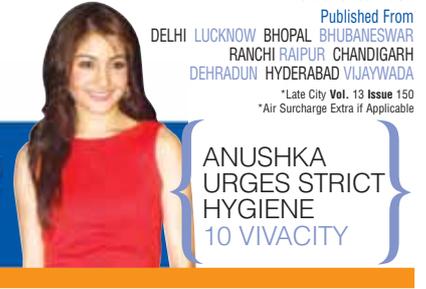


**OPINION 6**  
LIBERAL AGENDA  
IN AMERICA

**MONEY 9**  
NIFTY RECLAIMS  
10K-MARK

**SPORT 12**  
3 WINDIES PLAYERS  
REFUSE TO TOUR ENG

RANCHI, THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2020; PAGES 12-33



# Plasma therapy raises hopes

## Emerging as promising, safe treatment option for Covid patients in US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Convalescent plasma therapy is emerging as one of the most promising and safe treatment options for patients with severe Covid-19 symptoms, a new trial in the US has found.

The therapy involves taking anti-bodies from the blood of a person who has recovered from Covid-19 and transfusing those anti-bodies into an active coronavirus patient to help kickstart the immune system to fight the infection.



There were no serious adverse side effects caused by the plasma transfusion.

The findings have generated hopes in the global community rattled by the virulent virus which has claimed over 3

"While physician-scientists around the world scramble to test new drugs and treatments against the Covid-19 virus, convalescent serum therapy emerge as potentially one of the most promising strategies," said study researcher Eric Salazar from Houston Methodist Hospital.

Patients were treated under emergency use guidelines (eIND) from the US Food and Drug Administration and then received approval from the FDA to open up the trial to more patients as an investigational new drug (IND).

SARS pandemic, the 2009 influenza H1N1 pandemic, and the 2015 Ebola outbreak in Africa.

### HCQ's trials to resume: WHO

Geneva: The World Health Organization on Wednesday said clinical trials of the drug hydroxychloroquine will resume having been suspended pending a safety review in the search for coronavirus treatments. "On the basis of the available mortality data... the executive group will communicate with the principal investigators in the trial about resuming the hydroxychloroquine arm," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

# Bamiyan 2.0! Buddhist carvings defaced in POK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over recent reported acts of vandalism of 800AD Buddhist heritage in Pakistan Occupied Pakistan (POK), India on Wednesday asked Pakistan to "immediately vacate all illegally occupied territories."

Religious, cultural rights trampled with impunity, India condemns destruction of heritage, asks Pakistan to vacate POK



destruction of invaluable Indian Buddhist heritage located in Gilgit-Baltistan area of the Indian territory under illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan," he said.

He said India has sought immediate access for its experts to visit the area in order to restore and preserve the invaluable archaeological heritage.

# Sidhu's exit from Cong imminent, Prashant tries woo him into AAP fold

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

It is likely to be the end of road for cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu in the Congress.



occasions tried to lure Sidhu saying he would be the first to welcome Sidhu in the AAP.

The AAP contested party secured 20 seats. The Congress came to power with 77 seats of 117 Assembly seats by defeating the alliance of the Siromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the BJP. The SAD got 15 seats and the BJP only three.

# For first time, over 9K cases in a day

9,238 +ve, 258 deaths take corona cases to 2,16,429, total deaths to 6,087

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday for the first time went past 9,000 new cases in a day amid a Chinese study indicating that the countries could see around 15,000 new cases from June 15 onward.

tally on 122 deaths and as many as 2,560 more people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State.

ence from the fact that there have been a total of 816 deaths in Maharashtra during the previous nine days.



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	74,860	2,587	32,329
Tamil Nadu	25,872	208	14,316
Delhi	23,645	615	9,542
Gujarat	18,117	1,122	12,212
Rajasthan	9,652	209	6,744
Uttar Pradesh	8,729	229	5,176
Madhya Pradesh	8,588	371	5,445
West Bengal	6,508	345	2,580
Bihar	4,326	25	2,025
Karnataka	4,063	53	1,514
Andhra Pradesh	3,971	68	2,464
Telangana	3,020	99	1,556
Haryana	2,954	23	1,089
Jammu & Kashmir	2,857	34	1,007
Odisha	2,388	9	1,416

**Covid-19 IN INDIA**  
TOTAL CASES: 2,16,429  
DEATHS: 6,087  
RECOVERED: 1,03,949  
ACTIVE: 1,06,382

# UP has proved experts wrong on Covid: Yogi

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming to have proved experts wrong UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that because of the effective measures taken by the Government there are only over 8,000 corona positive cases in Uttar Pradesh against experts' grim projection of over 70,000 cases by the end of May.

**'Only over 8K cases in UP against their grim projection of over 70,000 cases'**



said that the virus struck both India and the United States at around the same time. The US has better healthcare facilities but the pandemic devastated it while India was able to control the spread (of disease) better. The number of positive cases in India is over 2 lakh while the USA has 1.4 lakh positive cases and the death toll in India is over 5,000 while in the US it is over 1 lakh.



He admitted that containing this disease was a financial strain and said in April there was shortage of funds to meet the Government expenses.

# 'Rajdhani School owner conspired in Delhi riots'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against a court here in relation to riots that took place in February during anti-COA protest in which the building of a private school was burnt down in N-E Delhi.

# 8 dead, 50 hurt as boiler blast causes fire in Gujarat factory

PTI ■ BHARUCH

Eight workers were killed and 50 others were injured on Wednesday in a massive fire triggered by a blast in the boiler of a chemical factory in Gujarat's Bharuch district, police said.

As companies of methanol and xylene chemicals are located near the affected factory, authorities have shifted about 4,800 people from nearby Luvara and Lakhigam villages to safer places as a precautionary measure.

# Don't do mistake of Tibet: Yogi to Nepal Govt

Lucknow: Drawing a parallel with Tibet, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked the Nepalese Government to consider the pros and cons before taking a decision on restructuring its political border because India and Nepal share one 'atma' but two bodies.

It has an example of Tibet before it and Nepal should not

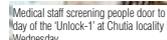
follow the same mistake. "India and Nepal has age old relations which cannot be severed by altering the boundaries. In fact, these two countries have one atma (soul). Both of them are culturally very strong because of their link. We are two bodies but the soul is one," the UP CM said.

# 38 fresh Covid-19 cases surface in State

Recovery rate falls

PNS ■ RANCHI

At least 38 new cases of Covid-19 infection surfaced in the State on Wednesday, taking the total count of Coronavirus infected patients here to 764, health officials said. The cases were reported from 11 districts - Simdega, Palamu, Lohardaga, Koderma, Ramgarh, Ranchi, Bokaro, Saraikela, East Singhbhum and Gumla, officials added.



Medical staff screening people at door during the 3rd day of the 'lockdown-1' at Chutia locality in Ranchi on Wednesday. Ratan Lal I Pioneer

Covid-19 affected cities in India, they added. As per a bulletin issued by the NHM on Wednesday late evening, at least 546 of the total Covid-19 cases reported in Jharkhand so far are migrant workers. There are as many as 438 active cases in the State and 19 patients here, however, the bulletin further said. The recovery rate of Covid-19 patients here, however, dropped on Wednesday as only one patient won his battle against the virus. In the past one week, at least 10 patients have recovered from the infection every day, figures compiled by the NHM say.

More than a half of the 760 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 764 cases, 459 are in the age bracket of 11 to 30 years and 237 in the age bracket of 31 to 50 years, the NHM bulletin said. According to NHM, more than 70 per cent of the COVID-19 cases reported in Jharkhand are migrant workers. At least 4 lakh migrants have returned to Jharkhand since the lockdown was imposed across the country in March, health officials said.

The Government has so far collected samples of 87,190 Covid-19 suspects from across the State, and more than 760 of them have tested positive. At least 3,235 of the 97,000 odd samples collected have been tested so far, the NHM report said.



# Less than 15% migrants tested for Covid-19

## OVER 4 LAKH RETURN HOME

PNS ■ RANCHI

The health machinery here has managed to test not more than 15 per cent of the 4 lakh odd migrant returnees for

"The testing rate is slow, but we are fast catching up as new testing kits have arrived in different districts," he added.

Health Secretary Nitin Madan Kulkarni said that regular tests were being conducted across the state. "Tests are being conducted every day. It is a gradual process. Around 14 per cent of the migrants who returned home have been test-

far, Chief Minister Hemant Soren tweeted recently. However, the count of migrant returnees is much higher as many of them have returned by flights, cars and buses, sources said.

According to NHM, as many as 2,85,789 Covid-19 suspects have been put in home quarantine in the State, while 91,722 have been kept in quar-



Migrant labourers arrive Ranchi railway station in Ranchi on Wednesday

PNS

Covid-19, health officials said on Tuesday. The low rate of testing assumes significance as the return of migrants has increased the number of Covid-19 cases in State by at least six times since early May.

Doctors involved in State's Covid-19 task force are of the opinion that the cases may further increase as more migrants get tested for the viral infection. "Most of the migrants returning to Jharkhand have not been tested yet," said a senior member of the Covid-19 task force, requesting anonymity.

ed so far," he said. As per figures released by the National Health Mission (NHM), the state has collected samples of more than 80,000 suspects for Covid-19 tests, but managed to test only 70,000 of them. The total number of samples collected so far, including that of local residents and migrants, is around 20 per cent of the total number of migrant workers who have returned to the state.

As many as 3.5 lakh migrants have returned to Jharkhand by Shramik trains so

Antine centres. Almost all of these suspects are either migrants or people who came in direct contact with them after they returned home, an official from NHM said.

According to NHM, by May 5, the state had reported only 115 cases of Covid-19 infection. Cut to June 2, the number of Covid-19 cases has increased almost six times and reached 675, the latest NHM report said. As many as 461 migrants have tested positive in Jharkhand since May 1.

# State Govt putting all efforts to safeguard life, livelihood: Oraon



JPC State President and Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon along with Spokesperson Lal Kishore Nath Shahdeo and others during a programme in Ranchi on Wednesday

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPC) is putting its all efforts to combat against COVID-19 and safeguarding life and livelihood of the people of the State. The Party has been in alert mode since the initial signs of the Covid-19 started emerging and helping people by distributing food grains and other since announcement of lockdown to break the Corona virus chain, said JPC chief Rameshwar Oraon.

Oraon on Wednesday said that the Government of Jharkhand is working in accordance with the sentiments of the common people, under the supervision of Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and JPC in-charge, RPN Singh, the party workers across the State continuously through various committees are providing required help to needy and poor during the time of epidemic on the other hand the Government is mak-

ing a comprehensive plan to provide health and employment to migrant labourers coming from outside the State.

Oraon said that the people of the Country and the State are constantly seeking answers to how much money was received in the Prime Minister's Care Fund and where that money was spent. The common people of the Country also want to know from the Prime Minister that what the poor, needy, migrant labourers and lower middle class family got from the economic package announced by the Central Government," he added.

Oraon wrote a letter to the Union Food Supply Minister, Ram Vilas Paswan to provide ration to cardholders till December and for those who are not on the card.

JPC Spokesperson Lal Kishore Nath Shahdeo told that in a letter to the Union Food Supply Minister, Oraon said that during the rainy season, the farmer face problem of shortage of food grains and at

present a large numbers of migrant laborers returned to the State in such a situation shortage of food grain will increase, so that the cooperation of the Central Government is needed.

Meanwhile, The State unit of the Private Schools and Children's Welfare Association on Wednesday distributed Towel, Masks, Sanitizers and Food items among Corona warriors and five hundred of poor families.

Speaking as Chief Guest on the occasion, Oraon said that the State Government worked to provide food grains to every needy families amidst the nationwide complete lockdown imposed due to outbreak of Corona virus and financial assistance was provided to the migrant workers trapped in different parts of the Country and they were sent back in the State by air, train.

The State Government provided employment them through MGNREGA and other schemes, said Oraon.

## INBRIEF

### BSL'S ADM SERVICES EXTENDS HELP TO NEEDY



"Ispat Sparsh" a group of officers and personnel of BSL, is constantly receiving the support of steel workers to help the needy during the lockdown period. In the same series, ADM Services Co-operative Societies of BSL has also extended a helping hand to the needy. Sujay Kumar, Chairman of ADM Services Co-operative Societies and General Manager (Finance & Accounts) of BSL, presented a cheque of fifteen thousand rupees to Ispat sparsh team in the presence of Mukul Prasad, Executive Director (Personnel and Administration). On behalf of Ispat Sparsh, Deputy General Manager (CSR) of BSL and CRK Sudhanshu, also Member of Ispat Sparsh received the cheque from Kumar. During this occasion General Manager (Liaison and Administration) Shri BJ Prakash and other officials were present.

### 3 KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP IN CHHUTTAPUL VALLEY

In tragic incident three persons died when a Trailer and a Tractor collided at Chhuttapula Valley on Ranchi-Ramgarh road on Wednesday. Traffic on NH was interrupted for some time due to the accident. Receiving the information of the incident, a police team of Ramgarh Police Station reached on the spot and took all the dead bodies and sent them for postmortem. The dead persons were not identified until the report was filed. The tractor, coming from Ranchi, hit a tractor from its backside near Ramgarh valley. The collision was so strong that tractor became imbalanced and turned towards the ditch. A truck was standing next to which Taylor collided. In this incident both the tractor and the Tractor were completely damaged.

### UDAY KOTAK BECOMES NEW CII PRESIDENT

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) today announced new office-bearers for the year 2020-21. Uday Kotak, Managing Director & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, has assumed office as the President of CII for 2020-21. He takes over from Vikram Kirloskar, Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar Systems Ltd., and Vice Chairman of Kirloskar Motor. Kotak has been associated with CII for over two decades and has served in many capacities in CII. He has been the Chairman of Oil Economic Affairs Council, Finance Sector Development Council, Services Council, Corporate Governance Council, Banking Committee, Capital Markets Committee and Financial Services Committee over the last many years. Mr. Kotak was also the President- Designate for the last two years.



# Speaker convenes Assembly committees meetings

PNS ■ RANCHI

Assembly speaker Rabintra Nath Mahato after getting lockdown relaxation on Wednesday convened two different meetings of Assembly committees. The regular meeting of different Assembly committees was put on brake due to enforcement of strict lockdown necessitated to break the coronavirus chain. Assembly speaker, Mahato said, "Due to lockdown the regular meetings of different Assembly committees were stalled. But, in parliamentary democracy the role of such committees gains importance. Such committees' role becomes more important when the house is adjourned."



Assembly Speaker Rabintrath Mahato holds meeting with all parties MLA during the ongoing COVID 19 lockdown, in Ranchi on Wednesday

Several bills are passed within the days of introduction. One of the primary objectives of legislature is to hold the executive accountable and examine potential laws, but due to paucity of time it is difficult for the members to go through all the bills and discuss them in detail. To address this issue, various committees are set up in state assemblies where smaller group of members examine bills in detail, and allow for an informed debate in the legislature.

Apart from scrutinizing legislation, committees also examine budgetary allocations for various departments and other policies of the government. These mini-legislatures provide a forum for law mak-

ers to develop expertise, engage with citizens and seek inputs from stakeholders.

Since these committees consist of members from different parties, they provide a platform for building consensus on various issues.

Recently, Speaker Rabintrath Mahato constituted a total of 23 new committees for the year 2020-2021. The Chairman of Jharkhand Legislative Rules Committee, Privileges Committee Petitions Committee is the Chairman of Jharkhand Assembly itself. The role of the committee is in monitoring, accounting and better functioning of the functions of various departments of the government. The committees also make important sug-

gestions to the government departments. All committees have been notified from May 23.

Some of the lawmakers who are members of different committees include, Neelkanth Singh Munda - Chairman Public Accounts Committee, Saru Roy, Chairman General Sponsorship Committee, Sudesh Mahato - Chairman Youth Welfare Culture and Tourism Development Committee, Chandreshwar Prasad Singh - Chairman, MIA Fund Monitoring Committee, Irfan Ansari - Chairman Library Development Committee, Vinod Kumar Singh - Chairman Expected Legislative Committee among others.

# Maoists torch 11 vehicles in Lohardaga bauxite mines

## Police suspect involvement of Ravindra Ganju

PNS ■ RANCHI/LOHARDAGA

CPI (Maoist) insurgents torched 11 vehicles, including nine excavators, under Kisko Police Station in Lohardaga district on Tuesday night, a police said on Wednesday.

The vehicles belonged to two private companies involved in bauxite mining in the area, they added. Lohardaga's Sub Divisional

Police Officer (SDPO), Jitendra Singh said that the incident occurred at Pakhar bauxite mines. He suspected that Maoist leader Ravindra Ganju, who has a bounty of Rs 10 lakh, could be behind the attack. "We are interrogating locals to establish more links. The investigation is in process," said Singh.

