houston, following a public visitation in Minneapolis. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the funeral plans on Saturday, though there are currently no public details about when it will take place. The mayor broke the news as part of a larger plea for peace amid a weekend where Houston police arrested hundreds of protesters.

**JOURNALISTS COVERING US PROTESTS FACE ASSAULT, ARREST**  
From the East Coast to the West, journalists covering the widespread protests in the US after the killing of African-American George Floyd are facing assaults, being hit at, tear-gassed and arrested, as a leading media rights group urged authorities to ensure that reporters do their job safely without fear of injury or retaliation. From Minneapolis to Washington DC, from Louisville to Las Vegas, reporters are facing assault and arrest while reporting on widespread protests and unrest, the CNN reported.

### WORLD'S REACTION TO US WEAVES SOLIDARITY, CALLS TO CHANGE

Several thousand people marched in New Zealand's largest city on Monday to protest the killing of George Floyd in the US as well as to show up against police violence and racism in their own country. Many people around the world have watched with growing unease at the civil unrest in the US after the latest in a series of police killings of black men and women. Floyd died on May 25 in Minneapolis after a white police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck until he stopped breathing. The officer was fired and charged with murder. In Iran, which has in the recent past violently put down nationalist demonstrations by killing hundreds, arresting thousands and disrupting internet access to the outside world, state television has repeatedly aired images of the US unrest.

In Brazil, hundreds of people protested crimes committed by the police against black people in Rio de Janeiro's working-class neighborhoods, known as favelas. Police used tear gas to disperse them, with some demonstrators saying "I can't breathe," repeating Floyd's own words. In Canada, an anti-racism protest degenerated into clashes between Montreal police and some demonstrators. Police declared the gathering illegal after they say projectiles were thrown at officers who responded with pepper spray and tear gas. Some windows were smashed and some fires were set.

In authoritarian nations, the unrest became a chance to undermine US claims of moral superiority. Iranian state television repeatedly aired images of the US unrest. Russia said the United States had systemic human rights problems. North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper on Monday reported about the demonstrations, saying that protesters "harshly condemned" a white policeman's "lawless and brutal murder" of a black citizen. It showed three large photos of protest scenes from recent days in the city where Floyd was killed.

### China threatens to 'counter-attack' US over HK curbs

AP ■ BEIJING

Beijing warned Washington of retaliation after President Donald Trump announced restrictions on Chinese students in the US in protest over a new national security law in Hong Kong.

Trump said Friday that the United States would ban some Chinese graduate students and start reversing Hong Kong's special status in customs and other areas, as Beijing moves ahead with a plan to impose a controversial security law.

The US President said the Chinese Government had been "diminishing the city's longstanding and very proud status". But China reacted angrily to the moves on Monday, saying it was "detrimental to both sides".

### GLOBE TROTTING

#### SCALE DOWN DRILLS: RUSSIA TO NATO

The Russian military on Monday accused the US and its NATO allies of conducting "provocative" military drills near the nation's borders, a statement that reflected simmering Russia-NATO tensions. Col-Gen Sergei Rudskoi of the Russian General Staff said Russia has sent a formal letter to NATO proposing to scale down each other's military activities for the period of the coronavirus outbreak, but the alliance has stonewalled the offer.

#### Putin sets July 1 for VOTE TO EXTEND HIS RULE

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin says a nationwide vote on constitutional amendments that could allow him to further extend his rule will be held on July 1. Putin said the pace of Russia's coronavirus outbreak has slowed down, allowing election officials to safely hold the vote.

### DANIEL PEARL CASE

#### Pak's SC rejects Sindh Govt's plea to suspend HC verdict

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday rejected a petition filed by the Sindh government to suspend 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, in a setback to the US efforts to get justice for the American journalist.

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.

"We should be provided a complete record of the case," said bench member Justice Manzoor Malik.

"I want to look at all the records so that I can understand all the points," the court adjourned the hearing for an indefinite period, after the Sindh government sought time to submit the record of the trial court.

The apex court ordered the counsel representing the Sindh government, Farooq H Naek, to submit the detailed record before the court.

The Bench announced the verdict on the appeals filed by

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK

### Around the Globe

● **Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan** said it was a "mistake" to enforce a strict coronavirus lockdown as it aggravated the economic situation, even as the number of Covid-19 infections crossed the 72,000 mark in the country on Monday. According to the Ministry of National Health Services, 2,964 new infections surfaced over the last 24 hours, taking the nationwide tally of coronavirus to 460. "Lockdown is not a solution as it can only slow down. So it was a mistake to shut down business in the country," Khan said.

● The Singapore Government said it will build new accommodations to improve the living condition of foreign workers and reduce the population density in their quarters, which have seen a very high transmission rate of the novel coronavirus. There will be additional space to house about 60,000 workers by the end of the year, the Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Manpower said.

● The US has delivered two million doses of the antimicrobial medicine hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to Brazil to fight Covid-19. The White House said, though drug has not been proven effective against the coronavirus, "HCQ will be used as a prophylactic to help defend Brazil's nurses, doctors, and healthcare professionals against the virus. It will also be used as a therapeutic to treat Brazilians who become infected," a statement said.

● Britain's Queen Elizabeth was photographed riding a 14-year-old Fell pony in Windsor Home Park on Sunday as the country eases stringent measures to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The Queen has been staying at Windsor Castle, west of London, during the lockdown with her 98-year-old husband Prince Philip.

## GLOBAL CASES CROSS 6.3 MN

**Covid-19 TRACKER**  
**TOTAL CASES: 6,319,550**  
**DEATHS: 3,75,593**  
**RECOVERED: 2,876,722**

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	1,843,920	1,06,379
Brazil	5,14,992	29,341
Russia	4,14,878	4,855
Spain	2,86,509	29,127
UK	2,76,332	37,405
Italy	2,33,197	33,475
France	1,88,882	28,802
Germany	1,83,627	8,610

### Report: Russia to start using 1st approved drug from next week

Moscow: Russia will start giving its first drug approved to treat Covid-19 to patients next week, its state financial banker told Reuters, a move it hopes will ease strains on the health system and speed a return to normal economic life. Russian hospitals can begin giving the antiviral drug, which is registered under the name Avifavir, to patients from June 11, the head of Russia's RDNF sovereign wealth fund told Reuters in an interview.

He said the company behind the drug would manufacture enough to treat around 60,000 people a month.

### SA eases; liquor is sold, school openings delayed

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

Many South Africans spent their Monday morning lining up outside liquor stores, as alcohol sales were allowed again after a two-month ban because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Government postponed the planned opening of two grades for another week so that some under-prepared schools could get ready to resume classes for grades 7 and 12, the final years of elementary school and high school.

### Report: People living on higher altitudes less vulnerable

Washington: Researchers have found that populations living in higher altitudes, especially 3,000 metres above the sea level, significantly report lower levels of coronavirus infections than their lowland counterparts.

The *Washington Post* cited one peer-reviewed study, published in the journal *Respiratory Physiology & Neurobiology*, in which researchers from Australia, Bolivia, Canada and Switzerland looking at epidemiological data from Bolivia, Ecuador and Tibet found that Tibet's infection rate was "drastically" lower than that of low-



A person wearing a face mask.

### UN forced to cut aid to Yemen, even as virus increases need

Cairo: Aid organisations are making an urgent plea for funding to shore up their operations in war-torn Yemen, saying they have already been forced to stop some of their work even as the coronavirus rips through the country. Some 75% of UN programs in Yemen have had to shut their doors or reduce operations. The global World Food Program had to cut rations in half and UN-funded health services were reduced in 189 out of 369 hospitals nationwide. AP

## Lockdowns ease across Europe, Asia with new tourism rules

AP ■ ROME

The first day of June saw coronavirus restrictions ease from Asia to Europe on Monday, even as US protests against police brutality sparked fears of new outbreaks. The Colosseum opened its ancient doors in Rome, ferries restarted in Bangladesh, golfers played in Greece, students returned in Britain and Dutch bars and restaurants were free to welcome hungry, thirsty patrons.

Countries around the Mediterranean Sea tentatively kicked off a summer season where tourists could bank in their famously sunny beaches while still being protected by social distancing measures from a virus that is marching relentlessly around the world.