As many as nine excavators, a compressor machine and a night, were set ablaze in the incident, police said. This is the second incident of Maoist violence reported in less than a week. Earlier, on Sunday, a chowkidar and a policeman

were killed by members the banned outfit in a ambush on a joint patrolling team of police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in West Singhbhum district.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), at least 19 of 24 districts in the State are Left Wing Extremism-affected. Apart from the main CPI (Maoist), there are as many as 11 splinter outfits like police say.

The outlawed CPI (Maoist) - the oldest and the most dreaded Left Wing Extremist group in Jharkhand - has also been planting pressure IEDs to target security forces in rural areas, police said. Their move, however, is causing civilian casualties as the IEDs are easily triggered by the body weight of villagers who go to forests to gather wood, they added.

Last year, police arrested spouse of Ravindra Ganju, the Maoist leader suspected to be behind Tuesday's attack. While the Government claims that Maoists are fast losing ground to the security forces in Jharkhand, such incidents causing human casualties and loss of property continue to surface in Jharkhand hinterland.

# Admin carries medical screening at Namkum

## Medical team visits door-to-door identifying people with corona symptoms

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Ranchi district administration to prevent the spread of global pandemic Covid 19 has initiated several steps in lockdown period. In the various initiatives started by government the medical screening of people has been intensified. The Ranchi district administration is carrying out screening of persons at different blocks. On Wednesday screening of persons at Namkum block was carried out. The Health Department's medical team visited door-to-door screening people to identify potential

people with corona symptoms.

On the direction of Ranchi Deputy Commissioner, the medical team screened people at Chutia and Murgung Toil of Namkum block. Doctors, ANMs and Sahiwas were part of different medical teams. The medical teams visited the houses enquiring people about possible symptoms of corona as well as examining the body temperature of people being screened. The vehicles will also have to follow social distancing norms. Only two passengers will be allowed in the four-seater auto while a maximum of four customers can sit in a seven-seater vehicle from now onwards.

The drivers will also have to maintain a record with the name, address, mobile number, pick up point and destination of each passenger. The vehicles cannot stop mid way to pick and drop passengers anymore. The drivers will also have to carry sanitizers and after drop-

ping the passenger the interior and exterior of the vehicle will have to be cleaned. "On the second day of the relaxation, very few drivers took out their vehicles. Our passengers mostly coming to the City

from nearby places and students still closed, they were not many commuters. Presently, drivers too are very careful as no one is immune to this virus," added Pawan.

Also, a meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Development Commissioner, Ranchi, Anannya Mittal was held Ranchi Collector, Block-A, for cancellation of the bogus or dormant ration cards.

# Few autos ply on city roads post relaxations

## With limited seating fares get high

PNS ■ RANCHI

With the State government allowing intra district public transport services to resume from June 2 onwards, on the second day of the relaxation fewer auto rickshaws, e-rickshaws and pedal rickshaws were seen plying on the City roads.

Founder of Jharkhand State Diesel Auto Driver Federation Dinesh Soni, State President Ramkumar Singh, Ranchi Mahanagar E-Rickshaw Driver Union Patron Nandan Singh and President Vikas Shrivastava jointly issued a

statement on June 3 stating that a fake body by the name of Ranchi District Auto Driver Union has released a list with increased fares. The new prices are neither in favour of the passengers nor the driver and the officials will soon meet the Traffic SP to resolve the issue, said the communiqué.

"A decision on increasing the prices has not been taken till now. If the fares are raised, it will be in favour of both the passenger as well as the driver. Before the lockdown, on routes where Rs 10 was charged with limited seating now the prices may get doubled but not more than that. The new guidelines issued are in favour of everyone and will be strictly followed,"



said Ranchi Mahanagar Petrol Driver Federation Chotu Paswan.

As per the new guidelines, with the number of passengers being limited, the vehicles will also have to follow social distancing norms. Only two passengers will be allowed in the four-seater auto while a maximum of four customers can sit in a seven-seater vehicle from now onwards.

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**Central Coalfields Limited**  
A Miniratna Company  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**NOTICE**

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. [www.coalindia.in/respective](http://www.coalindia.in/respective) Subsidiary Company (CCL, [www.centralcoalfields.in](http://www.centralcoalfields.in)), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in/>

Govt OK's change in Essential Commodities Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to ensure barrier-free trade by farmers and help raise their income, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an amendment to the six-and-a-half-decade-old Essential Commodities Act 1955 to deregulate food items, including cereals, pulses, onion and potatoes. It also noded the promulgation of an Ordinance to allow farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters, to pave the way for creating "One India, One Agriculture Market".



ensure barrier-free trade in agriculture produce. It will not bind farmers to sell their crop only to licensed traders in the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandis of their respective talukas or districts.

The proposed amendment will allow farmers to sell their produce to processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters, to pave the way for creating "One India, One Agriculture Market".

Besides enabling better price realisation for the country's farmers, the amendment ensures no such stock limit shall apply to processors or other end users who are engaged in their installed capacity or to any exporter subject to the export demand. The amendment announced will help both farmers and consumers while bringing in price stability. It will also prevent wastage of agricultural produce that happens due to lack of storage facilities.

The Ordinance, for its part, basically aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition.

On May 17, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had circulated a draft of the Ordinance to amend the EC Act. The ECA draws from the days of the Bengal famine and the Defence of India Rules of 1943. Describing the EC Act as "anachronistic", the Economic Survey 2019-20, too, recommended the "jettisoning" of this law.

The Ordinance will empower farmers for engaging with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation. It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor and also enable the farmer to access modern technology and better inputs. It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers, the Government said.

Eye to WB polls: Centre renames Kolkata Port Trust after Syama Prasad Mookerjee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping the West Bengal Assembly polls next year in mind, the Centre on Wednesday renamed the Kolkata Port Trust after Bharatiya Jansangh founder leader Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who hailed from the State. The Cabinet also approved the formation of a new Pharmacopoeia Commission and Empowered Group of Secretaries to enhance investments in India.

On a high since it bagged 18 seats in the Lok Sabha elections last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had just on Tuesday asserted that the BJP will form the next Government in the State.

The Board of Trustees of Kolkata Port Trust in its Meeting held on 25th February, 2020 has also passed a Resolution to re-name Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata considering its multifaceted

genius as an eminent jurist, academician, thinker and leader of the masses.

"On the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the Sesquicentennial Celebrations of Kolkata Port on 12th January, 2020, keeping in view the sentiments of the people of West Bengal, it was announced that Kolkata Port will be renamed after Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, one of the most deserving sons of West Bengal and a front-runner in national integration, dreamer of Bengal's development, inspiration for industrialisation and architect of one law for one nation," the Government said in a statement.

Further, the Cabinet approved the setting up of an "Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) or Project Development Cells (PDCs) in Ministries/Departments for attracting investments in India. This high-level body, headed by Cabinet Secretary, will look into the proposals to enhance

investments in India. The other members in the EGoS are CEO of Niti Aayog, Secretaries in charge of Industry, Commerce, Revenue, Economic Affairs. The concerned Departments' Secretary will be co-opted.

The Cabinet also approved Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH by merging Leh on Wednesday and reviewed the situation with Lt General Singh, sources said here on Monday.

Incidentally, Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited Leh about a fortnight back to take stock of the situation in the backdrop of four stand-offs now between the Indian and Chinese armies in a frontage of 25 to 30 km in Ladakh. The Chinese have intruded three kms into the Hot Springs area of the Galwan valley and pitched tents besides building bunkers and enhancing force levels.

Admitting that the Chinese had raised its troop strength in sizeable numbers, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in an interview to a private television channel on Tuesday, had said diplomatic and military level talks were on to defuse tension on the LAC.

He also said the Army chief had told him that the next round of senior level talks will be held on June 6 and he was hopeful of a peaceful resolution following the upcoming parity.

The groundwork for the June 6 meeting was laid at the last meeting at the level of Major Generals held on Tuesday, sources said. Almost all the discussions are on between the military on the ground at various levels including at the Brigadier level and twice by Major Generals earlier but breakthrough was not achieved.

As of now, there is no let

Lt Gen Singh to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart to defuse LAC tension on June 6

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leh-based 14 Corps Chief Lt General Harinder Singh will hold parleys with his Chinese counterpart on June 6 to pave the way for the likely backing off of troops from four flashpoints on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. The two Lieutenant General rank officers will meet at a designated meeting point on the LAC.

Ahead of the meeting, Northern Command chief Lt General Y K Joshi, visited Leh on Wednesday and reviewed the situation with Lt General Singh, sources said here on Monday.

Incidentally, Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited Leh about a fortnight back to take stock of the situation in the backdrop of four stand-offs now between the Indian and Chinese armies in a frontage of 25 to 30 km in Ladakh. The Chinese have intruded three kms into the Hot Springs area of the Galwan valley and pitched tents besides building bunkers and enhancing force levels.

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up on the four confrontation sites with soldiers from both sides on high alert. As China increased its troops and vehicle strength, India too responded in the same manner by ramping up its troops. Moreover, all the advanced landing grounds in Ladakh are now ready to share increased load of take offs and landing of transport aircraft ferrying more troops and logistical back up.

India is also holding strict vigil on the 250 km-long road in Eastern Ladakh near the Galwan valley as the Chinese are objecting to the construction of a bridge. The strategic road runs parallel to the LAC and India says it does not breach the LAC as claimed by the other side. The Galwan valley saw pitched battles between India and China during the 1962 war.

As infrastructure all along the LAC has vastly improved in both the countries, troops increase patrolling especially during the summer months. The Indian security establishment is now wary of the growing Chinese aggressiveness during the ongoing face-offs and is prepared for any challenge, sources said.

In order to address such face-offs, India and China had agreed some years back to have a hotline between the director generals of military operations (DGMO) on the lines of an existing mechanism between India and Pakistan.

However, the proposed hotline is held up due to procedural differences. In January this year, the Army chief had said that the next round of senior level talks will be held on June 6 and he was hopeful of a peaceful resolution following the upcoming parity.

Anti-India Bill in Nepalese Parl: R&AW's 2nd failure in 6 mths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The introduction of the anti-India Bill in Nepalese Parliament is the latest instance in the last six months when the external Intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) was caught off guard.

In January, six anti-CAA resolutions were introduced in EU Parliament but the discussions were deferred only after reactive diplomacy set in motion by New Delhi to wriggle out of the embarrassment.

to work in a preemptive manner and gather inputs on such developments in timely manner for course correction.

The move to bring in a Constitution amendment Bill to include Indian territories Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh was afoot in Kathmandu, the Indian agencies could not get to know about the developments there and the undercurrents that are set to impact the ties between the two countries.

The slip was more so conspicuous when a foreign government and its agencies were

on overdrive to push the agenda in the Nepalese map through their links with the political parties and the leaders in Kathmandu.

Sources said a slew of top officials had to rush to Kathmandu to delay the introduction of the Bill in Nepal Parliament but no political party there could afford to distance from the nationalistic move. The Bill was tabled in Nepal Parliament on Sunday to endorse the amended map.

Apart from the changes in the map, Nepal has also decided to man the border with

India by its army which will open the door for training to the armed forces there for border guarding by third country which can exploit the situation to monitor the frontier with India.

India should propose deployment of Indian training team in border guarding to avoid landing of such teams from a third country. India is already training Bhutanese border guarding forces.

The EU move against the amendments in the citizenship law in Nepal has also decided to man the border with

600 lawmakers out of 751 members in the European Parliament had moved six resolutions against CAA. Not only this, even the diplomatic corps was seen advancing in the absence of any advance assessment of such an impending move.

Every Indian embassy or high commission abroad has a political desk that is mandated to assess political situations and report to the ministries of home as well as external affairs. Those manning the political desks are supposed to cultivate relations with the politicians of the host countries.

Maoist funding: NIA searches construction firm's premises in Ranchi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has conducted searches at the premises of a construction firm in Ranchi in connection with a case relating to Maoist funding.

The searches yielded cash bank and several bank account details used for channelizing "donations" for the Maoists.

The NIA conducted the searches on Tuesday at the office premises of Ram Kripal Singh Construction Private Limited Company at Panchwati Plaza, Kutchary Road, Ranchi in connection with NIA case relating to terror funding of CPI (Maoist), Girdih registered on July 9, 2018.

The case was originally registered at Dumri Police station in Girdih district of Jharkhand on January 22, 2018 after the arrest of accused Manoj Kumar with cash amounting to ₹6 lakh and other incriminating documents.

Kumar was alleged to have collected 'levy' from the Maoists in the form of contributions of absconding accused Krishna Da alias Krishna Hansda of Mandlahdi Ledhwa village under Pirtand police station in Girdih. Hansda was a J h a r k h a n d Regional Committee member of CPI(Maoist).

"During investigation, it was revealed that the accused Manoj Kumar was an employee of RKS Construction Private Limited Company and was acting as a contact between construction firm and the Maoists in Girdih area, the NIA said in a statement.

The probe also revealed that accused Hansda was going to make levy payment of ₹6 lakhs to the operatives of CPI (Maoist) when he was apprehended.

MHA allows entry of certain sets of foreign nationals like bizmen, healthcare professionals, techies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry on Wednesday allowed the entry of certain categories of foreign nationals including businessmen, healthcare, technical and managerial experts to India.

These people are allowed to enter India through commercial or chartered flights and have to apply for fresh business or employment visa. "Government of India has considered the matter regarding relaxation of the visa & travel restrictions for certain categories of foreign nationals who need to come to India.

Foreign businessmen coming to India on a Business visa (other than on B-3 visa for sports) in non-scheduled commercial/chartered flights. Foreign healthcare professionals, health researchers, engineers and technicians for technical work at Indian health sector facilities, including laboratories and factories. This is subject to a letter of invitation from a recognized and registered healthcare facility, registered pharmaceutical company or accredited University in India, said MHA.

"Foreign Engineering, Managerial, Design or other Specialists travelling to India on behalf of foreign business entities located in India. This includes all manufacturing units, design units, software and IT units as well as financial sector companies (banking and non-banking financial sector firms).

Foreign technical specialists and engineers travelling for installation, repair and maintenance of foreign origin machinery and equipment facilities in India, on the invitation of a registered Indian business entity.

Foreign technicians travelling for installation, repair and maintenance of foreign origin machinery and equipment facilities in India, on the invitation of a registered Indian business entity.

"The above categories of foreign nationals would have to obtain a fresh Business visa or Employment visa, as applicable, from the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad. Foreign nationals holding a valid long term multiple entry Business visa (other than B-3 visa for sports) issued by the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad would have to get the Business visa re-validated from the Indian Mission/ Post concerned. Such foreign nationals would not be permitted to travel to India on the strength of any electronic visa obtained earlier," said the MHA's circular.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (UP) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with IFLC. Lockdown for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://tender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Dhruv, D/o Sarwan, R/o H. No. A-1307, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Age: 14 Years, Height: 4'6". Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Build: Medium, wearing Black Jeans, Pant and Black T-Shirt and Plastic Shoes, has been missing from his house since 20.03.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 109/2020 US 363 IPC, dated 23.03.2020, has been registered at P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him, please inform undersigned. Website : http://cbi.nic.in E-mail : cbi@cbi.gov.in Fax No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No. : 011-25554140, 25553166 DP/101/ND/2020 SHO P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Asiya Naz, D/o Hussain R/o H.No.2647, Mangal Bhawan, Gali Badliyan, Churiwala, Delhi Aged-28 Years has been reported missing since 29.05.2020 at about 11.00 AM from her residence vide DD No.6A Dated 29.05.2020 registered at Police Station Chandni Mahal, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 4'6", Face: Round, Build: Thin, Clothing: Yellow coloured plaid, Cream coloured kurta and slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Cue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Chandni Mahal, Delhi at E-Mail : cbi@cbi.gov.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Fax No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- TALE No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Chandni Mahal, Delhi DP/134/CD/2020 Tel.: 011-23279338, 23271751, 23263967

Appeal for Identification General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Narayan, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50 Years, Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Build: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Black T-Shirt and Black Jeans, Place of Recovery: Found dead on 29.05.2020 at Patri Bada Bazar Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 04A, us of 174 CrPC, Dated 29.05.2020 This has been lodged at Police Station, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign. SHO PS, Kashmir Gate, Delhi DP/248/ND/2020 Ph.: 011-23967889 & 23968730

Politburo raps Modi Govt for imposing lockdown 'abrutly'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) Politburo meeting on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring lockdown "abruptly" in an unplanned way. The politburo, which had its session convened through video conferencing also said that the 20 lakh crore financial package is just a re-packaging of the existing schemes and essentially a loan providing activity.

The State Governments. Modi refuses to part with the thousands of crores of rupees he is collecting in a private trust fund under the PM's name, to the states," said politburo members in a statement. The CPI (M) politburo also criticised the BJP Governments for implementing harsh Acts like UAPA, NSA during the lockdown period to target those who oppose them, especially people from Muslim community.

viding relief to the people who have been agonized cruelly by not getting any time to prepare to deal with the consequences of the lockdown. Having unilaterally declared, without consulting the state governments, the central Government is now shifting the burden of bearing the consequences of the lockdown, particularly the humungous humanitarian issue of crores of migrant workers with their families moving across the country on to the State Governments. Modi refuses to part with the thousands of crores of rupees he is collecting in a private trust fund under the PM's name, to the states," said politburo members in a statement.

The CPI (M) politburo also criticised the BJP Governments for implementing harsh Acts like UAPA, NSA during the lockdown period to target those who oppose them, especially people from Muslim community.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HYDRAULIC DIVISION KISHWART. Show Cause Notice M/S Atal Project Ltd Corporate Office -H/2514/B 8/Floor Trimulohi Heights behind Shoppers Stop, Jammu. Subj: - Incorporate delay in providing Work Order of 07 MLD to Kishwara Town from a Design Source comprising of various components of the scheme. Where you have been allotted the contract for providing of Work Order of 07 MLD to Kishwara Town from Nagahua Source comprising of various components complete job on a turnkey basis which was started by you on 12th January 2019. Whereas you have not completed the scheme as per contract signed by you on January 2019 with a one year successful trial run of the scheme upto January 2020 but results are not showing cause. Whereas you would need to be taken up or re-incomplete which include:- 1. Completion of 32 KM Long Compound/Gain Line of 300mm and 250mm dia pipe line which has been in the DD No.296/2019. 2. Submission to a length of 10.4 KM Net sump up. 3. Completion of 05 No. CHT's not taken up. 4. Completion of 05 No. GSP's not taken up. 5. Completion of Firepump Plant not taken up. 6. Completion of House Structures (Overhead Channel, Supply Channel, Sementation Tank) etc required designed and Capacity not taken up. Whereas the final Work Order/contract stands handed over to you since long and you have not submitted the drawing and design of the structures as is to be sent from DDCC department. Minnu which clearly shows your non-seriousness. Whereas you have been served with 13 No of Notices last being dated 13.05.2020 but you neither responded nor are you bothered to take up the balance components of the scheme. Whereas your non-seriousness is responsible to our notices & to take up & balance components of WWS Nagahua is altogether violation of the terms or contract & has resulted into colossal expenditure which has caused huge loss to public exchequer. Now, therefore you are called upon show cause as to why the contract signed in your favour is not terminated, and referred as your risk & cost & why you should not be blacklisted for your failure to show cause. Whereas you would need to be taken up or re-incomplete which include:- 1. Completion of 32 KM Long Compound/Gain Line of 300mm and 250mm dia pipe line which has been in the DD No.296/2019. 2. Submission to a length of 10.4 KM Net sump up. 3. Completion of 05 No. CHT's not taken up. 4. Completion of 05 No. GSP's not taken up. 5. Completion of Firepump Plant not taken up. 6. Completion of House Structures (Overhead Channel, Supply Channel, Sementation Tank) etc required designed and Capacity not taken up. Whereas the final Work Order/contract stands handed over to you since long and you have not submitted the drawing and design of the structures as is to be sent from DDCC department. Minnu which clearly shows your non-seriousness. 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# Trump's expansionism

US wants to expand G7 by including India and Russia, hoping to encircle China. How will the two hold their own?



At any other time, US President Donald Trump's call to expand the Group of Seven (G-7) would have been seen as reformatory considering it has gone past its sell-by date. Formed in the 1970s, its main objective was to ensure the supremacy of the Western democratic and liberal economic model in the Cold War era. But with emergent economies, China and Southeast Asian powers coalescing around G-20, it lost clout with only five of its members — the US, Germany, Japan, UK and France — figuring among the

top seven global economies. Italy and Canada have been upstaged by China and India. So now Trump's move to invite India, Russia, South Korea and Australia into the club is not just about correcting geo-strategic realities of the contemporary world but to stifle China for the COVID-19 outbreak by encircling it with a comity of nations and diminishing its global dominance. And though he has been attempting this for quite some time, considering that both Russia and India didn't want to upset China too much given their market dependencies, the US President wants to make a show by postponing the summit to September, when hopefully the COVID-19 crisis abates. The intent is clear, capitalise on all reports emerging that Beijing hid crucial information, play upon collective anxieties of affected nations and make them allies in the larger US design to isolate China. Already, he has gone ballistic with the World Health Organisation (WHO) for allowing itself to be taken in by China's versions of the truth, withdrawn the special status to Hong Kong in response to a new Chinese security law there and is limiting Chinese students above undergraduate level from enrolling in US institutions. It is also trying to cut off China from global supply chains, hoping to cripple it in the long run. In fact, soon after Trump's announcement, the UK Government said it wanted a group of 10 countries to develop its own 5G technology and reduce dependence on China's tech major Huawei.

For India, this is an opportunity to be a key player in the Western bloc. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established a rapport with Trump and the recent 25-minute phone conversation between the two did dwell on Chinese incursion in Ladakh with the US administration being sympathetic to India's predicament along the Himalayan border. Modi also took up race riots, hoping that the US hypocrisy on the violence would blunt the stereotypical edge of its propaganda on India's rights situation. But India needs to walk the line carefully without appearing to be endorsing a polarising move that runs counter to its multilateral worldviews. It has, therefore, rightly refused the US offer to mediate in Ladakh and upheld bilateral mechanisms. It cannot afford to be played by both China, which is into heavy duty posturing to intimidate us against being party to any anti-China narrative, or the US, which dangles trade tariffs now and then to get things done its way. Besides, India still doesn't have the manufacturing edge to cut off China and is dependent on its factory floors for sourcing. But India can certainly negotiate better for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, considering that it has surpassed France and the UK in terms of the GDP both of which hold a permanent seat on the global panel. India has support from France, too, as its President Emmanuel Macron had invited Modi to the G-7 Summit at Biarritz last August as a special invitee. The entry of Russia, though it has given an in-principle nod to the idea, is also going to be complicated considering that it has grown closer to Beijing ever since Trump's predecessor Barack Obama expelled it from the original grouping following its takeover of Crimea. But Putin and Trump have an equation going and preliminary reports indicate that Moscow has shown its interest in accepting the invitation to attend the G-7 meet but will confirm only when the agenda is decided. Besides, it stayed away from joining the global defence of human rights in Hong Kong. This is one of the reasons why existing G-7 members, particularly Canada, have reservations. But Trump is pushing Russia, without which it would be difficult to isolate or even censure Beijing. Australia, for example, features high on Trump's scale of preferences simply because it called for an impartial investigation into the Wuhan outbreak. Trump may want an expanded G-11 in this new age cold war with China but its success will depend on how the new hopefuls leverage their power.

# Elephantine problem

Laws make no sense if not enforced. And people will play with animals till we realise the right to co-existence



At a time of humanity needs to hang its head in shame for an inhuman deed that took place on May 27 in Malappuram, Kerala. A 15-year-old pregnant tusker, looking for food, strayed into a village where the trusting and unsuspecting creature was fed a pineapple stuffed with crackers. The fruit exploded in the elephant's mouth ripping off a part of its face and tongue. The poor pachyderm, despite being in intense pain, ran through the streets without harming a soul till it came to the river. It stood in the water for hours,

defeating all attempts by the forest department to help it, before dying a slow and excruciating death due to the injuries and asphyxia as water had gone into its lungs and trachea. Sadly, this is not the first incident of such unseemable cruelty inflicted on animals in India. A similar incident had happened in Kollam with another elephant in April where the animal had eaten fruits laden with explosives and died a slow and painful death. So, the question is how is it that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes go unpunished when cruelty against animals is a cognisable offence under Section 428 and Section 429 of the Indian Penal Code and the country also has one of the strictest wildlife protection laws in the world? While some countries are now waking up to regulating trade in wildlife, India leads the prohibition on ivory trade. Some of the biggest triumphs for animal welfare here in the last decade saw the ban of dolphinariums in 2013, prohibition on animal testing for cosmetics in 2014, followed by a ban on the import of cosmetics tested on animals. India also prohibited the export of shark fins for use in soup and does not allow wild animals in circuses.

Yet we are confronted with heart-wrenching stories of depraved behaviour towards animals. For this to stop, we must make our law enforcement agencies aware about the rights of animals to be treated with kindness and dignity and about how grave an offence it is to subject an animal to cruelty. Punishments should be quick and stringent. Law enforcement agencies must not always wait for activist judges to lead the way in this regard. Plus, we, as a society must teach our children the basic truth that the world is meant to be shared by all God's creations and we must learn to live together with them. They have as much right to live on this planet as we do. In fact, animals form a vital part of the biodiversity and each creature has a role to play in the circle of life. If we disrupt that, we will have to bear the consequences of it.

# Liberal agenda in America

Like the White rioters, the Democrats and their media supports are also exploiting the most disadvantaged among their fellow Americans with hopes of winning the November polls



DOMINIC GREEN

There was no rest for the wicked on the seventh day. The shooting of police officers on Monday night in St Louis, Missouri and Los Angeles opens a new phase in the disorder that began in Minneapolis on May 26. On Monday, Terrence Floyd, the brother of George Floyd, the Minneapolis man murdered on camera by a police officer, called for calm. So did US President Donald Trump, incongruously waving a Bible in front of Washington DC's St John's church, where every President since 1815 has prayed and which rioters set on fire on Sunday night. But on Monday night, America's tragedy moved closer to catastrophe.

It's not just that race is the American agony and that African American men are disproportionately likely to be targeted by the police. A particular chain of events turned the initial protests in Minneapolis into nationwide protests, which turned into violent riots. Some filmed evidence appears to suggest that the crucial second phase of these events, the phase in which protests in poor and majority-Black neighbourhoods turned into confrontation with the police and assaults on civic symbols, was inflamed and exploited by the far Left. This is why the violence must stop. Not just because lives and property are being lost. Not because it takes decades for an inner-city neighbourhood to recover from an assault by its own residents. Not because it shreds the tendrils of racial amity that have grown since the civil rights reforms of the 1960s. But because the course of events has at crucial moments been directed by affluent Whites. And they know that the butcher's bill will not be delivered to their suburban communities.

The Americans have a name for this: White privilege. A few weeks ago, White men protested the COVID-19 shutdown by storming the Michigan statehouse in military fatigues and carrying assault weapons. The police allowed them to rampage around the Statehouse while White protesters showed the police lines on the statehouse steps and no one was injured. Pass a fake \$20 bill as George Floyd did, however, and you risk a rapid escalation, which may end in injury or death. The same inequality of risk attaches to the White guard student who dons the black hoodie of Antifa and throws fireworks and bottles at the police and the Black women and children who stand on the porch of their home in Minneapolis, were shot at by the national guard as one of the guardsmen shouted "Light 'em up!"

It is inaccurate to say that all of Black America is on the streets. Fifty years of deindustrialisation and drugs have created a Black underclass but 50 years of civil rights and affirmative action have accelerated the growth of the Black middle class. In Atlanta, Georgia, the capital of the Black



middle class, initial protests did not lead to open-ended rioting.

The Mayor, who is White, ventured onto the streets and talked to protestors as equals. In a further instance of the civic responsibility that has been lacking in most Democratic-run States and cities, the local rapper, Killer Mike, the son of a police officer, issued an emotional plea "not to burn your house down."

This kind of plea works best if you have a house to burn down. It doesn't work on people who have no property and no prospects as in the heavily Black neighbourhoods of western Philadelphia, where helicopter footage showed the police abandoning their cars to entirely Black mobs.

Nor does this appeal work on people who have the luxury of burning down other people's homes and businesses — and those people, the White rioters, are the ones who commanded the initial protests and forced them towards violent confrontation.

Nearly half of the population of Washington, DC is Black. Yet some footage appears to show hardly any non-White

NEARLY HALF OF THE POPULATION OF WASHINGTON, DC IS BLACK. YET, SOME FOOTAGE APPEARS TO SHOW HARDLY ANY NON-WHITE FACES AMONG THE MOB WHO ATTACKED POLICE OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE AND SET FIRE TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH

faces among the mob who attacked police outside the White House and set fire to St John's church. Here in Boston, we saw an orderly march from a heavily Black neighbourhood to the city centre, led by church leaders. It was black-clad Whites who fought the police after the curfew. I observed teenagers from my suburban neighbourhood, students at Ivy League colleges and exclusive private schools, setting off in the black costume of Antifa.

"It happens most often that a people, which has supported without complaint, as if they were not felt, the most oppressive laws, violently throws them off as soon as their weight is lightened," Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of the French Revolution.

The radicalism of the American Left is rarefied and spoilt: More troubled by student loans and an absence of exciting jobs than failed schools and police violence. Antifa's revolution, like that of 1968 and most other Western revolutions, is a "revolution of rising expectations." The concerns of the young White men and

women, who are attacking the police, are not those of the young Black men who will be killed in the nights to come.

Most of the media endorse the radical Left's political costume drama. So do prominent figures on the Democratic Party's Left, like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Keith Ellison, the ex-Nation of Islam agitator who was second-in-charge of the Democratic National Committee and is now Minnesota's Attorney-General.

Like the White rioters, the Democrats and their media supports are also exploiting the most disadvantaged among their fellow Americans. They are exploiting the suffering of Black people in the hope of winning November's elections by painting Donald Trump as the second coming of George Wallace.

This strategy is unlikely to succeed. No candidate ever harmed his chances by running on a law and order ticket. Its greater failure is, however, moral.

(The writer is Life & Arts editor of The Spectator (US). (Courtesy: The Dawn)

# SOUNDBITE

Some owners are looking to sell their franchises. I would be more than happy to provide financial and non-monetary support to keep the PSL alive and to thrive.

Former Pakistan pacer —Shoaib Akhtar

Boredom is the most common disease that afflicts all people. It is the root of a lot of mental, emotional and physical disorder. So I learned: To be bored or not, is a choice.

Actor —Mihir Soman

China and India have a full-fledged border related mechanism and communication channel. We have capability to resolve this issue through dialogue and negotiations.

Chinese spokesperson —Zhao Lijian

There is no need to panic looking at the increasing number of COVID-19 cases. The Centre and State Governments have done the planning. We have increased testing.

MoS for Health —Astrwin Kumar Choubey

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Unjust act

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Boots on the street" (June 3). The social media was flooded with images of protests in the US against the killing of George Floyd that has engulfed the country. Horrifying images of police using brutal force against peaceful protesters, looters and rioters causing wanton property damage and toxic insults being hurled with abandon emerged. Against this backdrop, one video from Houston, Texas, stood out. Instead of violence or hate, it showcased solidarity and understanding. The video was of a "prayer test" being held in Houston where parishioners of a local church gathered to join hands and pray to bring an end to the troubling events.

The gathering was held in Houston's 3rd Ward Cuney Homes where Floyd grew up, giving it an added significance. At one point during the "prayer test", the White attendees stood opposite to their Black counterparts and knelt down to ask forgiveness for "years and years of racism" from their brothers and sisters. The visuals were powerful, signalling a way out for a just future where stereotyping is replaced by compassion. The video quickly went viral, drawing praise from across the world for it showcased the better side of humanity. This does not mean that there were no doubters. Some saw the ges-

## The better side of humanity

ture at the "prayer test" as pandering and called it cringe-worthy for the way it depicted White people asking for forgiveness for crimes of their ancestors. However, those who chose to call out the video for perpetuating inequality, did not have all the information as shortly after the White parishioners took a knee, their Black counterparts joined them, going down on their knees as well and participated in joint prayer. Though its undeniable that the US has a problem with systemic racism, incidents like these light the way to a better and a more just future.



Jayvedi Lakshmana Rao  
Andhra Pradesh

motivated — many White Americans still believe in racial supremacy. The US Government is often found to denounce instances of discrimination in other countries but its own response to Floyd's death has

been rather tepid. Is the US regressing into the dark days when African-Americans were enslaved? This is indeed an affront to Abraham Lincoln.

TK Nandanani  
Kochi

## Flouting rules

Sir — As the country emerges from a two-month lockdown and with a gradual ease in movement, it has been seen that peo-

ple are not maintaining social distance at market and public places. The dangers of the spread of infection from Delhi to regions in the NCR have increased significantly. Strict guidelines as issued by the Delhi Government to seal the border need to be taken by other State Governments. The Government has relaxed some rules after lockdown 4.0 but this does not mean that people should flout rules. Bypassing the rules will be harmful to all.

Yugal Kishore Sharma  
Faridabad

## Knee-jerk reaction

Sir — There has been a growing rhetoric on social media to boycott Chinese goods and apps. But a groundswell of anti-China opinion may not be enough to take on China for it has a good hold on the Indian market. A sudden ban will badly affect several sectors. We must enhance economic competitiveness and build capacity for innovation to make the shift.