"We are reopening a symbol. A symbol of Rome, a symbol for Italy," said Alfonsina Russo, director of the Colosseum's archaeological park. "We are restarting in a positive way, with a different pace, with a more sustainable tourism."

Greece lifted lockdown measures Monday for hotels, campsites, open-air cinemas, golf courses and public swimming pools, while beaches and museums reopened in Turkey and bars, restaurants, cinemas and museums came back to life in the Netherlands.



A busy street scene in Rome, Italy.

"Today, we opened two rooms and tomorrow three. It's like building an antihill," Athens hotel owner Panos Betis said as employees wearing face masks tied a rooftop restaurant and cleaned a window facing the ancient Acropolis. "We can't compare the season to last year. We were at 95% capacity. Our aim now is to hang in there till 2021."

A long line of masked visitors snaked outside the Vatican Museums, which include the Sistine Chapel, as they reopened for the first time in

three months. Italy is eager to reboot its tourism industry, which accounts for 13% of its economy.

The Vatican Museums' famous keyholder — the "dagger" who holds the keys to all the galleries on a big ring on his wrist — opened the gate in a sign both symbolic and literal that the Museums were back in business.

Still, strict crowd control measures were in place at both landmarks: visitors needed reservations to visit, their temperatures were taken before entering and masks were mandatory.

"Having the opportunity to see the museums by making a booking and not having to wait in line for three hours is an opportunity," said visitor Stefano Dicozzi.

The Dutch relaxation of coronavirus rules took place on a major holiday with the sun blazing, raising immediate fears of overcrowding in popular beach resorts. The new rules let bars and restaurants serve up to 30 people at a time if they keep social distancing but there's no standing at bars and reservations are necessary.

Britain, which with over 38,500 dead has the world's second-worst death toll behind the United States, eased restrictions despite warnings from health officials that the risk of spreading Covid-19 was still too great. Some elementary classes reopened in England and people could now have limited contact with family and friends, but only outdoors and with social distancing.

In Asia, Bangladesh restarted bus, train, ferry and flight services Monday, hoping that a gradual reopening revives an economy in which millions have become jobless. Traffic jams and crowds of commuters clogged Manila as the Philippines tried to kickstart its economy.

Around 6.19 million infections have been reported worldwide, with over 372,000 people dying, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The true death toll is believed to be significantly higher, since many died without ever being tested.

# Moody's downgrades India's rating to 'Baa3'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Monday downgraded India's sovereign credit rating for the first time in more than two decades, saying policymakers will be challenged to mitigate risks of low growth, deteriorating fiscal position and financial sector stress.

Downgrading India's rating by a notch to 'Baa3' from 'Baa2' assigned in November 2018, Moody's estimated India GDP shrinking by 4 per cent — first full fiscal contraction in more than four decades, as the country faces a prolonged period of slower growth.

Accordingly, India's foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings have been downgraded to Baa3

from Baa2. India's local-currency senior unsecured rating too has been lowered to Baa3 from Baa2, and its short-term local currency rating to P-3 from P-2. The outlook remains negative.

"The decision to downgrade India's ratings reflects Moody's view that the country's policymaking institutions will be challenged in enacting and implementing policies, which effectively mitigate the risks of a sustained period of relatively low growth, significant further deterioration in the general Government fiscal position and stress in the financial sector," Moody's said.

"Baa3" rating is the lowest investment grade — just a notch above 'junk' status.

Moody's had last downgraded India's rating in 1998. The negative outlook reflects dominant, mutually reinforcing, downside risks from deeper stresses in the economy and financial system that could lead to a more severe and prolonged erosion in fiscal strength than Moody's currently projects, it added.

Moody's said slow reform momentum and constrained policy effectiveness have contributed to a prolonged period of slow growth, compared to India's potential, that started before the Covid-19, and it expects this to continue well beyond the pandemic.

Moody's said India faces a prolonged period of slower growth relative to the country's potential, rising debt, further

# Says GDP to shrink by 4% in FY21

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmark index Senses on Monday rallied 879 points on heavy buying in financial, FMCG and energy stocks as the Government starting the process to unlock the economy boosted investor sentiment. Positive cues from the global markets also helped the key equity indices extend gains for the fourth session in a row.

After skyrocketing 1,250 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 879.42 points or 2.57 per cent higher at 33,303.52.

The NSE Nifty surged 245.85 points or 2.57 per cent to finish at 9,826.15. Bajaj Finance was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 11 per cent, followed by Titan, Tata Steel, SBI, M&M, HDFC, IndusInd Bank and Reliance Industries. On the other hand, Ultra Tech Cement were among the laggards.

All sectoral indices ended on a positive note with BSE consumer durables rallying 6.56 per cent, followed by metal, finance, banking, energy, auto and realty indices. "Domestic shares zoomed at opening and stayed strong throughout the day as investors ignored fourth-quarter GDP data and reacted positively to the government's decision to come up with a phased reopening of all activities outside containment zones beginning (bps) to 6.65 per cent from 7.05 per cent. The bank's marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) has also been revised downwards by 15 bps across all tenors.

# Sensex, Nifty spurt over 2 pc as India begins to unlock economy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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# Non-subsidised LPG rate hiked, aviation fuel ups by ₹11,000/kl

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies have hiked the prices of non-subsidised cooking gas and aviation turbine fuel with effect from Monday.

The price of the 14.2 kilogram standard non-subsidised LPG gas in Delhi has been raised by ₹11.50 from May to ₹593 per cylinder.

In Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, the price of LPG has been raised at ₹616, ₹590.50 and ₹606.50, against ₹584.50, ₹579 and ₹569.50 per cylinder respectively. The highest increase was witnessed in Chennai with a hike of ₹37 from the price in May.

The Government currently subsidises 12 cylinders of 14.2 kilograms each per household in a year. Additional purchases have to be made at the market price.

In a statement on Sunday, Indian Oil Corp said that the retail selling price of LPG in Delhi market for the month of May 2020 was reduced from ₹741 to ₹581.50 per cylinder for all consumers in line with drop in international prices.

"For the month of June, there has been an increase in international prices of LPG.

# Enhancement of turnover limit of MSME sector to help exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's decision to increase turnover limit for medium units from ₹100 crore to ₹250 crore will help infuse technology and promote automation in certain sectors and boost outbound shipments, according to exporters.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations President Sharad Kumar Saraf said that exclusion of exports turnover from total turnover will help in internationalisation of MSMEs and will bring their focus on exports. "This will also benefit a lot of gems and jewellery companies, who would have breached the MSME criteria due to sheer cost of their inputs," he said in a statement.

The cabinet on Monday approved further increasing the limit for medium manufacturing and service units to ₹250 crore of investment and ₹250 crore of turnover. The turnover with respect to exports will not be counted in the limits of turnover for any category of MSME for any category, small or medium.

"The move is most pragmatic and will also infuse technology in certain sectors margins as in certain sectors there is a lot of scope to increase turnover limit for medium units from ₹100 crore to ₹250 crore will help infuse technology and promote automation in certain sectors and boost outbound shipments, according to exporters.

# Raj DIPR sets new dimensions fighting corona pandemic

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Punjab National Bank (PNB), the country's second-largest state-owned lender, on Monday said it has reduced its repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) to 40 basis points (bps) to 6.65 per cent from 7.05 per cent. The bank's marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) has also been revised downwards by 15 bps across all tenors.

# PNB cuts repo-linked lending rate by 40 bps to 6.65%

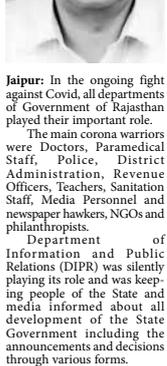
PTI ■ MUMBAI

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Jaipur: In the ongoing fight against Covid, all departments of Government of Rajasthan played their important role. The main corona warriors were Doctors, Paramedical Staff, Police, District Administration, Revenue Officers, Teachers, Sanitation Staff, Media Personnel and newspaper hawkers, NGOs and philanthropists.

Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) was silently playing its role and was keeping people of the State and media informed about all development of the State Government including the announcements and decisions through various forms.

Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway held a high-level meeting with senior officers of Metro Railway at Metro Rail Bhawan on Monday. During this meeting, he instructed concerned officers to mark ticket windows, AFC gates and platforms to help commuters to maintain social distancing on Metro services. He also advised to paste stickers on seats inside Metro coaches to enable commuters to maintain social distancing norms.



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### Metro Railway, Kolkata

Kolkata's Pride

ZONAL CONTRACT FOR UP-KEEP OF ELEVATED STRUCTURES & OTHER WORKS

Tender Notice for the following work: Name of work: Zone No. 71e 'Zonal Contract for Up-keep of elevated structures, over head and underground structures, station and allied service buildings, fire hydrants, pipe lines work etc. from Km. 16B18 to Km. 26P11 between stations Mahabayar Uttar Kumbh (Ex) to Kavi Subhash (In) including Kavi Subhash Yard & car shed of Metro Railway, Kolkata.' Tender Value: ₹ 1,02,79,290.20. Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 5,000. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,01,400. Completion period: The contractual term is for a period of two years starting from 01.07.2020. Date of closing: 22.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website [www.treps.gov.in](http://www.treps.gov.in) The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-bidding on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

Abridged Tender Notice No.: Civil-2328-2020 (Open)

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

### Ravinder Singh Dhillon takes over as CMD of PFC

New Delhi: Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC, on Monday announced the appointment of Ravinder Singh Dhillon as its Chairman and Managing Director. RS Dhillon assumed the charge of the post of Chairman & Managing Director, PFC, w.e.f. 01st June 2020 upon the superannuation of Rajiv Sharma. Dhillon brings with him close to 36 years of rich and varied experience.

### TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / BMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION NO. 1 GOHANA	PROVIDING SUPPLY SYSTEM IN VILLAGE KHANPUR KALAN DISTT.	20.05.2020 08.06.2020	319.75 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01263-258117 etc@pnhed@gmail.com
2	DITS KURUKSHETRA	TENDER FOR SEVERE OF MANPOWER SERVICES OF VARIOUS POSTS/ JOBS IN DITS, KURUKSHETRA	30.05.2020 15.06.2020	END 1 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	SECRETARY
3	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	DESCRIPTION OF STORE- 01 NO. LIST COMPRISING OF ITEMS FROM SR. NO. 1 TO 20 (SINGLE LOT OF 20 ITEMS)*	01.06.2020 30.06.2020	NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
4	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	DESCRIPTION OF STORE- 01 NO. LIST COMPRISING OF ITEMS FROM SR. NO. 1 TO 29 (SINGLE LOT OF 29 ITEMS)*	01.06.2020 30.06.2020	NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
5	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	DESCRIPTION OF STORE- 01 NO. LIST COMPRISING OF ITEMS FROM SR. NO. 1 TO 04 (SINGLE LOT OF 04 ITEMS)*	01.06.2020 30.06.2020	NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
6	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	DESCRIPTION OF STORE- 01 NO. LIST COMPRISING OF 01 NO. ITEM I.E. LG MAKE SPLIT AC, CAPACITY 2 TON (SINGLE LOT OF 01 ITEM)*	01.06.2020 30.06.2020	NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
7	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	DESCRIPTION OF STORE- 01 NO. LIST COMPRISING OF ITEMS FROM SR. NO. 1 TO 03 (SINGLE LOT OF 03 ITEMS)*	01.06.2020 30.06.2020	NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
8	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	MULTI-AXLE (6 X 2) TRUCK CHASSIS WITH DRAWSLEEPER CAB FOR FABRICATION OF 18.0 KL CAPACITY DIESEL TANKERS	01.06.2020 03.07.2020	1.80 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
9	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF LED BASED SOLAR HOME SYSTEM FOR ANGANWADI CENTERS OF THE HARYANA STATE	01.06.2020 03.07.2020	4500.67 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
10	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	DESCRIPTION OF STORE- ONE NO. LIST COMPRISING OF ITEMS FROM SR. NO. 1 TO 02 (SINGLE LOT OF 02 ITEMS)*	01.06.2020 30.06.2020	NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
11	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	SOLAR INVERTER CHARGES TO CHARGE THE BATTERIES OF EXISTING CONVENTIONAL INVERTER.	01.06.2020 03.07.2020	2035.00 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
12	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF LED BASED SPV HOME LIGHTING SYSTEM (MANICHAIR, 700T)	01.06.2020 03.07.2020	4500.00 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2570121-124-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
13	DISTRICT ADMIN KURUKSHETRA	TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF MANPOWER SERVICES/EMANELMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER OF VARIOUS WORKS IN DISTRICT	30.05.2020 15.06.2020	END 1 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
14	WATER SERVICES DIVISION CHENNAI	REPAIRING OF DAMAGED W/ING WALL OF FALL AT RD 28559 OF W.V. MLIU + 12 OTHER WORKS	01.06.2020 08.06.2020	2.02 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01725-243628 vandadapur@yahoo.com
15	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	PROVIDING 500 KVA SUB STATION AT HARTON MULTI SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HMDC), GURUGRAM	29.05.2020 15.06.2020	41.10 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0124-2320874 Pwd-eeed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
16	HEALTH AMBALA	TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING OF MANPOWER FOR SUPPORT SERVICES, ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND CLEANING & SANITATION SERVICES FOR CIVIL HOSPITAL AMBALA CITY + 1 OTHER WORKS	04.06.2020 14.06.2020	4 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	Civil Surgeon 01725-243628 vandadapur@yahoo.com
17	FOREST YAMUNA NAGAR	SWC WORK C.C. STUO NO. 1 TO 4 AT BIR TAPU R.F. ON BANK OF YAMUNA RIVER IN BHAGAWANR BLOCK JAGADHR RANGE + 5 OTHER WORKS	20.05.2020 04.06.2020	53.92 LACS	<a href="http://www.haryanaforest.gov.in">www.haryanaforest.gov.in</a>	dfp.nv-hry@nic.in
18	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	PROVIDING RWI & CABLES IN GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE AT VILLAGE GHANSA IN DISTRICT FARIDABAD + 2 OTHER WORKS	31.05.2020 11.06.2020	END 42000	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0124-2320874 Pwd-eeed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
19	HEALTH PALWAL	PROVIDING SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS HOUSEKEEPING, GENERAL DUTY ASSISTANT, MALE AND FEMALE + ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS MAINTENANCE, CIVIL WORKS, ELECTRICAL WORK, LIFE OPERATOR, COMPUTER OPERATORS, WORK SAFETY OFFICER, ETC. AT CIVIL HOSPITAL, PALWAL + 1 OTHER WORK	02.06.2020 22.06.2020	18 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	931594583 cspw@palwal@gmail.com
20	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SEFTT, HARYANA (PANDRII PULI GARGANADA)	TRANSPORTATION/ LOADING/ UNLOADING OF RAW MATERIAL (FOOD ITEMS) FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 TENDER ID: 2020_HRY_130404_2	30.05.2020 10.06.2020	8.5 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01749-235895 pan@ndrii@punjabparadeep@yahoo.co.in
21	FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HARYANA	FISHING NETS LIKE HARPA, CHAT, JAL, DRAG NET, HAND NET ETC. (AS PER SPECIFICATION) - DETERMINATION OF VARIOUS FISHING NETS RATES	OPENING DATE: 22.06.2020	10,000*	<a href="http://www.harfish.gov.in">www.harfish.gov.in</a>	97114-33362 fisheries@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

RO NO. 81099

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: 25-30 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'7", Build: Thin, Face: Long, Hair: Black, was wearing Black T-Shirt and Blue Jeans and Blue Hawal Chappal, was found hanging with a tree near DDA Land, right side of Rani Khera to Mundka under Pass. Who was declared brought dead by the doctors of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital. In this regard a DD No. 2A, dated 28.05.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi DP/148/RD/2020 Ph.: 011-25951466, 25952485

### DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(NORTH WEST) H-BLOCK UDYOOG NAGAR INDL. AREA PEERA GARDHI CHOWK NEW DELHI-41

NTT NO:071EENW/2020-21 PRESS NOTICE (NCT)

S.No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to processing (Rs.)	Est. No.	Di. of release of tender procurement solution/Sl. No.	Last date /time of receipt E-procurement
1.	Engagement of 20 No. Beddars on hire basis for day to day maintenance of water lines in Kivan (AC-20) under ZS (EENW)	70,000/- 500/-	2805/2020/1	28/05/2020 20/06/2020	11-06-2020 at 3:00 PM.