Shambhavi  
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## Chinese are the neo-imperialists

India should not do any appeasement of the Chinese as Chamberlain did towards Hitler but boldly confront them like Winston Churchill



MARKANDEY KATJU

The Chinese Army recently penetrated about four kilometres into Indian territory in the Galwan area of Ladakh. Many people in India may think that this incident was only due to some small misunderstanding about the border between the two countries but that is not so. The incident is part of a much larger imperialist design of the Chinese, so let me explain. In the 1930s-1940s, Nazi German imperialism was the danger to the world and the British and French imperialism. This was because German imperialism was rising and expanding and hence was an aggressive imperialism while British and French imperialism were only defensive. While the latter two nations only wanted to hold on to their colonies, the Nazis wanted to conquer and enslave other countries. Hence the Nazis were the real danger to the world at that time. Similarly, today the real danger to the world is not from the US but from China, because the Chinese are on the road of aggressive expansionism in the world. With their massive industry seeking markets for its goods and with their huge \$3.2 trillion foreign exchange reserve hungrily seeking avenues for profitable investment, the Chinese are today aggressive imperialists and the greatest danger to the world. It is true that they are not expanding militarily like Nazi Germany at the moment but they are aggressively expanding economically by penetrating and undermining the economies of many countries of the world.

In the last decade, Chinese overseas investment has skyrocketed. Today the Chinese are almost everywhere, Asia, Africa, Latin America and of course the US and Europe. Their Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a network of roads, railways, oil pipelines, power grids, ports and other infrastructure projects connecting China with the world. It is aimed at improving infrastructure and connectivity between China and the rest of Eurasia in order to dominate it. China's focus is often on vital infrastructure like ports, for instance, Gwadar in Pakistan, Piraeus in Greece and Hambantota in Sri Lanka, the aim being to get a strategic foothold in these countries.

By selling goods at less than half the price at which the American or European manufacturer can afford to sell (in view of his higher labour cost), the Chinese have destroyed many American and European industries. Now the Chinese are seeking to capture the markets and raw materials in underdeveloped countries by dumping goods at very low prices so as to make the local producers uncompetitive. Pakistan, for instance, is flooded with cheap Chinese goods.

While capturing foreign markets, the Chinese were carefully protecting their own industry by putting high tariffs. It is to be said the credit of US President Donald Trump that he called out the Chinese bluff and bluntly told the Chinese that this strategy won't work. You can't have 25 per cent tariff on import of automobiles into China when the US imposes a tariff of only 2.5 per cent on import of cars into its territory. Trump has imposed tariffs on several Chinese goods and has announced more in the future. To this, the Chinese announced retaliatory tariffs but that will hurt the Americans little. It is well-known that the Chinese have no business ethics and that is why many US and European companies are reluctant to hire Chinese from mainland China as they often commit espionage and steal industrial secrets.

Let us now look at China's economic relations with India. As is well-known, India was a British colony till 1947 and the British policy was broadly to keep India unindustrialised. However, after independence, a certain degree of industrialisation took place in India and we started manufacturing goods which we had to earlier import.

Now the Chinese have, to a certain extent, penetrated our market at the expense of our domestic industries. An article entitled *How Chinese companies are beating India in its own backyard*, published in *The Economic Times*, gives some interesting details. Indo-Chinese trade is heavily skewed in favour of the Chinese. Indian exports to China are to the tune of \$16 billion, mainly of raw materials. But its imports from China are worth \$68 billion, mainly of value added goods like mobile phones, plastics, electrical goods, machinery and its parts. This is typical of the relation between a colony and an imperialist country. Chinese companies use aggressive pricing, State subsidies, protectionist policies and cheap financing. In certain industries, Chinese companies dominate the Indian market, for instance the telecom sector, 51 per cent of which has been captured by the Chinese. Indian homes are full of Chinese goods like fittings, lampshades, tubelights and so on. The Indian Government and the citizens of the country must seriously start opposing Chinese imperialism. To ignore this danger will be behaving like an ostrich, just like Neville Chamberlain who kept thinking that Adolf Hitler was no danger until it was almost too late. Apart from opposing the aggressive Chinese moves at the border, the Indian Government should ban the entry of Chinese goods into the market and get rid of Chinese firms from the country. India should not do any appeasement of the Chinese as Chamberlain did towards Hitler but boldly confront them like Winston Churchill. Appeasement only whets the appetite of the aggressor.

(The writer is a former Judge, Supreme Court of India)

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

YOU WON'T FIND IT (ACCUSATION THAT INDIA LOST DELIBERATELY TO ENGLAND) BECAUSE I HAVE NEVER SAID IT. IT'S TWISTING OF WORDS OR CLICK BAIT.  
—ENGLAND ALL ROUNDER  
BEN STOKES



THEY DID IT. I SAID IT AT THAT TIME AND EVERYONE FELT THE SAME. A PLAYER WHO CAN HIT A SIX OR A FOUR IS DEFENDING THE BALL, YOU JUST KNOW.  
—FORMER PAKISTAN ALL ROUNDER  
ABDUL RAZZAQ

## Opening doors to prosperity

The changes announced in the rules of agriculture marketing might provide women and vulnerable sections easier access to markets but we need a wider social security net and modernisation



ARIJIT DAS

Given the agrarian crisis that the country had been going through, which got exacerbated by the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced 11 measures to boost the farm sector, ranging from the amendment of the Essential Commodities Act to a ₹1 lakh crore fund to boost agriculture infrastructure. The changes announced in the rules of agriculture marketing might provide women and vulnerable sections easier access to markets.

The existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee or APMC Act was planned to protect the interests of the British Government, which wanted to ensure the supply of pure cotton at reasonable prices to the textile mills of Manchester. The first regulated market (Karanja) under the 'Hyderabad Residency Order' was established in 1886 and the first legislation was the Bharat Cotton and Grain Market Act of 1887, which empowered a British Resident to declare any place in the assigned district as a market, for the sale and purchase of agricultural produce and constitute a committee to supervise the regulated markets. In 1928, the Royal Commission on Agriculture proposed a regulation of marketing practices and the establishment of regulated markets. The Government of India prepared a Model Bill in 1938 and circulated it to all the Indian States. It became the guiding force for our APMC Act. So, it is not difficult to infer why the spirit of the APMC Act favours buyers rather than farmers. Of course, some would argue that it allows States to protect the farmers, as procurement is done under the supervision and surveillance of the State. But many mechanisms are available to protect the interests of farmers rather than being discriminatory against them.

The APMC Act designates a few patches as formal procurement centres. Currently, there are only 6,746 pockets in a vast country like ours and this allows limited buyers to purchase from farmers. This is a classic case of State-backed oligopsonistic market structure, in which the number of buyers is small while the number of sellers is large. This gives enough power to buyers to pay the minimum price to farmers. Ironically, the maximum distance between a farmer and the mandi is five kilometres (km) but the field information suggests a minimum of 30-40 km travel for a farmer out to sell his produce. This means the APMC Act not only gives oligopsonistic power to buyers but also creates a geographical monopoly for them.

Further, the small number of APMCs and traders poses a challenge for farmers to sell their produce as they have to wait for days for their turn. This makes some sense for big farmers but not for small producers. Field data from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana shows a minimum of three to five man-day loss for small farmers.

How the proposed changes will help: An independent country should favour the marginalised and protect their interests. This proposed change in agri-marketing rules is a step in that direction. Hopefully, new rules will encourage big aggregators and start-ups to use technology, in a bid to procure directly from farmers. These channels may be existent in pockets but operate informally due to stringent market rules (procurement and cross-border trade). A big push is necessary to bring the changes on the ground.

## “

MOST WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS, ARE ENGAGED IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND DERIVE THEIR LIVELIHOOD FROM ACTIVITIES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, HANDLOOMS AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THESE WOMEN REMAIN AT THE LOWEST END OF THE VALUE CHAIN, WITH THEIR SHARE IN EARNINGS BEING LOW OUT OF MARGINS WHICH ARE EVEN OTHERWISE VERY MINUSCULE. IN THIS CONTEXT, THERE IS SCOPE TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME BY CONTINUING IN THE EXISTING ACTIVITY AND BECOMING ORGANISED AS A COLLECTIVE, SO AS TO POOL THEIR OUTPUT

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The pandemic is an opportunity to deregulate agri-marketing effectively to ensure social distancing. A perfect model of social distancing could be doorstep collection of agri-produce or at least at the village/cluster level. As an experiment, local collection centres were set up in parts of Vidharba region of Maharashtra to procure agri-produce at the doorstep. These also acted as local storage and sorting facilities. All procurement activities were done by women farmers who were otherwise absent in post-harvest management. The process was iterated with tur dal. Calculations show that through this process small farmers save about ₹175 per 50 kg of tur or approximately 10 per cent of its price, which means a marginal farmer can gain up to 10 per cent from doorstep collection. A similar experiment was done in other parts of Maharashtra and other States like Telangana and Karnataka. The outcome in those areas was also on a similar line, of course with a little variation.

Farmers can also minimise wastage in the direct procurement system. For example, a year ago the India Development Foundation (IDF) studied a vegetable value chain in Siddipet in Telangana and found big savings when Big Basket and Reliance Fresh started procuring vegetables directly from the farmers for their shops in Hyderabad. Farmers used to get the order one-day in advance and usually pluck the exact amount and quality of vegetable demanded. These are some out-of-the-box experiments that reveal huge benefits for small and marginal farmers through local collection.

New marketing rules should encourage such initiatives which are resilient in the current context, efficient and pro-farmer.

Gender aspect: The rising participa-

tion of women in farm work in India — a phenomenon commonly referred to as the feminisation of agriculture — is a huge reality now. According to OXFAM 2018, the agriculture sector employs 80 per cent of all economically productive women in India. They comprise 33 per cent of the agricultural labour force and 48 per cent of self-employed farmers. Despite their large contribution, women continue to remain invisible in the rural economy of India. Our critical evaluation suggests that women are acting as non-paid workers in agriculture or any other traditional sector; be it handicraft or weaving. Men are in control when it comes to selling their products to mandis/APMCs or handicrafts to local traders.

A vast majority of women, particularly in rural areas, are engaged in the informal sector and derive their livelihood from activities relating to agriculture, handlooms and artisanal products. Unfortunately, these women remain at the lowest end of the value chain, with their share in earnings being low out of margins, which are even otherwise very minuscule. In this context, there is scope to increase their income by continuing in the existing activity and becoming organised as a collective, so as to pool their output.

Others can be helped by getting them involved in some productive activity that is or can be popularised in the locality, and then selling the output as a group of women producers.

Doorstep selling/localised procurement will be liberating for women farmers. It will open up an opportunity for women farmers to participate in the selling activity and directly deal with the buyers. Our experience shows that exposure to agri-marketing made women aware of the information inputs and

upgrades that could make their work more gainful. It made them receptive to new skills and knowledge on good agriculture practices and agri-markets. Communities witnessed that the traditionally gendered division of agricultural work has changed. Women farmers are more confident, deciding on crop-related activities like the choice of crop, selection of fertiliser, taking loans or even children's education.

Putting Women Self-Help Groups at the forefront: SHGs are a great way of empowering women in villages. However, the sustainability of such groups is a challenge as limited contribution from women and frequent defaults make them fragile. SHGs are formed and get dissolved in a few years. Connecting these SHGs to value chains is a great way to sustain them in the long run. With the changed law, the SHGs now can participate in selling activities effectively, directly contact end-buyers and get a five per cent hike in the value of their produce. This amount is enough to sustain them for most of the year. And more importantly, it will increase activities in SHGs, encouraging women to meet others regularly. It has been observed that once the SHGs are linked to value chains, beneficiaries actively participate in entrepreneurial activities and have a much better understanding of their profits and savings.

In the end, one must understand that changing marketing laws is not a panacea to all of our farm woes. Agriculture is a delicate area which needs continuous attention and care. Reforming a colonial-era marketing practice will definitely help the disadvantaged section of farmers but a wider social security and modernisation of agriculture is needed.

(The writer is Fellow, IDF. The views expressed are personal)



## Trump must create an alternative to the WHO

The US must also ensure that Beijing does not start its 'Health Aid Diplomacy' to fill the leadership vacuum



GAURIE DWIVEDI

US President Donald Trump, who has been a vocal and ardent critic of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) handling of the Coronavirus epidemic and the deferential treatment it meted out to Beijing, finally made good on his threat recently and exited the 72-year-old global body the US had co-founded. The US withdrawal will severely impact the overall functioning of the WHO and there has been concern over the timing of the President's decision as well.

First, it comes at a time when countries continue to see a huge upsurge in cases. Second, global efforts to discover a vaccine have

never been as united as they are right now. The US' efforts to fight or find a cure/drug/vaccine for the Coronavirus, not just on its own soil but around the world, need to further intensify after it chose to exit the WHO. In failing to do so, it will create a leadership vacuum that Beijing will exploit to further cement its position not just as a global alternative to the US but as it possible replacement.

China did so at the time of the initial outbreak when it sent PPEs to Europe, Africa, America, Asia including India, as part of Beijing's 'Mask Diplomacy' despite being accused of deliberately misleading the world. This public relations exercise was part of a larger design where even the pandemic was identified as an opportunity to score points for global supremacy, make big money by selling substandard medical equipment (PPE) and cover up its failure to contain the outbreak.

Xi Jinping projected himself as the world's saviour by sending aid which was a complete eyewash dri-

ven by propaganda. In the first 35 days (March 1-April 5) of the outbreak in Europe, China exported medical equipment worth \$1.45 billion. These were commercial contracts that Chinese companies entered into with nations that were most severely hit by the virus. Agencies like the USAID (United States Agency for International Development), which helped Africa fight the Ebola outbreak in 2016, are not around to help countries fight the Coronavirus this time. Caught up in a deep crisis itself, the US, for the first time since World War-II (WW-II), is not at the forefront of relief and aid measures.

Beijing's propaganda machinery — which aimed to position China as a benign global power, more so in poor CIS countries like Belarus — was helped by the US' virtual absence from the world stage during the pandemic. Beijing is aware that several countries may start viewing it as a friendly power, which would in turn reduce the resistance that Chinese corporations

like Huawei face to also provide fresh impetus to its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative initiative. The US' exit from the WTO raises many questions. How significantly will the WHO's functioning be impacted due to reduced funds? Will the US' exit lead to a reform of the UN and its key agencies like the WHO? Is the announcement a precursor to setting up of an alternate organisation or will the US spearhead all its aid efforts independently? Will Beijing step in to fill the leadership gap left by the US?

The WHO — for all its noble causes, including eradication of polio and other diseases — has an overall budget of \$5.62 billion (2018-2019). Of this, 80 per cent comes from voluntary sources and only 17 per cent comes from assessed sources, with others accounting for the remaining three per cent. In 2019, the US' contribution was \$419 million, which includes \$119 million in assessed and \$300 million in voluntary contributions. The other top donors to the WHO are

the UK, Germany, Japan and the EU. China comes in at number 15. The WHO reports that the US contribution of \$450 million represented nearly 16 per cent of its total revenue in the 2018-2019 biennium and almost a fifth of its programme budget. Compare this to the nearly \$12 billion annual budget of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — the US' leading federal agency for national public health that is working to save American lives. The CDC has over twice the budget of the WHO which has a charter to save all mankind from disease. Clearly, the WHO's role and scope, in spite of its exalted image as the world's leading health agency, is practically limited due to its existing funding constraints.

The US' withdrawal from the agency will impact its functioning to some extent but a part of the gap will be filled by other resources. While the WHO may be further hamstrung in running its programmes across least developed

countries (LDCs) and the developing world, it can be expected to sustain itself, albeit with some interim constraints. This move by the Trump Government appears to be more of political posturing since the President is set to face an election in five months. For the domestic audience, it is an unequivocal expression of displeasure by the US Government indicating that Trump will focus on policies that protect American interests.

The message to the UN is also clear that the US will not watch from the sidelines if its interests are either compromised or not fully addressed by multilateral agencies like the WHO. Reform and course correction is long due for the UN and its agencies and the US' exit from the WHO could be the trigger to undertake those tough reforms, including accountability and transparency from the organisation and its top bosses.

To ensure that the US, as the world's richest country, does not abdicate its responsibility towards

low income and poor countries, Trump should immediately announce substantial increase in resources of the USAID from the present \$2.7 billion to at least \$4 billion. Additional funds should be directed to LDCs in Africa that will be most significantly impacted due to amy budget cuts in WHO projects. It will also ensure that the US will focus on providing aid directly to vulnerable and smaller nations and regain some of the leadership vacuum created since February. It will also ensure Beijing does not start its 'Health Aid Diplomacy'.

Another major fallout of Trump's announcement will be the urgent need for most countries to beef up their health infrastructure and create more capacity. It will be the first time since WW-II that low-income countries will have to almost exclusively rely on their internal strengths to tackle healthcare issues due to greater uncertainty around the WHO's future prospects.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

# Deploying forces to DC shows how to quell protests: Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump on Wednesday took credit for a massive deployment of National Guard troops and federal law enforcement officers to the nation's capital, saying it offered a model to states on how to quell protests nationwide.

Trump argued that the massive show of force was responsible for protests in Washington and other cities turning more calm in recent days and repeated his criticism of governors who have not deployed their National Guard to the fullest.

It was a striking contrast to the harsh crackdowns outside the White House on Monday night, advocated by the president who wanted to make the aggressive action in the nation's capital an example for the rest of the country, a senior White House official said Tuesday.



Protesters reenacted the scene where George Floyd was restrained by police while marching in a solidarity rally calling for justice over the death of George Floyd in New York on Wednesday.

By Republicans. They're run by liberal Democrats." The Defense Department has drafted contingency plans for deploying active-duty military if needed. Pentagon documents reviewed by The Associated Press showed plans for soldiers from an Army division to protect the White House and other federal buildings if the security situation in the nation's capital were to deteriorate and the National Guard could not secure the facilities.

But interest in exerting that extraordinary federal authority appeared to be waning in the White House. Though the crackdown on the Washington demonstrations was praised by some Trump supporters Tuesday, a handful of Republicans expressed concern that law enforcement officers risked violating the protesters' First Amendment rights.

White House. Though the crackdown on the Washington demonstrations was praised by some Trump supporters Tuesday, a handful of Republicans expressed concern that law enforcement officers risked violating the protesters' First Amendment rights.

## Johnson says 'Floyd's death inexcusable'

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says the death of George Floyd was "inexcusable" and he understands why people are protesting.

In his first public comments on the turmoil roiling the US, Johnson told lawmakers "what happened in the United States was appalling, it was inexcusable, we all saw it on our screens and I perfectly understand people's right to protest what took place."

Johnson, who has sought to nurture close ties with President Donald Trump as he leads the UK out of the European union, deflected calls from the opposition to suspend exports of tear gas and rubber bullets to the United States.

## Trump preening and sweeping away all guardrails that have protected US democracy: Biden

Washington: Accusing the US President of fanning the flames of hate for political gain following the custodial killing of George Floyd, Democratic presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden has said that Donald Trump was preening and sweeping away all the guardrails that have long protected the American democracy.

The US is in the midst of the biggest civic unrest in the history of the country following the death of 46-year-old African-American Floyd who was pinned to the ground as a white police officer knelt on his neck, killing him on the spot in Minneapolis on May 25.

Curfew was imposed in several cities on Tuesday as most protests turned violent during the night. In some

## Statue of divisive ex-Philadelphia Mayor Rizzo removed

Workers removed the statue early Wednesday of controversial former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo, which was recently defaced during a protest following George Floyd's death.

As National Guard troops deployed in the wake of recent protests watched, a crane lifted the 10-foot-tall (3-meter-tall) bronze statue and workers shook it from its stand outside the Municipal Services Building, across from City Hall. It was loaded onto the back of a truck.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said he "never liked" the statue Monday and announced a plan to move the statue later this month.

"I can only wait to see it go away," Kenney said.

## Bus strikes roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan, 9 killed

Kabul: A roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday killed nine passengers travelling on a bus near Kandahar province, a spokesman for the provincial governor said.

Another five passengers were wounded in the explosion, said the spokesman, Bashir Ahmadi. The passengers were all civilians travelling from one district to another when the bus hit the bomb.

He said this was the third roadside bombing since a brief cease-fire declared by the Taliban for a major Muslim holiday had ended last month.

The Taliban have not claimed responsibility for any of those attacks but they did say they carried out one attack on Afghan forces since the Eid holiday. The truce was not officially extended but neither of the warring sides appears to want a return to an all-out fighting.

On Tuesday night, a bomb exploded inside a mosque in the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing two people, including the mosque's prayer leader, and wounding eight others.

Also Tuesday, the IS group claimed responsibility for a deadly roadside bombing over the weekend that hit a bus belonging to a local TV station in Kabul, killing at least seven civilians, including a woman and several children.

## Johnson OK's visa plans for 3 mn Hongkongers

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday reiterated the UK's plans for some of the "biggest changes" to the country's visa system in order to allow around three million Hong Kong nationals a path to British citizenship if China does not back off over a new controversial law.

Writing in 'The Times' the UK prime minister said the offer would be triggered only if China presses ahead with the new law which threatens to strip the former British colony of its traditional freedoms.

An estimated 3,50,000 Hongkongers hold British National (Overseas) passports and another 2.5 million would be eligible to apply for them. At present, these BNO passports only allow visa-free access to the UK for up to six months.

national security law, the British government will change our immigration rules and allow any holder of these passports from Hong Kong to come to the UK for a renewable period of 12 months and be given further immigration rights, including the right to work, which could place them on a route to citizenship," writes Johnson.

"This would amount to one of the biggest changes in our visa system in history. If it proves necessary, the British government will take this step and take it willingly," he said.

The offer was laid out by UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in the House of Commons on Tuesday and Johnson stressed that he hopes things don't have to come to it as China risks "inflaming" the situation in Hong Kong with the new law.

## Carrie Lam accuses foreign critics of double standards

Beijing: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam accused foreign critics on Wednesday of displaying "blatant double standards" over moves by Beijing to strengthen control over the semi-autonomous territory.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced earlier that his country is ready to open the door to almost 3 million Hong Kong citizens if China enacts a national security law for the city.

Following talks with officials in Beijing, Lam said China has the same right as the US and Britain to enact legislation protecting its national security and that foreign criticism and threats

## With wins in 7 States, DC, Biden closes in on nomination

Washington: Joe Biden is on the cusp of formally securing the Democratic presidential nomination after winning hundreds more delegates in primary contests that tested the nation's ability to run elections while balancing a pandemic and sweeping local unrest.

Biden could lock down the nomination within the next week as West Virginia and Georgia hold primaries. On Tuesday, voters across America were forced to navigate curfews, health concerns and National Guard troops after election officials dramatically reduced the number of in-person voting sites to minimise the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

"It is within the legitimate jurisdiction of any country to enact laws to protect and safeguard national security. USA is no exception. UK is no exception," Lam said.

## US to suspend flights by Chinese airlines from June 16

The United States on Tuesday ordered the suspension of all flights by Chinese airlines into and out of the country after Beijing failed to allow American carriers to resume service to China.

"US carriers have asked to resume passenger service, beginning June 1st. The Chinese government's failure to approve their requests is a violation of our Air Transport Agreement," the US Transportation Department said in a statement. The suspension order takes effect June 16, but could be implemented sooner if President Donald Trump orders it to be.

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Virus forges rare accord among bitter Venezuelan rivals

Caracas: President Nicolas Maduro and Venezuelan opposition, led by Juan Guaido, have agreed to a measure for battling the new coronavirus to be overseen by international health workers, a first step toward cooperation between bitter political rivals for the benefit of the country.

While focused narrowly on the pandemic response, experts said Wednesday the agreement opens a small window of hope for tackling Venezuela's overarching political stalemate that has left the once-wealthy oil nation in deepening economic and social crisis.

"It's hard to overstate how important this is for Venezuela," said Geoff Ramsey of the Washington Office on Latin America think tank.

"It seems like both Maduro and the opposition are beginning to see that they can't simply sit back with their arms folded and blame the other side."

Venezuelans are increasingly losing patience with the lack of progress in finding a

political solution, he said. Ording, that this agreement could next lead to more badly needed humanitarian assistance and create momentum for negotiations for a political solution to the crisis.

"If they can negotiate a humanitarian accord, the next step would be to negotiate conditions for free and fair elections," Ramsey said.

The one-page agreement signed June 1 says both sides will work in coordination to find funds for fighting the coronavirus. It is signed by Maduro's health minister, Dr Carlos Alvarado, and Dr Julio Castro, who represents the Guaido-led National Assembly.

It was also signed by Dr Gerardo de Cosio, the head of the Venezuela office of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, which will oversee the cooperation.

"This document is, I hope, a step to move forward to a level of collaboration of both sides," Dr De Cosio told the Associated Press.

## Two Pakistani lawmakers die from Covid

Two Pakistani lawmakers died from the novel coronavirus here on Wednesday, a day after a provincial minister succumbed to COVID-19 in the southern Sindh province.

Mian Jamshed Kakakhel, 65, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, died here while undergoing treatment after having tested positive for the coronavirus 10 days ago.

"Mian Jamshed was on ventilator for the last three days and passed away this morning," an official said.

"His son Mian Omar has recovered from coronavirus while other family members have tested negative for it," he added.

Kakakhel was elected from the constituency of PK-63 Nowshera in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018.

Pakistan Muslim League-(Nawaz) MPA from from Gujranwala Shaukat Manzoor Cheema also died after being on ventilator since Eid, Geo News reported.

## Ethnic minorities face higher proportion of lockdown fines, arrests

Scotland Yard on Wednesday released its first set of data from policing action taken to reveal the coronavirus lockdown across London, which reveals a high proportion of ethnic minorities being fined or arrested for breaches.

The Metropolitan Police said it had issued 973 fines, or Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), between March 27 and May 14. Those categorised as Asian, which would include people of Indian origin, received 220 fines reflecting 22.6 per cent of FPNs compared to their 18 per cent share of London's population.

Black people received 253 fines, reflecting 26 per cent of FPNs compared to their 12 per cent share of the UK capital's population. This compares with 444 fines for those categorised as White British, making up 45.6 per cent of the FPNs while making up 59 per cent of London's population.

"When compared with the composition of the resident population, higher proportions of those in black and minority ethnic (BAME) groups were issued with FPNs or arrested across London as a whole," the Met Police admitted.

## Italy reopens to tourists from Europe

Rome: Italy reopened to travellers from Europe on Wednesday, three months after the country went into coronavirus lockdown, with all hopes pinned on reviving the key tourism industry as the summer season begins.

Gondolas were ready to punt along Venice's canals, lovers will be able to act out "Romeo and Juliet" on Verona's famed balcony, and gladiator fans can pose for selfies at Rome's Colosseum.

But there were fears many foreign tourists would be put off coming to a country still shaking off a vicious pandemic.

"Come to Calabria. There's only one risk: that you'll get fat," the southern regions' governor in Jole Santoro said on Sunday as the race began to lure big spenders -- or any spenders -- back to Italy's sandy shores.

Italy was the first European country to be hit hard by the coronavirus and has officially reported more than 33,000 deaths.

It imposed an economically crippling lockdown in early March and has since seen its contagion numbers drop off dramatically.

## Yemen programmes fighting virus might stop by end of June, warns UN

Cairo: The United Nations warned on Wednesday that its programmes to fight the coronavirus in war-torn Yemen might have to stop by the end of the month unless they get an immediate injection of cash.

The warning comes a day after a UN appeal for countries to fund emergency aid in the Arab world's poorest nation fell a billion dollars short of what aid agencies needed -- USD 2.41 billion -- to cover essential activities from June to December.

"This will severely handicap efforts to contain the outbreak, which is already spreading rapidly," said Hayat Abu Saleh, a spokesperson for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

At least 31 major UN programmes in Yemen, covering essentially every sector, from food to health care and nutrition, were at a "serious risk of significant reduction or closure," she said.

The coronavirus is threatening to decimate Yemen's health care system, already ravaged by more than five years of civil war.

## Around the Globe

Islamabad: Pakistan has reported a record 4,132 fresh cases of the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of infections to 80,463, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

Madrid: Spain's national statistics body says nearly 44,000 more cases of coronavirus were reported beginning of 2020 than in the same period a year earlier -- an increase of 24%.

Singapore: Coronavirus cases in Singapore crossed the 36,000-mark on Wednesday as 569 new cases were reported. Many workers living in dormitories, were confirmed, a day after low-risk businesses resumed operations with the end of the two-month long "circuit-breaker" period.

Berlin: Germany's government says "It can't be a travel warning for European countries on June 15 -- but it may still advise against travel in some cases, for example to Britain if quarantine rules there remain in place.

Seoul: South Korea has reported 49 new cases, continuing a waning resurgence that has alarmed a nation where millions of children have begun returning to school. The figures announced by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday brought national totals to 11,590 cases and 273 deaths.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Saazdaa Parveen W/o Md. Salim R/o H.No. H-221, J.J. Colony, Shakurpur, New Delhi. Age : 18 years, 4 Months, Height : 5'2", Face : Round, Complexion : Sallow, Build : Medium, wearing light blue colour suit, yellow colour salwar, red colour dupatta and green colour chapprie in feet, has been missing since 25.04.2020 from her house from the area of P.S. Subhash Place, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 12-A dated 26.04.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/ Kidnapped woman may kindly inform to the following:-  
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Website: http://cbi.nic.in  
Fax: 24368639  
Tel.: 24368638/24368641  
SHO : P.S. Subhash Place, New Delhi  
Tel. No. : 011-27356336

### SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Neetu W/o Suresh R/o H.No. G-691, J.J. Colony, Sawda, Delhi Age : 30 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Identification: A tattoo of Star on right hand, wearing pink colour full sleeves suit-Salwa and ladies hawai chappie in feet, has been missing since 30.04.2020 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 43-A dated 30.04.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/ Kidnapped woman may kindly inform to the following:-  
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Website: http://cbi.nic.in  
Fax: 24368639  
Tel.: 24368638/24368641  
SHO : P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-25951485, 25951486

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody male name Age : 40 years, Height : 5'7", Complexion : Sallow, Identification : One tattoo mark of heart with arrow on the dorsal of right hand, wearing only grey colour lower (one sky blue colour shirt, one pair of slippers and one white towel found near body) was found dead on 24.05.2020 at 300 ft road, near underpass, agriculture land, village Bakkarwala, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 08-A dated 24.05.2020 has been lodged at PS Mundka, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone number:-  
SHO - P.S. Mundka, Delhi.  
Tel. No. 011-28352010, 28352011

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 35-40 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Sallow, Build : Thin, Face : Long, wearing blue colour lower, was found dead on 31.05.2020 in front of D-Addiction Centre, Near P.S. Kotwali, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 13-A dated 31.05.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The dead body was preserved for 72 hours for identification in the mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-  
SHO : P.S. Kotwali, Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-23977100, 8750870121

# NIFTY RECLAIMS 10K-MARK SENSEX CLIMBS 284 PTS

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The Sensex climbed 284 points while the Nifty finished above the 10,000-mark on Wednesday as risk-on sentiment remained in full gear amid supportive global cues.

Banking and finance counters saw heavy demand, helping the benchmarks close in the green for the sixth straight session. After hitting a peak of 34,488.69, the 30-share BSE Sensex shed some gains in the afternoon to finish at 34,109.54, up 284.01 points or 0.84 per cent.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty jumped 82.45 points or 0.83 per cent to end at 10,061.55. The index closed above the crucial 10,000-level for the first time since March 11, 2020.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, following 4.82 per cent, spurred by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI, Nestle India, ICICI Bank, ONGC and HDFC Bank. On the other hand, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and Hero MotoCorp were among the laggards, slipping up to 2.12 per cent.

Global markets soared to three-month highs as investors cheered the gradual reopening of economies the world over, even as the rising coronavirus cases and US-China tensions remained an overhang.

The domestic markets were also aided by robust foreign



## Global stock markets continue to rise as economies reopen

**AP ■ TOKYO**

Global stock markets rose Wednesday, extending three days of gains, as more economies reopened from shutdowns they had imposed to stem the coronavirus pandemic.

Asian indexes closed higher and European markets were up in midday trading, while Wall Street futures pointed to gains on the open in the US.

"The theme of reopening optimism has its stronghold on markets going into the mid-week," said Jingyi Pan,

market strategist for IG in Singapore. So far, the markets' momentum has not been derailed by the wave of protests across the US.

That began last week in Minneapolis after a black man, George Floyd died with a Minneapolis police officer choking off his air. President Donald Trump has threatened to send troops to quell the unrest.

Investors appear to be focused on hopes that the worst of the pandemic downturn has passed, or will soon, as Governments slowly lift the restrictions that

fund inflows, analysts said. On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors bought equities worth ₹7,498.29 crore on Tuesday, previous exchange data showed.

The buoyancy of the global markets triggered gap up opening and it traded range-bound thereafter. However, profit-taking in the last hour trimmed the gains. Amid all, Nifty reclaimed 10,000 mark and settled above the hurdle of 10,050 as well.

"Mixed trend was witnessed amongst the sectoral indices wherein sectors like metal, banking, and capital goods were the top gainers while sectors like IT and telecom ended in the red," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

BSE realty, bank, finance, capital goods, and auto goods, durables indices rallied up to 3.07 per cent, while telecom, power, tech and IT shed up to 0.95 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices surged up to 1.24 per cent. Meanwhile, India's service sector activities declined sharply in May as the coronavirus pandemic continued to impair business operations, restrict consumer footfall at shops and resulted in job losses, PMI data showed on Wednesday.

On the currency front, the rupee surrendered all intra-day gains to provisionally settle 11 paise lower at 75.47 against the US dollar.

## AMRAPALI CASE

# ED: Morgan used sham deals, shell firms to 'launder homebuyers' funds

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Employees of JP Morgan India Ltd, who were on the board of various Amrapali real estate group companies, "laundered" deposits worth ₹187 crore of homebuyers and "diverted" them to the multi-national financial advisory firm's entities based in Mauritius and Singapore under Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh, who was present in the court, to take action against JP Morgan under the anti-money laundering law and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The top court had first cracked the whip in July last year on errant builders for breaching the trust of home buyers and ordered cancellation of Amrapali Group's registration under the real estate law RERA and ousted it from its prime properties in the national capital region by nixing the land leases.