Further details in this regard can be seen at [www.eprocurement.delhi.gov.in](http://www.eprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

Sd/- (Himanshu Agarwal) EX. ENGINEER (NWT)

### SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 14/MS/2020 Dated: 26.05.2020

The undersigned on behalf of the President of Indian Railways tenders for the following works:

1. Zonal contract for Rs. 1,00,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A (Mysuru station and Divisinal Office).
2. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-1 (Mysuru Railway division and hospitals).
3. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-2 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
4. Zonal contract for Rs. 75,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-3 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
5. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-4 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
6. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-5 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
7. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-6 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
8. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-7 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
9. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-8 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
10. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone A-9 (Mysuru-Channarayana section).
11. Zonal contract for Rs. 75,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone B-1 (Hannar-Kankandol section).
12. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone B-2 (Chikmagalur section).
13. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone B-3 (Chikmagalur section).
14. Zonal contract for Rs. 50,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone B-4 (Hannar-Kankandol section).
15. Zonal contract for Rs. 35,00,000/- execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 Zone B-5 (Chikmagalur section).

Last Date of submission of bids: Upto 11.00 hrs. of 17.06.2020

For Details go to [www.rps.gov.in](http://www.rps.gov.in) (Divisional Tender Manager (Works), Mysuru) or [etenders@swr.indianrailways.gov.in](mailto:etenders@swr.indianrailways.gov.in)



Avoid Vaping

A team of US researchers led by an Indian-origin scientist revealed that just a few months of vaping may put healthy people on the brink of oral disease. The study found that the collection of oral bacteria in daily e-cigarette users' mouths is teeming with potent infection-causing organisms that put vapers at substantial risk for ailments ranging from gum disease to cancer



DOCYARD  
DR PARTAP CHAUHAN

Director

JIVA AYURVEDA



Keep hormones in check

A woman undergoes many physical and hormonal changes in her life. Some are easy, but some can bring complications with them. Menstrual cycles, for instance, tend to be accompanied by problems like irregular periods, excessive bleeding, pain, and cramps.

Causes of menstrual disorders  
Factors that are responsible for this condition include the increased intake of sour, salty, hot, pungent, heavy, and fermented food; meat of fatty and domestic animals; alcoholic beverages; indigestion; and eating before the previous meal is digested. Conditions that also have a strong effect include repeated abortions, excessive sexual activity, increased physical exertion (walking, riding, weight lifting), emaciation, trauma, and day sleeping. Psychological conditions such as grief, anger, lust, and anxiety are also known to play a key role in aggravating menstrual problems.

According to Ayurveda, poor diet and inefficient digestion are the main causative factors for these disorders. Improperly digested food leads to the production of toxins in the body. These toxins are circulated by the blood to the deep tissues and channels, where they cause blockages and stagnation. These conditions cause aggravation of vata dosha (air) and the rakta dhātu (blood). The aggravated vata brings impaired blood into the channels carrying the rajas (menstrual blood), leading to increase menstrual blood flow.

Ayurveda recommends different types of treatment to treat menstrual problems. These include nourishing and toning herbs as well as rejuvenative treatment in accordance with the nature of the disorder. Massage and the incorporation of meditation and yoga may also be beneficial for permanent elimination of these toxins through this process. It is important to address problems because a woman expels a large proportion of her wastes and toxins through this process. If these toxins remain in the body, they cause further stagnation and blockage within the body.

Ayurvedic tips that will help fight menstrual problems  
■ Take one crushed garlic clove (lahsun) with two cloves (laung) twice a day during your periods.  
■ When suffering from period cramps, take a teaspoon of aloe vera gel mixed with a pinch of black pepper or cinnamon (alochini) powder.

■ Drinking ginger infused herbal tea helps. You can also mix 1 tsp of ginger powder in warm water and have that.  
■ Take the following decoction from the first day of your periods helps to alleviate the symptoms: Boil one tsp of cumin seeds with two glasses of water over moderate heat until the mixture reduces to half. Sieve the seeds. Add a teaspoon of honey and drink it warm.  
■ Cooling showers and bathing with sandalwood and mint essence are helpful.

■ Include spices like cumin (jeera), fenugreek seeds (methi), black pepper (kali mirch), cloves (laung), coriander (dhaniya), and mint (pudina) in your diet.  
■ Include pumpkin, papaya, cucumber, potato, cauliflower, and peas in your diet.

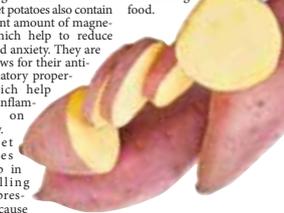
■ Leukoplakia: Thick white patch inside the mouth, are known to be early signs of mouth cancer.  
■ Oral submucous fibrosis: A chronic disease affecting any part of the oral cavity leading to stiffness of the oral mucosa, causing reduced opening of the mouth and inability to eat.  
■ Oral and throat cancers: Head and neck cancer is the most life-threatening health risk linked with smokeless tobacco.  
■ Each time a person chews tobacco, poisons are released in the mouth putting them at a greater risk of mouth cancers.  
■ Ingredients like betel nuts made from betel leaves and slaked lime, present in smokeless tobacco, put people at a risk of cancers of the mouth, pharynx (throat), oesophagus (gullet), stomach and pancreas. Cancers of the lip and cheek are also common, as the tobacco is pressed against the lining of the mouth.

SUMMER COOLERS

SWEET POTATO: A sweet potato is a sweet and starchy root vegetable. It is a great source of fibre, vitamins and minerals. They are also rich in antioxidants which help promote gut health.

Sweet potatoes also contain significant amount of magnesium which help to reduce stress and anxiety. They are also known for their anti-inflammatory properties which help reduce inflammation on the body.

Sweet potatoes can help in controlling blood pressure because they are rich in both magnesium and potassium. They also contain a lot of vitamin A it is good for our vision. It is also believed that sweet potatoes are m e m o r y enhancing food.



KICK THE HABIT

No Tobacco Day was on May 31. Doctors tell you how to be tobacco free to boost immunity during Coronavirus pandemic

Tobacco consumption happens in two forms—either chewing tobacco in the form of smokeless tobacco (pan masala, gutka & khaini) or smoking (cigarettes & beedi). Tobacco consumed in any form is extremely addictive because of nicotine and three hundred cancer causing carcinogens. Chewing tobacco accounts for major consumption of tobacco in India, making head and neck cancers the most commonly reported forms. Smokeless tobacco is usually a mixture of aromatic betel leaves and nuts that the user keeps in the mouth and chews on it for hours. When these leaves are chewed upon constantly for long durations, nicotine is released in the mouth along with other flavours, that causes the mouth to produce excessive saliva. Users generally end up spitting this out. While smoking tobacco, nicotine is released in the lungs and affects the other organs, tobacco when chewed stays in the mouth. Development of tartar can lead to gum disease and can negatively impact saliva flow in the mouth. It makes it easier for bacteria to stick to teeth and gums. Repeated consumption causes various damage to the oral health:

■ Bad breath: This is the most initial and primary impact of repeated consumption of smokeless tobacco, happens due to the residue of smokeless tobacco is left in the mouth and stained teeth.  
■ Gum infections: Smokeless tobacco can irritate your gums,

The most common cause of lung cancer is smoking. Risk of lung cancer is up to 30 times higher in long term smokers compared with lifetime non smoker. Moreover, tobacco smokers may be more susceptible to contracting COVID-19, as the act of smoking involves contact of fingers with the lips, which increases the possibility of transmission of viruses from hand to mouth. Smoking shisha or hookah, often involves the sharing of mouth pieces and hoses, which could facilitate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in communal and social settings.  
— Dr Vikas Goswami, Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist, Max Hospital

causing gum (periodontal) disease.  
■ Tooth decay or dental caries: Sugar is often added to enhance the flavor of smokeless tobacco, increasing the risk for tooth decay. The main ingredients of smokeless tobacco are sand and grit, that wear down teeth, causing erosion and sensitivity  
■ Leukoplakia: Thick white patch inside the mouth, are known to be early signs of mouth cancer.  
■ Oral submucous fibrosis: A chronic disease affecting any part of the oral cavity leading to stiffness of

Say no to tobacco

Even from studies before COVID-19 crisis, extensive proof underlining the deleterious impact of tobacco use on lung health and its causative connotation with respiratory diseases is all over healthcare research papers. The effects are damaging to the immune system of the smokers too and they are twofold more susceptible to influenza than non-smokers. Furthermore other severe symptoms along with a higher mortality rate were reported in smokers in the preceding MERS-CoV outbreak.