The ED probe in the case found the role of "shell companies" and "dummy directors" in the perpetration of the alleged money laundering crime.

"It is revealed in the PMLA investigations that the employees of JP Morgan India Ltd on board of Ms Amrapali Zodiac Developers P Ltd and Ms Amrapali Silicon City P Ltd were not only in complete control of the material decision of

which it described the modus operandi of the company to allegedly launder the hard-earned money of homebuyers who wanted to purchase an abode in Amrapali real estate projects.

The apex court, which is monitoring this case, had in December last year directed the ED and its Lucknow zone Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh, who was present in the court, to take action against JP Morgan under the anti-money laundering law and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

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The ED probe in the case found the role of "shell companies" and "dummy directors" in the perpetration of the alleged money laundering crime.

"It is revealed in the PMLA investigations that the employees of JP Morgan India Ltd on board of Ms Amrapali Zodiac Developers P Ltd and Ms Amrapali Silicon City P Ltd were not only in complete control of the material decision of

and the respective companies and securing interests of the funds but they also indulged prima facie in money laundering to divert the home buyers' funds to the tune of ₹187 crore to JP Morgan India Property Mauritius and Ms JP Morgan IPF-1 Singapore 2 PTE Ltd in Singapore," the agency said in its affidavit that was accessed by PTI.

The employees have been identified as Gunjan Bahl, Hrushikesh Kar and Chanakya Chakravarty.

The agency said the Mauritius company "was an active participant in the conspiracy from the very outset" and that JP Morgan India "played a key role in the remittance of diverted funds of the home buyers to Mauritius and Singapore."

These employees of JP Morgan India P Ltd, it said, serving on the board of Directors of Amrapali Zodiac Developers P Ltd "got arranged the cash flow in the company through funds arranged from other companies of Amrapali group, diversion of the funds of the home buyers, staged valuation of shares, creation of shell companies with dummy directors and sham transactions to finally get accrued about ₹140 crore to JP Morgan India Property Mauritius and Company II."

## India saves ₹5,000 crore on filling strategic oil reserves

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India has saved ₹5,000 crore in foreign exchange after it capitalised on the global low oil prices to fill its underground strategic oil reserves.

India's strategic oil reserves in 2019-20 entered into a long-term contract for sourcing crude oil from the USA.

It also signed a first-ever term contract for importing 2 million tonnes of Urals grade crude oil from Rosneft of Russia in 2020, the Ministry. "First Russian cargo of 2 million barrels under the contract was received by IOC at Paradip on April 8, 2020," it said.

In just over two years, bilateral hydrocarbon trade with US increased from almost negligible in 2017 to 11 per cent of total two-way trade, it said. "US is the 6th largest source of crude oil imports while India has become the 4th largest export destination for the US crude," it however, did not give details of the trade.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve entity of India (SRPL) built the underground storages at Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Government, state-owned oil firms were in April asked to buy import oil when global rates fell to a two-decade low.

"Taking advantage of low crude prices due to the COVID-19 situation, India filled its strategic reserves to full capacity," the ministry said in a tweet adding this led to a fore saving of ₹5,000 crore. Oil prices globally had slumped after coronavirus pummeled demand.

The storages at Mangalore and Padur were half-empty and there was some space available in Visakhapatnam well. These were filled by buying oil from Saudi Arabia, the

## WEF Davos summit to focus on 'The Great Reset' in 2021; will be open to all online

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI/GENEVA**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) will adopt a new twin-summit format for its next annual Davos meeting in January 2021, by bringing together leaders from across the globe for in-person as well as virtual dialogues with a theme of "The Great Reset".

The gathering of the world's rich and powerful, held every year in the Swiss ski resort town, will also open doors virtually for everyone across the world online and through a network of more than 400 hubs globally.

The 50th WEF Annual Meeting, which was held from January 21-24, 2020, was one of the last high-profile gatherings this year before the coronavirus pandemic brought almost the entire world to a halt.

In a statement, Geneva-based WEF said its 51st Annual Meeting will again bring together global leaders from governments, business and civil society, and stakeholders from around the world, but this time in a unique configuration of both in-person and virtual dialogues. "The Great Reset" will be the theme of this unique twin summit in January 2021, it added. The WEF, which

describes itself as an international organisation for public-private partnership, said "The Great Reset" is a commitment to jointly and urgently build the foundations of economic and social systems for a more fair, sustainable and resilient future.

"It requires a new social contract centred on human dignity, social justice and where societal progress does not fall behind economic development," it said.

The WEF said the global health crisis has laid bare longstanding ruptures in economies and societies, and created a series of challenges that urgently requires decent, meaningful jobs.

The twin summit in January 2021 will be both in-person and virtual, connecting key global governmental and business leaders in Davos with a global multi-stakeholder network in 400 cities around the world for a forward-oriented dialogue driven by the younger generation. These will include cities in India, among other countries. The announcement of "the great reset" summit was made by the Prince Charles of Wales and WEF founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab during a virtual meeting.

## Only 5% Asia Pacific infra firms highly exposed to Covid-19 disruptions: Moody's

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Only 5 per cent of the rated project and infrastructure companies in Asia Pacific have high exposure to coronavirus disruptions, Moody's Investor Service said on Wednesday.

Pressure has eased for Chinese toll roads, while a small number of utilities face moderate exposure, it said. A high proportion (67 per cent) of rated project and infrastructure companies in Asia Pacific continue to have low exposure to the coronavirus-related disruptions, supported by their essential nature and predictable cashflows, Moody's Investors Service said in a statement.

The number of companies with high exposure has reduced in recent months, particularly the Chinese toll road sector following the end of the toll-free period and with recovering traffic volumes, said Arnon Musker, senior vice president and manager at Moody's.

Airports now make up

most of the high exposure category, it said. Whereas Moody's in April estimated 9 per cent of project and infrastructure companies had high exposure to coronavirus disruptions, this number has now declined to 5 per cent.

"On the other hand, a small number of power utilities now have moderate exposure to coronavirus disruption, given rising pressure from falling power prices and low demand, which is only partly offset by lower fuel costs," the statement said.

Following the reclassification of these toll roads and utilities, the number of companies with moderate exposure has increased to 28 per cent from 23 per cent in April.

"Moreover, a limited number of projects with exposure to commodity risk - particularly energy-related - also face rising challenges following the recent material fall in oil, gas and coal prices," Musker said.

## UJVN Limited

**Date Extension Notice-03**  
The date of submission & opening of the tender No. 02/EE/Gen/JCHILLATN/2019-20 is hereby extended as, Last Date & Time for submission of : June 11, 2020 Upto 17:00 Hrs Bidding in the e-Portal Last Date & Time of Submission of hard copies : June 11, 2020 Upto 17:00 Hrs Date & Time of Opening of Tender : June 12, 2020 At 11:00 Hrs. In the portal For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in". Executive Engineer (Gen), Chilla Power House, Chilla Power House, Chilla Power House, Chilla Power House.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Aged : About 48 years, Face : Oval, Height : 165cm, Complexion : Sallow, Build : Thin, wearing blue colour shirt and black colour trouser, was found unconscious on 26.05.2020 outside of gynae department, Safdarjung hospital, he was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi vide MLC No. 153864-20. Where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard a DD No. 17-A dated 26.05.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on following address or telephone nos. SHO : P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi Tel. No. : 011-24106345, 24106346 DP/153/SW/20

## NORTHERN RAILWAY "Notice"

Sub : Sh. Rahul Yadav S/o Sh. Ram Charan/poitsman/DEE/Delhi division/Northern Railway address: No. 187-B, Railway colony, basant lane, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055

You are running absent w.e.f. 23.09.2017 without any information to this office. Please report within 10 days of publication of this notice to this office of the under signed, otherwise administration will be bound to take ex-parte decision/removal from the service.

1252/2020 DOM/Chg/DLL

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## HARYANA AWARDS

OUTSTANDING SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Applications are invited from individuals/institutions under "State Awards for Outstanding Services in the Field of Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse" Scheme for the year 2020-21. 1st, 1st and 2nd prizes are Rs. 50,000/-, Rs. 30,000/- and Rs. 20,000/- respectively.
- Awards Categories**
- **Best Drug De-addiction Centre** - Providing services to alcoholics & drug users
- **Best Panchayati Raj Institution** - Working for prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse
- **Best Municipal Body** - Working for prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse
- **Best School** - For outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse
- **Best College** - For outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse
- **Best Quotative Campaign** - open category
- **Best Awareness Campaign** - open category
- **Outstanding Individual Achievement** - by a Professional
- **Outstanding Individual Achievement** - by a Non-Professional

Interested individuals/institutions/Organizations may apply along with complete data as well as certificate/evidence of achievement to the District Social Welfare Officer at their district along with all enclosures, by a 4pm on or before 20.06.2020. Details of conditions can be obtained from District Social Welfare Officer concerned. DIRECTOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA RO NO. 81115/D-02-06-2020

## 5paisa.com announces hikes, advance bonuses for employees

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Across pay cuts and layoffs broker 5paisa.com on Wednesday announced salary hikes of up to 15 per cent and advance bonus pay-outs to boost employee morale.

The move is also aimed at helping employees tide over the difficult times amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the country's only listed discount broker said in a statement.

As the startup ecosystem undergoes revenue losses and client attrition, 5paisa.com had a good quarter recently in terms of client addition, continues the streak of business growth in the April-June period so far, it added.

Company said it on-boarded over 1.2 lakh customers in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2019-20.

Within a span of four years, 5paisa.com has become a well-managed fintech firm with focus on efficient cost management and advanced technology. While we face uncertainties, we are also aligning ourselves to prioritise on employee benefits," the company's CEO Gaganani said.

## Govt of Bihar DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL & FISHERIES RESOURCES DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, BIHAR, PATNA TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 and 2021-22

Sealed tenders are invited (for selection of firms and rate fixation) under two-bid system from reputed MANUFACTURER with strong market standing and having an in-house Research and Development (R&D) facility duly registered with Department of Science and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India (Relaxable for SE unit of Bihar or Govt. undertaking/Govt. Enterprises) alongwith valid registration of the product and appropriate license for manufacturing or from their Authorized distributors/Authorized agencies/Authorized representatives in conformity with details contained in tender documents for "Tender for Supply of Veterinary Medicines - 2020-21 and 2021-22" for Animal Husbandry Directorate, Bihar, Patna as per the specifications mentioned in detailed tender document.

The interested manufacturers and their authorized distributors/authorized agencies/authorized representatives are required to submit the technical and financial bid separately for items (Veterinary Medicines) which intend to supply and then these two envelopes are to be put in one common envelope superscribed "Tender for supply of Veterinary Medicines - 2020-21 and 2021-22". Bids should be submitted in the office of the Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar, New Secretariat, Vikas Bhawan, Patna-800015 by dropping in prescribed tender box or by Registered post by on or before 01.00 PM on 26.06.2020. The bid received after due date and time will not be entertained whatsoever may be the reason. The technical bids should be opened on the same day at 04:15 PM in the office of the Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar. In the event of the above mentioned date being declared as a holiday, the tenders will be received and opened on the very next working day at the scheduled / appointed time. The date of opening of financial bid of technically qualified agencies will be announced later.

The detailed tender notice and tender document containing technical bid form, financial bid form, technical description/ specification and terms & conditions can be downloaded from official website of the Department at [www.ahd.bic.in](http://www.ahd.bic.in). The amount of bid security (EMD) as mentioned in the detailed tender document should be paid by Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee of any scheduled bank in favour of Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar, payable at Patna and will be placed in cover-1 with technical bid.

The authority reserves the right to reject / cancel any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason therefor.

Any legal dispute is subject of Patna jurisdiction only. Any further clarification and/or corrigendum(s) shall be communicated through Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar, Patna on the departmental website [www.ahd.bic.in](http://www.ahd.bic.in). For future details please visit website [www.pdrbhar.gov.in](http://www.pdrbhar.gov.in)

**Director, Animal Husbandry Bihar, Patna.**

PR. 001833 (Animal) 2020-21

104

## Trend & Slazer

### Bhumi launches anti-spitting campaign

**BHUMI PEDNEKAR** is a socially conscious star who has come forward strongly to raise awareness on Coronavirus during this lockdown. The versatile actor is now urging the entire nation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic through an anti-spitting campaign that aims to educate people.

The actor says, "We have to defeat Coronavirus and everyone has to join hands. Leave the habit of spitting. Currently, our country is under the threat of Corona and the fatal disease spreads even by spitting."

**'I am not my child's friend and don't think I need to be. I am his parent and why can't I be a friendly parent and have a great time together. There are certain things he will speak with his father, with his aunts, with his friends, with his grandparents, there needs to be an outlet for healthy relationships.'**

—**Sonali Bendre**

Actor **MALAIKA ARORA** has shared her various stages of lockdown in a hilarious new post on social media.

She took to Instagram, and she shared a photo collage of four images of herself. In the first picture, Malaika is seen playing with her hair, the second features her flaunting flawless skin, the third picture has her hair on her face and in the fourth she is seen lying in bed.

"My various stages of lockdown... #stayhomestaysafe #staysane," Malaika captioned the image.

### Tom builds Corona-free village

Hollywood star **TOM CRUISE** is reportedly planning to build a 'coronavirus-free village for the cast and crew of Mission: Impossible 7 so that they can complete the shoot of the film without contracting the virus.

"Cruise is planning to create a makeshift village at an abandoned RAF site in Oxfordshire. It is being reported that the actor and producer along with his A-list cast will stay in VIP Winnebago trailers so they can protect the crew from catching Coronavirus," said a source.

Everybody has their own vision of what a happy home filled with love looks like. However, this year more than the past ones, we have been practically forced to spend more time confined to our houses. Earlier, we believed that life would bounce back to normal but now are learning to live with the virus in order to survive and embrace the new conditions. So it is time to redesign our houses to fit the needs of the current times, where safety against diseases, is the prime focus. Adeeta Sawhney from Altus Interio says "This is the time where we have no option but to stay home. So, we need to make relevant changes, especially in the areas where we spend a lot of time like the kitchen, bedroom, living area and bathroom. They would need a change to begin with." On the other hand interior designer Punam Kalra, creative director of I'M the Centre says, "We have been reminded that our lifestyle is nothing but an artefact and hence it's essential to embrace the green movement by shifting our focus to biophilia and easy to recycle elements like wood, vegetable fibre, jute, sisal, hemp, stone, metal, terracotta and many more. We have to also become more sensitive to the sourcing of our materials, the manufacturing process and the end design, so that our interiors are environment conscious, heart-felt and inspiring."

Since there is a stronger focus now on cleanliness and sanitation, there will be emphasis on incorporating uncomplicated, easy to maintain and innovative surfaces within the house for easy upkeep in the future. "The role of interiors has always been to aid the daily routines and lifestyle of the inhabitants. It can't build immunity on its own, but provides its users with a safe space and convenience to successfully achieve it," says Kalra.

"This intimate relationship between spaces and the human experience needs new terminology like immunity assisting décor, modern essentialism, interior hygiene and resilient interiors."

#### HEALTHY INTERIOR

Curtains and carpets are always integral part of interior décor. But they also attract dust which is harmful, especially during these times. "These are essential part of the décor which we can't remove from organic fibres. But now we have to choose light and natural fabrics which are easier to clean on a daily basis. The upholstery should be in distinctive, natural fabrics like linen or silk, bamboo mats, and woven rugs which can add an organic feel of luxury and intimacy," says Sawhney.

Curtain are essential to maintain our privacy and make the interiors look beautiful. Interior designers, Pooja and Arbaysy Ashley, co-founders of Ashley, say "Curtain fabrics can be coated with special technology to make them easy to maintain. Anti-microbial coating can be used on any upholstery and carpets too. These make the furnishing more hygienic. Rather than curtains one can opt for tech-based switchable glass films too which can be used over any glass surface. These technologically advanced films can be dimmed by a wave of hand, voice or by a remote. These can even be used to automatically change the intensity of opacity depending upon sunlight."

Our home is our safe haven and a healthy interior is all about eco-friendliness. The world is now realising the importance of designing spaces which



## BRING OUTSIDE INSIDE

Clean lines, uncomplicated easy-to-maintain and innovative surfaces will dominate homes in the future, says **PRİYANKA JOSHI**

connect well with our state of mind while creating a balance between our physical and mental health. Sawhney says, "This is the time to choose environment-friendly options for our houses. For instance, we can use all natural fabric for sofa and other covers, bamboo chairs and tables, indoor plants, wooden furniture and natural lights. Secondly, we can use energy saving devices like eco-friendly kitchen appliances and solar lights."