Now we know well that tobacco use is damaging to our respiratory system, with or without COVID-19. Moreover, COVID-19 has made the previously deleterious effects of tobacco, lethal. If you want to quit smoking, no time can be better than this. Research also support that the effects of smoking starts to

subside as soon as the habit is controlled. Near normal body system settings can soon be restored.

There have been several studies reiterating the deadly effect of smoking on lungs.

Chemicals present in tobacco smoking causes irritation of windpipe, voice box and other parts of respiratory tract. Excessive mucous is secreted as a response to the irritation. It also deposits in the alveoli of lungs reducing lung function and causing distressed breathing.

Gradually the entire air way reduces in size. You are already aware of the chemicals found in tobacco harmful and cancer causing for both users and passive smokers.

The writer is Dr Anshuman Kumar, Senior Consultant & Director, Surgical Oncology at Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

the oral mucosa, causing reduced opening of the mouth and inability to eat.

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The writer is Dr Nikhil Modi, Senior Consultant, Respiratory, Critical Care & Sleep Disorder, Institutes of Critical Care, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi

Binging on chips, chocolates, popcorn while watching a Netflix series or two is our guilty pleasure. We all have had a cheat diet once a day to satisfy our sudden cravings, especially during the recent times when many of us are spending time back at home. Watching a movie without something to munch on seems like a big no, but that doesn't mean you have to take the unhealthy ways.

For all those who are looking for a healthy snacking option, pistachios are here to solve your woes. Not only they are much healthy but a recent study has found that they are a complete protein too.

Dr Mike Rousell, globally renowned Nutrition Consultant, Author and Advisor, tells you that the research showing that American Pistachios are a complete protein is extremely important because it shows that they contain nine essential amino acids that your body needs in a form that is readily absorbable and available for your body to use.

"This is unlike other plant proteins that are incomplete and where you need to add other complementary proteins to get the essential amino acids," he explains. Dr Rousell adds that American pistachios are also a great source of plant-based protein. They are portable, they don't need to be cooked, you can enjoy it as an any-

Go nuts

Snacking on pistachios is a missing element in India. DR MIKE ROUSELL tells MUSBA HASHMI the numerous benefits of incorporating the nut in diet

time snack wherever you are. "American pistachios makes for a superfood for children as they being a complete protein promotes growth. They have more protein than any other nuts. It is also a good source of fibre for children and unlike broccoli you won't have to force feed it your kid," he says.

American pistachios are also a great food for people with Diabetes. "If a person eats a cup or half of pistachios at night, it might help their blood sugar in control the next morning," Dr Rousell tells you.

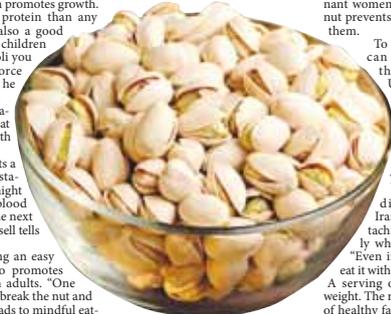
Pistachio being an easy to eat snack, also promotes mindful eating in adults. "One has to slow down, break the nut and then eat it. This leads to mindful eat-

ing. They are also great to carry in lunch boxes and help children switching from the traditional carbohydrates," he tells you.

In a study done in China on pregnant women, it was shown that the nut prevents gestational Diabetes in them.

To add to the benefits, one can eat them anytime throughout the year. Unlike other nuts, they don't need refrigeration too. "You can eat them as much as you want. Preferably one to three cups a day, is a better option," Dr Rousell tells you.

For those who want differentiate between Iranian and American pistachios, the later are naturally white and a little bit oily. "Even if one is on diet, he can eat without gaining extra weight. A serving or half won't affect the weight. The reason being they are full of healthy fat," he says.



KEEP SKIN SUPPLE AND GLOWING



shares tips that one can follow to keep it glowing

It is time that we take extra care of our skin. DR AJAY RANA

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to be locked at our home and self-isolate. It's been more than two months that we are stuck at home. At this time, wearing any makeup seems to be a thing of the past. It feels so liberating not to use any makeup or skin products. It is giving our skin some time to breathe.

But at this time we almost neglect to care for our skin. Because this is the time it needs unique care and attention. We generally forget that our skin is exposed to the summer heat and dust even if you are sitting in your home. And, because we all are under the air conditioner all the time, it may just make things even worse. Some people are observing a skin breakout and many other skin problems during the COVID-19 lockdown. We should know the reasons and how can take care to avoid such skin conditions.

■ During this time of summer, heat and warm weather tends to aggravate dry skin, and especially in low humidity conditions. Going outdoors under the harsh sunlight has become minimal these days, still drying of skin is unavoidable.

■ Hydrate yourself through the day, as water help to get rid of toxins in the body. Most people don't drink water on a regular basis, and this also causes acne.

■ Stop washing your face with any soap. Always use a good face wash to clean your skin. It removes dirt from the surface of the skin and keeps the face fresh, and will not dry out the skin as soaps do.

■ Don't eat any kind of junk food. Always take a healthy diet, exercise, hydrate yourself at regular intervals, sleep well and have foods which are rich in vitamin D. So that it can keep your skin acne free.

■ Even if we are confined to our house, we still need to follow a dedicated skincare regime for the nourishment of our skin. Nourish the skin with a face pack once a week and follow a nightly cleansing ritual every day. These are important for a glowing and healthy skin.

■ We should stop using wrong products, especially for your skin. If anybody suffers from dry skin conditions, it is mandatory to use products that are suitable for the skin type.

■ Wash your face regularly. Sitting at home does not mean that we do not need to wash our face. In this scorching heat, it makes us sweat and the dust clog the pores on the skin surface. So, it is always necessary to keep your face clean and fresh. Wash your face properly twice a day.

■ But do not wash your face harshly. Splash some water on the face if you feel tired or hot. This will keep the facial skin free of excess oil, sweat and bacteria and it rescues acne and pimples like skin problems.

■ Always use moisturiser especially at those times when there is high chances of dry skin. Use moisturiser two-three times a day.

The writer is Dermatologist, ILMED Aesthetic Physician, Founder-Director, ILMED

SLIMLINE

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the weakness of food and health systems, disproportionately impacting already vulnerable populations. As inequalities and malnutrition continue to sweep the world and India, the 2020 Global Nutrition Report stresses that the need to address malnutrition in all its forms by tackling injustices in food and health systems is now more urgent than ever.

The report finds that India remains severely affected by malnutrition, with one of the highest rates of within-country inequalities in malnutrition globally. However, some progress has been made to tackle stunting and underweight, and the country has put in place innovative programmes aimed at reaching the most vulnerable.

India has had some success in reducing rates of underweight in child and adolescents. Between 2000 and 2016, rates have decreased from 66.0% to 58.1% for boys and 54.2% to 50.1% in girls. However, this is still high compared to the average of 35.6% for boys and 31.8% for girls in the Asia region. In addition, 37.9% of children under 5 years of age are stunted and 20.8% are wasted, compared to the Asia average of 22.7% and 9.4% respectively.

Trend  
Glimpse

Varun is missing his people

Amid lockdown, actor VARUN DHAWAN says he is missing his people.

In an Instagram picture, the actor can be seen holding a teacup and his garden can be seen in the backdrop.

In the image, he put a sticker, which read: "Missing my people."

Varun had earlier expressed that he misses being on set.

He will soon be seen sharing screen space with Sara Ali Khan in the remake of 1995 hit film *Coolie No. 1*.



Today the world is battling its greatest battle against Coronavirus. In these difficult times, the

people who are battling this crisis head on, are frontline workers, the medical personnel, brave soldiers, police force, who are risking their lives to keep us safe. As a Mumbaikar, I say a big Thank You to the Mumbai Police Foundation.