#### INVOKE EMOTIONS

Using a combination of colour in décor means introducing various shades of emotions. The work from home culture brings in the opportunity to reimagine both, how we live and how we work, as colours can influence our moods and thoughts. Kalra says, "A combination of materials, patterns, textures and colours within a space will be necessary to create an interesting and inspiring ambience, that is also acoustically sound, multi-functional, easy to maintain and comfortable." Colour can also be added in the form of wallpaper, photographs, memorabilia and big art work, used as feature walls, statement ceiling finishes, wall art and installations.

"Bold and dramatic, or soft and understated, or an eccentric mix of the two; the freshly coloured walls, ceilings and furniture immediately make the interiors look new. The Pantone Colour of the year — classic blue — paired with earthy and neutral tones, highlighted with bolder shades like orange and terracotta create an elegant and artistic ambience. Pastel and muted shades of pink, green and lilac give the space a hint of cheery pop and modern vintage glamour. Adding deep forest tones to the upcycled furniture creates a fresh natural look. Nature-inspired motifs and vivid colours like mauve, black, purple and yellow in wallpapers, tiles and



statement accessories create a vibrant interior," says Kalra.

#### SPACE MANAGEMENT

With homes doubling up as offices a dedicated space to work in may become the new trend. Pooja and Arbaysy said, "People have learnt that working from home is a possibility and more people may engage in it. It may be more advisable to look at furnishing options which are natural and comfortable to body contact and health as you spend longer hours at home. Quieter spaces with sound absorption and soundproofing are going to be important."

Since we might be spending more time at home in the future, our private spaces need to change in their fundamental use. We need to make more space for daily activities like exercising and soaking in the sun, create dedicated work spaces and accessible healing areas which facilitate easy disinfection and natural ventilation.

The existing spaces have to be decluttered and reorganised to accom-

modate new open furniture layouts, personal working and relaxation corners which can be conveniently sterilised at the entrance. These areas also need to incorporate minimal exposed surfaces, clean forms, hygienic surface treatments like brass and copper and more automation with touchless technology like automatic doors, motion-sensor lights and temperature control. Kalra says, "The dedicated space should be inspiring, well-lit and quiet. Personalising a small corner with comfortable furniture and chic accessories like lamps, small planters, vibrant art, tea coasters, speakers and cosy rugs, throws and cushions, can create an ideal work environment. The colour tones and materials can be balanced with a healthy dose of neutrals and wood, along with bolder accent colours and highlight accessories, while also ensuring minimal clutter and visual conflict of the arrangement."

In a small space choose a corner in your living room or bedroom to create a compact desk so that it does not occupy too much of floor area. Create space

#### THINGS TO DO

Convert the rooms into art galleries, libraries and personal memoirs.

Creating orderly yet more personalised and intimate spaces within the home is required. Sculptures, artwork, books and photographs, can be stitched together scrupulously to create new mood boards and spatial arrangements. Refreshed in moderation, *avant garde* rugs can be used as wall art and rugged woven fabric as throws, while paintings and installations can be create a statement wall, or even a ceiling. Grouping similar objects in clusters of three further creates a natural symmetry and a sense of luxury within the space.

#### GREEN FINGERS

A mix of modern aesthetic planters and recycled household items like old ceramics and glass jars, can be upcycled to create an interesting green space. Huge corner planters are a calm and lively highlight, while smaller succulents and bonsai plants make the space look lush and delicate. Simple vases with fresh flowers, along with lamps, poufs, Ottomans, benches, bean bags, coffee tables and artwork add a dreamy, charming, cozy and relaxing look.

#### NOVEL FURNITURE

Furniture in natural materials, with accessories in macramé, rattan and wicker add an effortless charm to the space. Reclaimed furniture, designed with a skillful use of lines, forms and artwork, paired with upcycled experimental accessories, in a combination of modern bio-synthetic and recyclable materials, radiate an affable, ultra-modern vibe. Soft curves and solid, rounded, irregular shapes, along with sharper geometric shapes, expressed in furniture, pillows, prints, modern artwork, contemporary accessories and statement lighting create an edgy and mesmerising interiors.

Bringing in the decorative glory of maximising with an understated expression, subtle metallic details in rose gold, copper, steel, tin and brass, with delicate surface finishing like patina, rust, mercury glass, give a raw and intimate textural feel to the décor. These details can be added in the form of discreet upholstery patterns, lustrous metallic fabrics, lighting details, sleek furniture details, crockery, wall hangings and screens for a more dramatic space with an enhanced ornamental look.

—Punam Kalra

for your pens, pencils and other paraphernalia along with some small potted plants. Decorate the wall behind the desk with inspirational quotes and miniature artworks.

Sachin Gupta from Beyond designs says, "By choosing a sofa that will double up as a bed whenever needed, a centre table with storage and floating shelves on the wall for your memorabilia and accessories, the living room can have space for all essentials with minimal furniture. Similarly, you should go for furniture pieces that also offer storage in all rooms so that you can do without separate storage units that occupy precious floor space."

## No boundaries for toxins

Discovery and Discovery Plus will showcase *The Story of Plastic* on World Environment Day.

It focusses upon man-made pollution and its worldwide effects

This World Environment Day, June 5, Discovery, Discovery HD and recently launched Discovery Plus app will showcase, *The Story of Plastic*, a look at the man-made crisis of pollution and the effect it has on our planet and the people that inhabit it. Spanning three continents, the film illustrates the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash; rivers and seas clogged with waste; and skies choked with the poisonous emissions from plastic production and processing.

It features interviews with experts and activists on the frontlines of the fight, revealing the disastrous consequences of the flood of plastic smothering ecosystems and poisoning communities around the world — and the global movement rising up in response. With engaging original animation, archival industry footage starting in the 1930s and first-person accounts of the unfolding emergency, the film distills a complex problem that is increasingly affecting the planet and its residents' well-being.

"The issues highlighted in the film illuminate how the decisions made locally can affect us globally. We are eager to highlight the solutions laid out in the film that will help make our world a cleaner and healthier place to live in," says Nancy Daniels, chief brand officer, Discovery and



Factual.

"It was always a priority for us to find the film a home that would amplify the important messages and voices," states filmmaker Deia Schlosberg. "I have been passionate about this issue for over 10 years. *The Story of Plastic* showed us the truth of what plastic is doing to our planet," explains co-executive producer and award-winning musician Jackson Browne.

It shines a light on the environmental damage and human rights abuses that occur throughout the life cycle of plastic — not just once it's disposed off. The message around plastic has, for decades, been controlled by its producers, who have deliberately focussed on waste. The film reveals how the plastics' industry is simultaneously blaming consumers for pollution and aggressively investing to produce more single-use plastic than

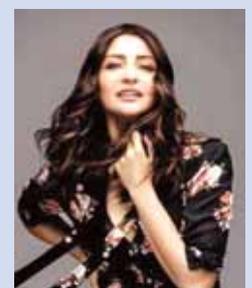
ever before. It highlights, that while cleanup is important, the real solution lies in stopping the mass production of plastic in the first place. "The crisis doesn't start when the plastics enter the ocean. It starts when the oil and the gas leave the wellhead, and it keeps on being a problem at every step along the way," says film subject Carroll Muffett of Centre for International Environmental Law.

Beyond illuminating the nature of the crisis, the film also puts the spotlight on the global resistance and network of every-day heroes working internationally to combat this urgent problem, including Charlie Moore (Algalita Marine Research & Education) who discovered the North Pacific Garbage Patch, Ellen and Elise Gerhart of Pennsylvania who protested the construction of a fracked gas pipeline through their family's property and Yvette Arellano (Texas

Environmental Justice Advocacy Services), who supports communities sitting at the fence-line of the petrochemical corridor along the Gulf Coast.

*The Story of Plastic* forcefully identifies a pressing global challenge which first surfaced around 15 years ago. It highlights how the actions of one group can affect not only their world but that of their neighbours on the other side of the globe too. As activist Shibu K Nahir explains, "Look at our globe: it's a water world... So if you imagine that we are in a womb filled with water, whatever I do here is going to affect every single life form on this earth... Whether a person in Europe or US or India or Africa or Philippines, it's a life... We need to bring in that kind of a spirit of unity across boundaries, because these toxins do not understand political boundaries."

## Anushka urges strict hygiene



Anushka Sharma has come forward to raise awareness on the need to maintain hygiene and sanitation during the pandemic. She is urging people to stop open defecation and is making them aware of the health hazard associated with it. The *Swachh Bharat Mission* and the new campaign aims to tell the citizens that the COVID-19 crisis can be curbed through strict sanitation.

"When women all over the country had decided that they would educate everyone on the lesson of close the door, shut the disease, no one had thought that their initiative would turn into such a huge wave. Today, we all have to remember that and remind others about the lesson of cleanliness."

She urges her fellow citizens by saying, "If we take care of cleanliness around us, by not defecating in the open, we will keep ourselves healthy and India clean. We will become strong to fight against any kind of disease. Drive the disease out of the country by stopping defecating in the open and closing the toilet door at all times."

# NOTCH HIGHER

The government of Rajasthan and its Department of Information and Public Relations primarily have set new dimensions in fighting the pandemic



DIPR Commissioner and Special Secretary, Mahendra Soria

In the ongoing fight against Coronavirus, all departments of Rajasthan Government played a vital role. The main Corona warriors were doctors, paramedical staff, police, district administration, revenue officers, teachers, sanitation staff, media personnel newspaper hawkers, NGOs and philanthropists.

When people of the entire state were sitting at home, scared of coming in contact with the virus, these corona warriors were busy treating people (doctors and paramedical staff), maintaining law and order (police), making people abide by the lockdown guidelines and helping people by addressing their problems (administrative personnel, teachers, revenue officers and others), maintaining cleanliness (sanitation staff), delivering news through newspapers and electronic media and distributing newspapers (media personnel and hawkers), helping people stuck due to lockdown by providing food and water (NGOs) and helping the society by providing food, sanitiser and masks (philanthropists).

In the government departments, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) was silently playing its role and was keeping people of the state and media informed about the developments of the state government including the announcements and decisions through various platforms.

According to DIPR Minister, Dr Raghu Sharma, the department was



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

quite alert and gave every piece of government information to the people through press releases, advertisements in newspapers, social media posts and electronic media through scripts on television channels and jingles on FM radios.

The department also arranged 11 video conferences (VCS) of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot with media and his interviews with national and regional media including print and electronic. Media veterans believe that 11 daily VCs with media is perhaps a historic initiative.

After the first Corona positive case was reported in Jaipur on March 2, the DIPR immediately sprang to action to make people aware about this pandemic. Till now, more than 50 advertisements have been published in newspapers starting from March 5. "The decisions taken by Gehlot were published so that the people get to know about them and benefit from various schemes announced during the lock-

down," informed DIPR Commissioner and Special Secretary, Mahendra Soria.

It is notable that Rajasthan was the first state to announce lockdown from March 22 and since then people were kept informed about the routine decisions.

Some of the major decisions and

announcements include: only chemists, provision/grocery and vegetables and fruits shops to remain open during lockdown; distribution of free wheat to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries; distribution of free packets of food items to daily wageers, street vendors and other needy people who do not

come under the ambit of NFSA; food for all so poor should sleep hungry; one-time assistance of ₹ 2500 to 35 lakh needy people; important headline numbers at the state level and district level for assistance to people during the Corona pandemic; payment of outstanding pension up to March to more than 78 lakh social security pensioners including the precise communication of vital information during the entire period of lockdown 1.0 to 4.0.

"As per the commissioner and special secretary, the department substantially enhanced the activities on social media and was continuously updating its website, facebook, twitter and instagram accounts with latest information, decisions and announcements that helped the general public and media. As a result, the followers on twitter touched 2 lakh. The timely decisions taken by Gehlot were praised by one and all in the state as well as the country," he added.

## IN SHORT

Virendra Nath Datt, director (Marketing), NFL, has taken over the additional charge of chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company. An MBA from Maharshi Dayanand University, Datt has a rich professional experience of over 35 years with premier CPSEs such as GAIL and ONGC besides the fertilizer industry. Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertilizer sale of company from 43 lakh MT in 2017-18 to 57 lakh MT in 2019-20, an increase of 32 per cent over past two years. During this period, NFL established a pan India footprint in the fertilizer industry.



Indian Railways had suspended its regular passenger train services during the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the Coronavirus. As the trains were cancelled en masse, railways faced the challenge to refund huge amount of money

to the rail passengers. Railways has successfully refunded ₹ 1885 crore towards cancellation of tickets to passengers from March 21 to May 31 on tickets booked online. The entire cost of the ticket purchased has been refunded in the account from where the payment was made during the booking of the ticket. Due to the initiative taken by the national transporter, the passengers got their refund in time and did not face the inconvenience of visiting a PRS counter for collecting their amount.



Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Steel, Petroleum and Natural Gas, chaired a video conferencing with officials from Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Railways, INS/DAG, SAIL and steel fabricators from Bhilai to



work out a detailed plan for developing a steel fabrication cluster around the Bhilai Steel Plant.

The steel fabrication cluster envisaged will give boost to the MSME sector in the region, facilitate employment generation and give impetus to the local economy. This is in line with the spirit of PMS call for an *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*.

Pradhan directed the CEO of the Bhilai Steel Plant to ensure that the steel plate requirement of the steel fabricators is fully met and any restrictive conditions coming the way of such procurement be removed.



NHPC has diversified its portfolio to include Solar Power business. It has given Letter of Awards (LOA) to solar power developers for interstate transmission system (ISTS) grid connected photovoltaic projects aggregating to 1,600 MW installed capacity. Previously, NHPC had successfully conducted the re-reverse auction for ISTS grid connected solar PV project to be set up anywhere in India. As part of the LOA, NHPC shall purchase the power generated from the proposed ISTS-connected solar PV power project at tariffs of ₹2.55 and ₹2.56 per unit.

The 800 MW Parbati-II Hydroelectric Project, located in Himachal Pradesh, is a run-of-the-river scheme proposed to harness hydro potential of the river Parbati. NHPC has successfully completed awarding of the above-mentioned works amid nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, following all guidelines of the government.



In yet another step to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has come forward to provide financial assistance of ₹ 1.23 crore to the Uttarakhand government. The fund will be utilised for procurement of 500 PPE kits for frontline staff and six fully equipped ambulances which will be handed over to health department of Uttarakhand. The CSR initiative by PFC will further support the preparedness of the state in its fight against the spread of COVID-19.

## Faculty project at GGSIPU

University School of Environment Management (USEM), IP University, organised a six-day faculty development programme (FDP) on environmental impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, challenges and future research. Eminent Environmentalists and experts from various fields like professor CK Varshne, professor Emeritus, School of Environment Sciences, JNU; Padma Shri professor Dr Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, GGSIPU; Ravi Dadhich, Registrar, GGSIPU; professor VK Jain, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University, Assam; Dr M Mohapatra, DG, IMD, New Delhi; Dr Anand Krishnan, professor of Community Medicine, AIIMS, actively guided the FDP.

Professor NC Gupta, Dean, USEM, IP University, inaugurated the programme. The FDP covered many themes including origin of COVID-19, lessons learned from the crisis,

healing of earth and ecosystem during the lockdown period, impact on small holding farmers/MSMEs, reverse migration and future sustainable environment, Sendai framework for disaster risk management, climate change agenda and action for post-COVID scenario.

In welcome address, professor NC Gupta enlightened the audience about importance of resources and how the water and air quality has shown significant improvement during the lockdown period. Professor Dr Mahesh Verma and Ravi Dadhich congratulated Dean, USEM and organising team for organising such an important faculty development programme. Professor Mahesh Verma said that the outbreak of COVID-19 has forced us to alter the way of understanding life. Eminent speakers and experts including professor Amulka Kaushik, professor Prodyut Bhattacharya, professor

Jens Rydell, Dr Abi T Yanak, Dr Mukesh Thakur, Dr Faiyaz Khudsar, Dr Meenakshi Arora, Dr Ravinder Khaiwal, Dr Apoorva Ratan Ghosh, professor HP Garg, professor Sas Biswas, professor Agni Mitra, Dr Sanjeev Sarangi, Bharti Chaturvedi, professor NC Pant, professor CP Kaushik, professor Anil Kumar Gupta, professor Arun Kumar, Dr Amarnath Chatterjee, professor Shyamala Mami, professor M Afzal Wani and Dr Suman Mor, share their experiences on environment and biodiversity, climate, rural livelihood, medicine, wildlife and so on.

Professor Amulya K Panda, director of National Institute of Immunology, gave the keynote address during valedictory ceremony. All deans and directors of various university schools, faculty members and research scholars were present and contributed to the successful organisation of FDP.