—Rani Mukherjee

Actress GENELIA D'SOUZA's younger son Rahyl turned a year older on Monday, and she took to social media to pen a wish for the boy.

"Rahyl...Just when I thought I know what love is, someone so little and so precious came along to remind me how big love is. I want you to always know, you were wished for, longed for, prayed for and will...always always be loved because you are my most favourite thing of everyday," Genelia wrote.

Along with it, she posted a couple of pictures capturing moments from Rahyl's life.



Tenet extremely complicated: Robert

Actor ROBERT PATTINSON struggled hard to understand the plot of Christopher Nolan's *Tenet*, and says he wasn't aware of what was happening for most months of the filming.

In an interview, the actor opened up about the complicated film.

"There were months where I was like, 'Am I...? Honestly, I had no idea if I'm even vaguely understanding what's happening,'" he said. Pattinson continued: "On the last day, I asked (co-actor John David Washington) about what was happening in a scene, and it was just so profoundly the wrong take on the character..."



# A STREETSIDE NAMED DESIRE

With lockdown restrictions being lifted in some parts of the country, people have flocked the streets irresponsibly during a time which demands social distancing. How can local market vendors and shops ensure safety and hygiene, asks TEAM VIVA

With a few lockdown restrictions having been lifted, a large majority is seen frolicking in the streets in a manner that makes it seem that it is back to what life was prior to the outbreak of the pandemic. While advisories such as the practice of disinfecting hands regularly and covering face with masks are possible but maintaining social distancing with customers crowding around a *rothi* or screening them with an infrared thermometer might seem easy for shopping malls or other corporate offices, but are somewhat exclusionary towards street vendors and hawkers due to the nature of their livelihood and their socio-economic standing.

Markets are an important part of any local landscape and ensuring their safety is a must. So how are local vendors being prepared to keep hygiene in place? Experts tell us that the fear is here to stay and the precautions are important to follow now more than ever.

Sangeeta Singh, head of street food programme, National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), said, "Everyone, including the street food vendors, will have to get used to the new normal to start earning their livelihood. There are approximately more than three lakh vendors in Delhi alone, according to NASVI, which is a large number that has been unemployed due to everything being shut down. While the government is preparing these vendors for the new normal, most of them are quite unsure if they can immediately go back to selling food items, and are also worried about not earning enough because a lot of their food stands were next to public places like the metro station, bus stand, etc."

HK Sharma, owner of Babu Ram Paranthi Wala, a shop in Chandni Chowk, agrees that finding the first customer is quite difficult because of the non-operation of metro lines. He shares that they will ensure compliance with measures to protect themselves and the workers of the shop. Talking about the procedure being followed, he adds, "We are taking the basic safety measures such as wearing protective gears, using disinfectants to keep everything clean, opting for online payment and of course maintaining social distance. People are themselves so aware that it's unlikely they'll break the rules. Even if somebody does, we are ready with our strict protocols."

Ask him how important it is to follow them, he says, "This is something very serious. Everybody has to stick to the guidelines otherwise they will be risking their own lives as well as of others. Remember what Modiji said? *Jaan hai toh jahan hai*. So it's only if you have a lie, you can have the world."



In order to have a proper protocol which was specially designed for street vendors, NASVI decided to coach them in various measures that they must take. The training focusses on three major aspects — maintaining high levels of personal hygiene, practicing social distancing at all times and frequent cleaning and sanitisation — among other things.

The NASVI also announced that it will train 500 street food vendors in collaboration with FSSAI to assist them in earning their livelihood by strictly following certain safety measures. As a part of the first phase, vendors were given training recently. They were informed and educated about the different kinds of precautionary measures which include food, safety, health and hygiene. They were also taught about the use of disposal plates, glasses and the safe use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers. Apart from this, the importance of social distancing and hand-washing was also taught to them.

The training is based on guidelines for food businesses during the pandemic. There are other examples too through which more such guidelines could be applied.



Maybe the solution would also come from market associations. Screening people at the same place where door-frame metal detectors are installed, restricting the entry to ensure that there are not more than a certain

number of people and keeping sanitiser at the entrance of a market are some ways that the associations can take up the responsibility of ensuring the safety of the vendors and the customers.

An example the Indian markets could learn from is that of the Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets, which, as soon as the US state discovered its first cases of the virus, issued guidelines in public welfare. It wants market customers and the public to know they are taking immediate and proactive steps to ensure markets are safe places to shop during the pandemic. The organisers were encouraged to streamline their markets to discourage the public from gathering in large numbers or lingering onsite. Inside the markets, the information booth will be well-stocked with hand sanitiser and there will be hand-washing stations available throughout the venue. All food sold at the market will be pre-packaged and sold by the vendors to reduce human contact with the items as much as possible. The federation also ensured that the food purchased at local farmers' market is safer than that sold in supermarkets.

Well, now the public is shattering the fear surrounding COVID-19 and stepping out onto the streets to do away with the monotony of sitting at home, we need fewer hands touching the products and ensuring these measures are observed.

## Last sonata

Condolences pour in from the Hindi music industry after the demise of singer WAJID ALI due to Coronavirus.

By TEAM VIVA

"*Meri toh duniya bikal aalag thi Andaza woh kho gaya Dekhna doobna ho gaya Doobna tairna ho gaya Aisa aar mere saath hai Mukhtaar mulaakat hai...*"

It was singer Wajid Ali's voice which made this song from *Teri Meri Kahani* (2012) quite a favourite among youngsters. The singer later revealed that he had initially composed the song for his own album but then decided to use it for the film because it matched the situation. Alas, the song's meaning now matches Wajid's current situation. His demise at 42 due to Coronavirus has come as a shock to many connoisseurs of Bollywood music as well as the Indian music fraternity.

He had tested positive for Coronavirus a few days ago and was also suffering from a kidney ailment, had undergone a kidney transplant recently. He had been admitted to Surana Hospital at Chembur where his condition had deteriorated and was on a ventilator for the last few days. He breathed his last in the early hours of the day.

Priyanka Chopra, who starred in the song, tweeted, "Terrible news. The one thing I will always remember is Wajid *bhai's* laugh. Always smiling. Gone too soon. My condolences to his family and everyone grieving. Rest in peace, my friend. You are in my thoughts and prayers."



Wajid has judged various reality shows like *Sr Re Ga Ma Pa* alongside other prominent names from the industry. Shekhar Ravjiani, who judged the 2018 show alongside Wajid and Richa Sharma, expressed his grief by mailing us some of their photographs from the show sets and said, "I'll miss my friend."

It was Salman Khan's *Pyaar Kiya Toh Darna Kya* (1998), for which the Sajid-Wajid composer duo first scored music for *Teri Jawani*. The actor tweeted, "Wajid will always respect and remember you as a person. Love you and may your beautiful soul rest in peace."

The duo went on to compose several hit numbers for Salman starrers including *Laut Dapatta* and title track of *Mujhe Shaadi Karogi* (2004), *Teri Mast Mast Do Nain* and *Hud Hud Dabangg in Dabangg* (2010), *Mashallah in Ek Tha Tiger* (2012) and more.

Music composer and singer Shankar Mahadevan wrote, "I am just not able to come to terms with this. It's shocking! Good by dear brother. Love you! Till we meet on the other side. Prayers for your peaceful journey Wajid *bhai*."

Singer Sonu Mohapatra, who has also judged alongside Wajid in a reality singing show, recalled her experience during the time. She told us,

"I know that Wajid was going through kidney ailments for a long time now. Even two years ago, on the sets of *Sr Re Ga Ma Pa*, he had a small accident, where he had hurt himself but things became complicated because of his other medications and low immunity."

She added, "He was a generous, affectionate and lovely person who had come up the tough way. A tabla player, a composer, who had the intention to do good always. He would bring home-cooked food for all of us on the sets and used to be full of enthusiasm. I really got along with him very well and deeply regret losing touch during the lockdown."

Sona had also tweeted, "Heartbreaking news. Wajid is no more. Spent time on the SRGMP show with him as a co-judge and he was so kind and generous. I know he was ailing for a while, regret not picking up the phone on him in this lockdown. Stunned and sad."

Singer Manita Sharma, who lent her voice to *Anarkali Disco Chali, Fevicol Se*, among other popular Sajid-Wajid numbers, expressed her grief by recalling her work with him as she considered him to be her 'guru' and 'mentor'. She earlier said, "I am not in a clear state of mind right now because he was really close to us. Wajid *bhai* was just like family. I am too shocked to say anything. Last week, I spoke to him over a video call. He was absolutely fine and I thought he would be discharged in a few days. Meanwhile, this happened. I am still not out of this trauma. I cannot think of anything right now. Whatever I am today, it is because of him. Over the call, I was in tears looking at him but the smile on his face was intact and he was consoling me and saying 'Don't worry, I am ok, I am good, I will be alright'. He was such a strong person and a pillar of positivity."

"Rest in harmony my friend. Had the pleasure of working with both Sajid-Wajid most loving and brilliant. My condolences to his family and especially Sajid. #RIPWajidKhan," Abhishek Bachchan tweeted.

"Gone too soon," music composer A R Rahman tweeted. —With inputs from TN Raghunatha

## Let's pledge for climate justice: Bhumi



Actor Bhumi Pednekar is arguing the nation to become climate conscious and is looking to bring together the who's who of the film industry to spread awareness for nature conservation. She is a vocal climate activist and runs her own non-profit initiative called Climate Warrior that celebrates real-life heroes working towards climate change and as an advocacy platform to engage and rally the youth towards this cause. On this World Environment Day, Bhumi is looking to bring more awareness on this burning issue.

"Climate change, as a concept, is still not considered as a real issue today by a lot of people. There are such varied and grave climatic issues happening across the world which people are not even realising. For instance, increase of famines, forest fires, droughts,

floods, melting ice caps, increase in sea levels, food and crop getting destroyed, heat waves across countries and continents," says Bhumi.

The actor says she wants every citizen to become a climate warrior and do their bit for the cause that is threatening our future generations. Bhumi says, "For World Environment Day, Climate Warrior is starting a small campaign — *One Wish For The Earth*. At this time and in this current scenario, there are many issues that the world is facing as an impact of the climate crisis. The campaign endeavours to get thought leaders from my industry to tell the world what is the one wish they have for the earth. I can't wait to share their thoughts to make the earth a better place. Let's pledge for climate justice and let's unite to save our planet."

# We need an alternative to saliva: Bumrah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Premier India pacer Jasprit Bumrah won't miss the hugs and high-fives as part of a wicket celebration but he will certainly miss applying saliva on the ball and feels an alternative should be provided to maintain the red cherry.

The ICC Cricket Committee, led by former India captain Anil Kumble, recommended a ban on using saliva on the ball as an interim measure to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Committee did not allow the use of artificial substances as a substitute move.

The new rule makes life tougher for the bowlers and Bumrah, like many former and current fast bowlers, feels there ought to be an alternative.

"I was not much of a hugger anyway and not a high-five person as well, so that doesn't trouble me a lot. The only thing that interests me is the saliva bit," said.

"I don't know what guidelines will have to follow when we come back, but I feel there should be an alternative," he added.

Bumrah said not being able to use saliva makes the game more batsman-friendly.

"If the ball is not well maintained, it's difficult for the bowlers. The grounds are getting shorter and shorter, the wickets are becoming flatter and flatter."

"So we need something, some alternative for the bowlers to maintain the ball so that it can do something - maybe reverse in the end or conventional swing."

When former West Indian



pacer Bishop pointed out that the conditions have been favourable to the fast bowlers over the last couple of years, Bumrah nodded in agreement. "In Test match cricket, we see why it's my favourite format, because we have something over there. But in one-day cricket and T20 cricket... one-day cricket there are two

**"I WAS NOT MUCH OF A HUGGER ANYWAY AND NOT A HIGH-FIVE PERSON AS WELL, SO THAT DOESN'T TROUBLE ME A LOT. THE ONLY THING THAT INTERESTS ME IS THE SALIVA BIT."**

new balls, so it hardly reverses at the end. "We played in New Zealand, the ground (boundary) was 50 metres. So even if you are not looking to hit a six, it will go for six. In Test matches I have no problem, I'm very happy with the way things are going."

He finds it amusing that the batsmen keep complaining about the swinging ball. "Whenever you play, I've heard the batsmen - not in our team, everywhere - complaining the ball is swinging. But the ball is supposed to swing! The ball is supposed to do something! We are not here just to give throwdowns, isn't it? (laugh)

"This is what I tell batsmen all the time. In one-day cricket, when did the ball reverse last, I don't know. Nowadays the new ball doesn't swing a lot as well. So whenever I see batsmen say the ball is swinging or seaming and that is why I got out - the ball is supposed to do that."

"Because it doesn't happen so much in the other formats, it's a new thing for the batsmen when the ball is swinging or seaming," said the 26-year-old.

The Ahmedabad-born pacer finds himself in an unusual position as he has not bowled for over two months due to the lockdown imposed in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

When India will play next is not clear yet and Bumrah said he is not sure about how his body will hold up when he returns to action.

"I really don't know how your body reacts when you don't bowl for two months, three months. I'm trying to keep up with training so that as soon as the grounds open up, the body is in decent shape."

"I've been training almost six days a week but I've not bowled for a long period of time so I don't know how the body will react when I bowl the first ball."

"I'm looking at it as a way to renew your own body. We'll never get such a break again, so even if you have a small niggle here and there, you can be a refreshed person when you come back. You can prolong your career," he said.

Bumrah has risen rapidly in international cricket despite experts having reservations about his longevity due to his unorthodox action.

# Rohit & Virat defining pair of modern era



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Every cricketing era has a 'defining pair' which builds the narrative and the duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma is a special one for India in modern times, says Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara.

Kohli and Rohit have aggregated nearly 36,000 runs (35,930 runs) across three formats and Sangakkara feels the duo has the same aura which Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid had in the late '90s and early 2000s.

"There is something very special about Virat and Rohit. That fact that rules have changed and run-scoring might have become slightly easier in one-day cricket, but it's incredibly hard, the volume of cricket that India athletes play," Sangakkara said on Star Sports' 'Cricket Connected'.

Sangakkara feels that Kohli and Rohit deserve the respect also for the fact that players from bygone era didn't have to constantly play three formats.

"So, I think you have to have a lot of respect for Rohit and Virat but understand that it's all because of the players that

have gone before and have done all the hard work then as well."

"So, it's a knock-on effect, so in every era, there's always a defining pair and in the modern era, it's Rohit and Virat for India for sure." Sangakkara recollected the era of Dravid and Ganguly and drew a parallel with Kohli and Rohit where batsmen have been destructive despite being orthodox in their technique.

"If you look at Rahul and Dravid, both of them are orthodox batsmen. They play beautiful cricket shots and are very technically correct. Dravid may be a little bit more so, but the ability to be as destructive with such rate and precision stroke-making is something that has to be really admired."

"If you take the modern-day game, India has two of the best players in Virat and Rohit, who play orthodox cricket but who are just absolutely destructive in any format of the game. You don't have to muscle the ball or put too much effort or look ugly doing it, they just play good cricket shots and results come," he concluded.

# Advantage for Aus in D/N Test: Smith

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Star batsman Steve Smith says the experience of having played more pink-ball games than India would give Australia 'slight advantage' when the two sides clash under flood lights in December but the Virat Kohli-led side has the batsmen to stand up to the challenge.

Cricket Australia last week confirmed that India will tour Down Under for a full tour comprising four Tests, three ODIs and three T20s. The second Test will be a day-night affair, starting from December 11 in Adelaide.

"We played a few more pink ball games, perhaps than India which might be a slight advantage," the Aussie star batsman said in a Facebook session, hosted by Sony Sports India.

India played pretty well in the day-night game they played at Kolkata. It's a different game but they certainly got the batsmen that can stand up to the conditions when it gets tough with the Pink Ball. And their bowlers, they stand the seam up with quality."

"They are world class play-



ers who are able to adapt to anything, so I see it being a pretty good contest," he said.

India will first clash with Australia in a T20I series beginning October 11 and then return to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with the opening match at Gabba, where the hosts have tremendous record.