## KIIT, KISS and KIMS salute Corona warriors through a song

Staff of KIIT, KISS and KIMS sang *Bande Utkala Janani* to honour and motivate Corona warriors at KIMS Campus on Saturday. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Thursday urged people of the state to show solidarity with COVID warriors by singing this song on May 30 at 5:30 pm. Showing solidarity with the frontline COVID warriors including doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and others, Dr Achyuta Samanta,

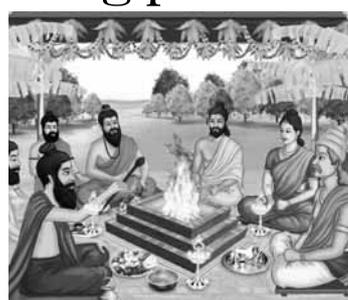
founder, KIIT, KISS and KIMS said that it is the duty of all Odia people to honour them. He thanked all the doctors and other staff of KIMS who are treating COVID patients, putting duty above their families. He also thanked staff of KIIT, KISS and KIMS who are dedicatedly preparing and distributing food and other essential commodities to the needy people, including police personnel on duty till date.

## The healing power of Vedas

Coronavirus has indeed turned the whole world upside-down. Everybody—the government, intellectuals, scientists, doctors, social workers—have put in their best efforts to control the pandemic. They all deserve much appreciation for all their selfless efforts. But it's still very much true that it may take a long time to find out the antidote of the disease. And when all the sources to overcome any problem are not readily available then we the human-beings ultimately remember god.

It shall not be out of place to mention here—a very few people know that almighty nurses the whole universe and his preach for the same exists in Vedas. So it's clearly understood that everybody will have to pay their attention towards the eternal vedic path for a healthy and happy life.

I would like to mention the *Rigved* mantra wherein the god states, "The earth is meant for spreading happiness. All the innumerable matters—the sun, moon, forests, mountains, food



crops, vegetation, rivers—are meant to give us pleasure. But what a wonder that in the present scenario, human-beings have been experiencing unlimited problems, mental stress, anxiety and destruction. Isn't it because we human-beings have deviated ourselves from the eternal path followed by our

ancestors. Another *Rigved* mantra tells us that in the beginning of the creation, knowledge of the four Vedas emerges directly from god and is originated in the heart of four *rishis*. Brahma served these four *rishis* and he alone obtained the knowledge of Vedas. It is utmost important to

possess the knowledge of Vedas and until it's given by a *guru*, it cannot be gained. For the last several decades, human beings have ignored vedic knowledge. As a result, we have indulged in one-sided materialistic progress only. Therefore, we must pay our attention towards the ideas of the mantras and Vedas. If you only gain progress in science, leaving behind the Brahma *vidya* then the power required to understand and destroy sins such as anger, pride, ego, greed, injustice, would leave you. Thus, you would not be able to gain the main motto of human-life i.e. to realise the existence of god.

Therefore, to attain healthy and joyous life, spiritualism along with science is required. If anybody follows vedic preach and performs daily *yajnen/agnihotra*, the whole universe is purified, automatically destroying all diseases and problems of life.

(The author, yogacharya Swami Ram Swarup, is the chief editor of *Ved Ishvareya Vani*, a bi-annual magazine.)

## EESL and GAIL sign MoU for trigeneration projects

GAIL (India) Limited and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in development of trigeneration projects in the country.

The MoU aims at building a closer strategic partnership between the two companies by jointly exploring business opportunities in Trigeneration business segment. Under this MoU, GAIL and EESL shall jointly undertake studies and if found viable, 50:50 joint venture will be incorporated.

Santanu Roy, executive director (Business Development and Project Development) signed the MoU on the behalf of GAIL, while Amit Kumar Kaushik, executive director (Strategic Growth) inked the MoU on the behalf of EESL.

Trigeneration or Combined Cooling, Heat and Power (CCHP) typically involves natural gas-fired generators to produce electricity. The waste heat from flue gas is recovered to produce hot water/steam which in turn used for heating purpose and also



in absorption chillers for cooling. During the signing ceremony, Manoj Jain, CMD of GAIL, stated, "There is a significant market potential for trigeneration projects in India, particularly small industrial and commercial sectors and office buildings. As trigeneration business is at initial stage, the collaboration would enable to take first mover advantage in the business similar to GAIL's city gas business. Further, it would also push gas usage in new applications which is in line with GAIL's Strategy 2030.

Accordingly, the strategic partnership between GAIL and EESL is a win-win situation for both the companies." Saurabh Kumar, MD of EESL, added, "The intervention potential of trigeneration technology in revolutionising India's energy landscape is significant. EESL is proud to pioneer the effort towards harnessing this potential with GAIL, which will set a precedent for forthcoming trigeneration projects. I wish both the parties all the very best for the successful implementation of this initiative."

# 3 WI players refuse to tour Eng

## Hetmyer, Keemo and Darren Bravo will not participate in three-match Test series as Caribbean squad also include 11 reserves



Windies batsman Shimron Hetmyer and all-rounder Keemo Paul

PTI ■ ST JOHN'S

Three West Indies players – Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul – on Wednesday refused to tour England for next month's proposed three-match Test series, which will be conducted in a bio-secure environment to combat Covid-19 threat. Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced a 14-man squad for the

series, which is expected to mark resumption of international cricket if it gets the final approval from the UK Government. "Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul all declined the invitation to travel to England for the tour and CWI fully respects their decision to choose to do so," Cricket West Indies said in a statement. "As previously stated, CWI will

not hold this decision against these players when considering future selection," it added. The specific reasons for their withdrawal were not given by CWI. The West Indies squad will live, train and play in a "bio-secure" environment during the seven weeks of the tour, as part of the "comprehensive" medical and operations plans to ensure player and staff safety. "The bio-secure protocols will restrict movement in and out of the venues, so the selection panel has also named a list of reserve players who will travel to train and help prepare the Test squad and ensure replacements are available in case of any injury," said CWI.

The touring party, which will be tested for Covid-19 this week, is scheduled to fly to England on a chartered flight on June 8. The two newcomers to the Test squad are middle-order batsman Nkrumah Bonner and fast bowler Chemar Holder.

The 22-year-old Holder, who is not related to West Indies captain Jason Holder, was the leading fast bowler in the national championship with 36 wickets in eight matches at 18.91 each, and was part of the ICC Under-19 World Cup winning side in 2016. Bonner, 31, is in line to make his Test debut after being one of the leading batsmen in the 2020 West Indies Championship with 523 runs in seven matches at an average of 58.11. "The new cricketing environment will take some getting used to.

However, being in England and working together for four weeks before the first Test will give the squad the opportunity to get acclimatized and hopefully, mentally and technically adjusted to the demands of the new environment," said lead selector Roger Harper. "Playing in July could be a blessing as the weather is likely to be warmer which will allow the squad more of an opportunity to play its best cricket."

**THE SQUAD**  
Jason Holder, K Brathwaite, Shai Hope, Shane Dowrich, Roston Chase, Shemar Brooks, Rakheem Cornwall, Nkrumah Bonner, Alzarri Joseph, Chemar Holder, John Campbell, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, J Blackwood.  
**Reserves:** Sunil Ambris, Joshua Da Silva, S Gabriel, Keon Harding, Kyle Mayers, Preston McSweeney, M Mindley, Shane Mosley, Anderson Phillip, O Thomas, Jemel Warrican.

## Root backs Stokes for interim captaincy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

England skipper Joe Root might have to skip the opening Test against West Indies if it coincides with the impending birth of his second child with vice-captain Ben Stokes taking over the mantle.

In fact, Root has backed Stokes, whom he believes will be a "fantastic captain." "I think if Ben was captain he would be fantastic. One of his great qualities as vice-captain and as a leader is that he sets the example, the way he goes about his training, how he wants to build in difficult circumstances, the way he stands up in different scenarios with the bat," Root said.

"He drags people with him and gets the best out of the players around him. I think that's a great quality to have as a leader and something he can take into captaincy if he was to get the opportunity. I could see him doing a very good job."

Root said Stokes can be a huge success not only in short term but even if he is given the job for long term. "People will always look up to him and want to play for him, whether captain or not. But especially as captain he'll have people wanting to play for him and short-term head be a huge success. Until you get the opportunity to do it longer, you just never know, it might be a huge success. I wouldn't put it past him," he said.

## Know my importance in white-ball formats: Pandya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Flamboyant Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya is wary of risking his injury-ravaged back for Test cricket right now and says it's because he understands his "importance" in the white-ball formats.

Pandya hasn't played a Test since September 2018, appearing in a total of 11 five-day matches, but has cemented his place as a big-hitting all-rounder in the limited overs formats. He is currently on road to recovery from the back injury which needed a surgery last year. "I see myself as a back-up seamer for sure. After my back surgery, I don't know, playing Test cricket right now will be a challenge," the 26-year-old told *Crickbuzz in Conversation*.

"If I was a Test player and didn't have the game in white-ball cricket, I could go now and risk my back in Tests but I know my importance in white ball cricket. It has happened that I played Tests and then didn't go in ODI and T20s because my plus point is my energy," he explained.

Pandya first picked up the back injury in 2018 when he was stretched off the field during an Asia Cup match against Pakistan.

Recalling the day, Pandya said he thought his career was over. "I genuinely thought that my career is over because I'd never seen anyone being stretched off. I was knocked out for 10 minutes, after that the pain never went down.

"What happens to me is that my body goes into recovery mode straight away... Asia Cup was anyway going to be my last series before being rested but then the injury happened," he remembered. Pandya said he owes it to his IPL team Mumbai Indians' coach Ricky Ponting for being there for him during the tough phase. "In 2015, someone who looked after me the best was Ricky Ponting. He



looked after me as a child. I felt like he was a father figure for me. I learnt so much," he said. "Ricky taught me situations, mindsets. He used to sit with me before I went into bat. I would sit near boundary rope and call Ricky. He would sit with me and tell me what's happening. So I grasped and learnt quickly," he revealed.

Speaking of support, national skipper Virat Kohli, coach Ravi Shastri and NCA Director Rahul Dravid are also among those, Pandya feels grateful to. "Virat, Rohit (Sharma) or Ravi sir don't come and teach you the game. They have given me that freedom," he said.

"The security that they gave me backing with all their heart helped big time. That was the reason I started taking decisions on my own," he added. As for Dravid, Pandya said he is thankful to the former captain for never judging him. "...He accepted the way I am. He never judged me. Always respected me as a cricketer. He enjoyed my work ethic," Pandya said.



Virat Kohli and a spinner in a net session.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

## Learnt about handling difficult situations from Kohli: Kuldeep

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He is Virat Kohli's go-to-man in limited-overs cricket when the team needs a wicket. While the modern era has seen batsmen take spinners to the cleaners in the shorter formats of the game, left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav rarely fails to answer his skippers' call. Interestingly, Kuldeep says he has learnt a lot about handling pressure situations from the skipper.

Speaking about how does he handle the role of a wicket-taker when batsmen are known to take on the spinners and runs are bound to be leaked? The 25-year-old Kuldeep says that the confidence the skipper shows in him is vital and also that he takes a leaf or two out of Kohli's book when it comes to handling pressure.

"If your captain believes in you, giving your best on the field becomes easy. From Virat, we learn a lot of things like how to manage difficult situations. He never fails to motivate young players. I remember when I was new in the team he backed me a lot. In fact, now also, he is always there for me. He always appreciates your skills and we have a great tuning together. The best quality of Virat is that he also understands the team and its player's well which makes our job easy on field," he pointed.

## Teams need to be careful about injury management: Pathan

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former pacer Irfan Pathan believes the Indian team management will have to focus on the bowlers and be "extremely careful" with regard to injury management once the players hit the ground after the coronavirus forced hiatus.

Pathan, who became the first Indian team member to receive training after he bowled in the nets in

Palghar last month. Pathan feels that any team, including an IPL one, will have to be careful with the bowlers, who would be more prone to injury having been out of action for more than two months.

Injury management is the most important thing. We will have to focus on all the bowlers," Pathan, who has played 29 Tests and 120 ODIs for India, said on *Star Sports show Cricket Connected*. The ICC also recently came up with specific

guidelines for bowlers, suggesting that teams would need to exercise caution over bowlers' workloads to avoid a serious injury like stress fracture of the spine as players get ready to resume training. "In a squad of 15, every team has 4 or 6 bowlers. Be it an IPL team, Indian team or any international or domestic team, we will have to be extremely careful about injury management as our boys have been out of action for a while," he said. **PTI**

## 'Play around pitch to maintain balance b/w bat & ball'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spin great and ICC Cricket Committee chairman Anil Kumble on Wednesday reiterated the panel's reluctance to allow use of artificial substances on the ball despite the salivance between bat and ball can be maintained by "playing around" with the pitches. "So in cricket you have the surface that you can play around with and bring about a balance between the bat and ball," said Kumble at a *FICCI* webinar.

The bowlers will miss using saliva the most in Test cricket as it aids them in generating both conventional and reverse swing.

"You can still probably leave grass on the surface or even have two spinners, let's get spinners back in the game in a Test, because one day game or a T20 you are not really worried about shining the ball. It's Test match that we are talking about," said the former India captain. "And in a Test match why not get two spinners to play in



Anil Kumble speaking at a webinar.

Australia, two in England, which doesn't happen often." Like he had said right after recommending saliva ban as an interim measure, Kumble reiterated that allowing use of artificial substances would have taken the creativity out of the game.

"We've been very strict about substances that have been used on the ball. That was something that we felt, the creativity was something that we should not (tinker with)," he said. Kumble, however, admitted that it would be hard for players to adjust to not using saliva.

"Although it is second nature in cricket, and that's something that players will find it hard to manage. And that's why I believe that at training, they'd like to start slowly because it's not just about coming back and playing cricket in a match," he said.

"It's also about coming back from two and a half months of being locked up... And especially if you're a

bowler, you need to have those bowling overs under your belt before you start competing.

"So, it's important that you slowly and gradually come back into sort of normalcy that you can and the advantage that cricket has over other sports is that there's an element of adjustable variance in the pitch, which not many sports have," he added.

Kumble said the committee's recommendations focused on resumption of cricket at the earliest. "...I know there's been a lot of debate about shining the ball but the idea was to kickstart cricket, play the sport, and then I'm sure things will fall in place. Yes, there will be some challenges. You have to go one game at a time.

"We've given just broad guidelines from the ICC to the various boards because each country has its own challenges and within the country itself you see in India, you know, for example, Maharashtra has its own challenges, Karnataka is different etc," he added.

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#Arjunaawards  
6:12 pm · 17 Aug 19

#Arjunaawards Same old story. Guy who has Medals in Cwg and Asian Championships not even recommended by Association. And guy who was not there on any of these major events recommended #waah 🙌🏻 #thisiscourtrysajoke 🙌🏻 12:28 pm · 12 Jun 20

Live! not being nominated for the Arjuna award for the second consecutive year, Indian shuttler H S Prannoy took to Twitter to express his displeasure over Badminton Association of India decision

## Afghanistan training camp likely in Kabul

**KABUL:** Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Wednesday held discussions with skipper Asghar Afghan and head coach Lance Klusener to discuss the possible resumption of cricket in the country.

The ACB is looking to host a training camp later this month in Kabul and stated they will be following all necessary Government and World Health Organisation protocols. "ACB leadership held a video conference with Head Coach Lance Klusener, Chief Selector Andy Moles, Skipper Asghar Afghan and some ACB officials as they discussed the training camp in June which shall be held in Kabul as per guidelines by WHO and Ministry of Public Health," the Board tweeted.

## Fitness level has dipped a bit: Neeraj

NEW DELHI:

There is a stark difference between what ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is used to while training and what he is doing now. However, he is just happy to be back outside even though for now it is without a javelin, an equipment that he has gained mastery over in his career but one that he could not do much with during the last two months. "It was certainly a matter of great happiness," Neeraj said when asked about how he felt when he got the news of the resumption of outdoor training. "This is the reason why we are here at the camp, to train. So when that was not an option there was not much to do. For now we are looking to get back to the way we used to train before all this. "It's not good for an athlete to be away from training for too long. For the past two months I



Neeraj Chopra in a javelin training session.

was doing some exercise to maintain core fitness but couldn't really do anything holding a javelin. Now hopefully we can slowly get back to our routine." The 22-year-old is one of several elite athletes who were holed up in the hostels of the National Institute of Sport (NIS) in Patiala throughout the time that the lockdown had been imposed. Outdoor training for athletes at NIS started on Monday but they are yet to be allowed to use their equipment. Neeraj however is not too bothered by that as he has to rebuild strength before going full steam. "(Training) starts around 6.30am and for now we are not spending more than two hours. Slowly we will increase the intensity," he said. "My fitness levels have dipped a bit in these last two months. I have to get my elbow and shoulders back to full strength again and then only will I get back to the heavy training I used to do before." "The coaches haven't really taken a measure of exactly how much difference has come in the

body. Maybe there could be a fitness test taken some time in the future but I don't really know when. My weight has not really changed much. It's just a few crucial muscles that need strengthening." AFI had said last month that it is looking to resume the domestic calendar in September and Prez Adilje Samarwalla has made it clear that no foreign training camps will be held for any athlete this year. Neeraj said that with no competitions in the horizons, there is no rush to get back to training with full intensity. "The thing is there are no competitions happening in the near future so we don't need to rush with anything. This year at least until November there won't be anything. There is no scope of going outside of course, for any training or competitions," he said. **INNS**

On the occasion of **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 5th June, 2020.**

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