"Our record at Gabba (Brisbane) against anyone, is good to be fair, that is a fortress

# Smith in best shape despite not picking up bat

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Top Australian cricketers resumed training on Monday at the Sydney Olympic Park with batting mainstay Steve Smith saying that he is in his best shape in years after putting the bat aside for two months to focus on physical and mental fitness.

David Warner and Mitchell Starc were among those who reported for training as the domestic pre-season began behind closed doors. Australia is one of the less-affected countries from the

COVID-19 pandemic with little over 7,000 cases reported so far.

"I'm probably in the best shape I've been in in years, doing lots of running, lots of gym stuff at home. It's been a couple of months of good hard work," said Smith.

"I haven't touched a bat, really. A couple of little drills at home but that's about it. I've just tried to switch off from it a bit, which I don't do very often. I was just focusing on getting myself fit and strong and refreshing mentally," he said.

for us, we wanted to play first Test there for a long period of time," the 30-year-old said.

Smith, one of the world's best Test batsmen, also admired the way the Indian captain goes about chases in white-ball cricket.

"Look at his average in winning chases in one-day cricket. It's phenomenal. He's so good under pressure and calm. Just gets the job done and unfortunately for an

opposition player. You got to admire someone like that and what he has done for Indian cricket."

Asked about his comparisons with the Indian icon, he said, "I admire Virat a lot. He's an amazing player. The way they play the game now, the sheer passion he has for cricket. His body sort of transformed over time. He's so fit, strong and powerful now. Pretty amazing for cricket."

# ECB to resume cricket behind closed doors

AFP ■ LONDON

The ECB has welcomed the UK government's decision to allow the resumption of professional sports behind closed doors which allows the board to go ahead with its plan of hosting international cricket starting next month.

In the latest health and safety guidelines designed to prevent the spread of coron-

avirus, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Oliver Dowden on Saturday gave the green light for limited competitive sport to return behind closed doors in safe and carefully controlled environments from June 1.

"We are extremely heartened by Saturday's announcement from the Secretary of State, which will support the return of professional, domestic

cricket behind closed doors, and provides a meaningful next step for recreational players to begin playing at their clubs again," England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement.

The board added that it will study the guidelines laid down by the government to safely resume the game.

"Over the coming week, we will seek to understand the spe-

cific guidance from Government's medical teams so that we can provide support for cricket clubs who will be eager to see their communities safely playing in small groups."

"We extend our thanks to all those in Government who have worked hard to support the return of sport and we look forward to seeing players from across the game start returning to the field," it added.

# Everyone entitled to their own opinion: Rabada on his aggression

IAN ■ CAPE TOWN

South Africa speedster Kagiso Rabada reflected on the previous season and admitted he felt out of place and rusty.

Rabada, who has been leading the Proteas' bowling attack for a while now, also opened up regarding his on-field aggression, which has gotten him into trouble many-a-times in recent past.

The 2019-20 season was rather indifferent for Rabada, according to his own high

standards. He failed to live up to the expectations on the India tour and scalped just seven wickets in three Tests as the hosts romped to a 3-0 victory.

"The past season was a disappointment," Rabada was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "Even though I see that my stats are okay, I just felt really rusty and a bit out of place."

Rabada did better on home soil against England, where he scalped 14 wickets in three

matches. Rabada couldn't feature in the fourth Test as he was handed a one-Test ban for his celebration after taking the wicket of England Test captain Joe Root in the third Test.

"It's passion, but everyone has their own opinion and they are entitled to their own opinion," Rabada said.

"I have identified things that I needed to identify and I will address them with the people that are closest to me and who I feel should be helping me address it."



# Man U extend Ighalo's loan deal

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United extended Odion Ighalo's loan spell until January 2021 on Monday to ensure the Nigerian striker will be able to finish the 2019/20 season with the Premier League club.

Ighalo's initial loan deal from Shanghai Shenhua expired at the end of May but the 30-year-old has been rewarded for an impressive return of four goals in eight appearances for United before football was shut down by the coronavirus pandemic in March.

"Manchester United have reached agreement with Shanghai Greenland Shenhua to extend the loan deal for Odion Ighalo," United said in a statement.

"He will now remain with the Reds until 31 January 2021, enabling him to build on an impressive start to life with the club he supported as a boy."

Ighalo could prove an important addition to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's squad ahead of a packed schedule once games get back under way later this month.

"They (Shanghai) have been great towards us, allowing him to play for his dream club," said Solskjaer last week.

"It's been a dream for him and hopefully he can finish what he started and win a trophy with us."

# BFI to nominate Phangal for Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Silver-medallist Amit Phangal and the seasoned Vikas Krishan were on Monday nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the Boxing Federation of India, which picked only Olympic-bound names as its nominees for the annual honours.

The BFI has nominated world Bronze-winning trio of Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), Simranjit Kaur (64kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) for the Arjuna awards. Of these, Borgohain has won the World Bronze twice, the most recent being last year.

For the Dronacharya awards, the BFI has finalised the names of national women's coach Mohammed Ali Qamar and assistant coach Chhotu Lal Yadav.

"The nominations of the athletes and coaches have been on the basis of their performance during the last four years," the BFI said.

An 24-year-old Phangal (52kg), also an Asian Games champion, has not won any national sports award. He was being nominated for the Arjuna award for the past three years but was not considered by the selection committee because of a 2012 "inadvertent" dope offence.



"He is allowed to compete for the country and his medals are celebrated. He deserves to be honoured as well," BFI Executive Director R K Sacheti told PTI.

"Youth level ki galtiyan to sab jagah maaf hoti hain. I didn't do it intention-

ally. I only took a medicine prescribed to me without knowing the consequences. I am hopeful I will be considered," Phangal had told PTI in a recent interaction.

Commonwealth and Asian Games Gold-medallist Krishan (69kg) won the Arjuna award in 2012. The 28-year-old had turned professional in 2018 after his CWA top finish followed by a third Asian Games medal - a Bronze.

He returned to the amateur circuit last year with the South Asian Games, winning a gold there before qualifying for the Olympics at the Asian qualifiers in Jordan in March this year.

Of the three Arjuna contenders, Kaushik has had a great run for the past couple of years, winning a Bronze in his maiden world championship (2019) to qualify for the Olympics after a silver at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Both Kaur and Borgohain booked their Tokyo tickets at the Asian qualifiers. Qamar, an Arjuna awardee, was India's first Commonwealth Games gold-medallist in boxing and has been in charge of the women's camp for over a year now. This was after serving as an assistant coach for one year.

Yadav is closely associated with six-time world champion M. Mary Kom and she has been crediting him for keeping her focussed in the past couple of years.

# Real to play at training center on La Liga restart

AP ■ MADRID

The Spanish league is resuming in less than two weeks with Real Madrid playing its games at the club's training center.

Madrid will host Eibar on June 14 at the 6,000-capacity Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium, a venue used mostly by the club's 'B' team at the Ciudad Real Madrid center for the city's outskirts.

Madrid is not stopping renovation work at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium as all remaining league games are likely to be played without fans because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The league on Sunday confirmed the dates and times of the first two rounds of matches to be played after the competition was stopped mid-March because of the pandemic. The first game will be the Seville derby between Sevilla and Real Betis on June 11 at 10 p.M. Local time (2000 GMT).

Defending champion Barcelona, which has a two-point lead over Real Madrid after 27 rounds, will resume at Mallorca on June 13 while Atlético Madrid visits Athletic Bilbao the following day.

The league has announced that every game will include an 'applause

to infinity" tribute to the "heroes who are fighting to overcome" the pandemic. Pre-recorded applause played in 20th minute of matches.

"We have created this initiative to help fans be a part of La Liga's return and also as an opportunity for them to show their support for the heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic," said league president Javier Tebas, who gave his weekly interview to league broadcaster Movistar on Sunday.

"We want them to feel close to their team, even if they cannot be in the stadiums cheering them on, and for players to feel the support of their fans."

Most games will be played late in the day to take into account high temperatures in Spain, but some will be brought forward based on favorable weather forecasts. There will be a couple of matches at 1 p.M. Local time in the first weekend.

The second division will resume June 11 with the second half of the game between Rayo Vallecano and Albacete, which was suspended at halftime in December after Ukrainian Roman Zozulia of Albacete was subjected to Nazi taunts by opposing fans.