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VIJAYAWADA, MONDAY JUNE 22, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

FALAKNUMA PALACE  
TO HOST RANA  
AND MIHEEKA'S  
WEDDING

Page 12

**'EMOTIONALLY MANIPULATING PEOPLE': KAMAL TELLS CENTRE**

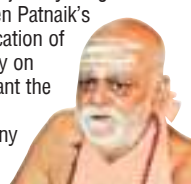
Actor-politician Kamal Haasan has cautioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi against trying to "emotionally manipulate people" over the violent face-off between Indian and Chinese soldiers in Ladakh's Galwan Valley last week, in which 20 Indian troops died for their country and dozens more were injured. In his strongly-worded statement Kamal Haasan hit out at the government for saying that those questioning the Prime Minister's comments at Friday's all-party meeting - during which PM Modi was quoted as saying: "Neither is anyone inside our territory nor is any of our post captured" - were trying to "give a mischievous interpretation" to the Prime Minister's remarks.

**'PRANAYAMA' CAN HELP BOOST IMMUNITY AMID PANDEMIC: PM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi this morning said that "pranayama" - the practice of breath control in yoga - can "help boost immunity" as he addressed the nation to mark the International Yoga Day amid a spike in coronavirus cases across the country. "Covid-19 attacks our respiratory system. What makes our respiratory system stronger is "Pranayama", which is a breathing exercise. Usually, anulom, vilom are popular "Pranayama" techniques. We should make these a part of our daily routine. There are many yoga exercises that boost our immunity and strengthen the metabolism," PM Modi said.

**WELL-ORCHESTRATED PLAN TO STOP RATH YATRA: PURI SHANKARACHARYA**

The Shankaracharya of Puri, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, on Sunday alleged that there was a well-orchestrated plan to stall Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra this year amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The Puri seer's statement comes after Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb and servitors sought Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's intervention for rushing an application for modification of the Supreme Court's June 18 order that put a stay on Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra on June 23. They want the state government to seek permission from the Supreme Court for holding the car festival sans any congregation.

**RARE 'RING OF FIRE' SOLAR ECLIPSE ON THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR**

A shimmering ring of light flashed into view on Sunday in parts of the eastern hemisphere as the moon drifted across the face of the sun in a rare eclipse on the longest day of the year. The path of the eclipse spanned East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Most locations saw only a partial eclipse, with just a handful witnessing the true "ring of fire". Unlike in a total eclipse, the moon in an annular, or ring-like, eclipse is unable to completely cover the sun, leaving a thin halo of light at its maximum phase. Such an eclipse happens when the moon is farther away in its elliptical orbit around the Earth, appearing smaller as a result.



# Forces get 'full freedom' to give China befitting response

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The armed forces deployed along the 3,500-km de-facto border with China have been given "full freedom" to give a "befitting" response to any Chinese misadventure, government sources said on Sunday, including the freedom to spend upto Rs 500 crore per project for the acquisition of critical ammunition and weapons which would be required in case an all-out or limited conflict breaks out.

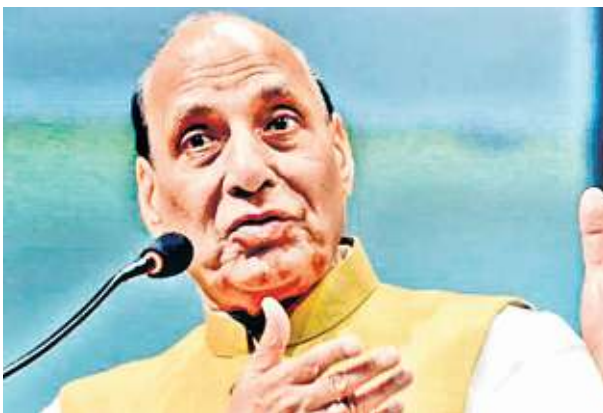
The decision came at a review meeting over eastern Ladakh between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and top military brass on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria.

India has already mobilised fighter jets and sent thousands of additional Army troops to forward locations along the border with China after 20 Indian Army personnel were killed in a brutal attack by Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley on June 15.

The clash in Galwan Valley, the worst cross-border violence in 45 years, significantly frayed ties between the two countries, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi sending a strong message to China that India wants peace but if provoked, India is capable of giving a befitting reply.

In the meeting on Sunday, Singh told the top military officers to maintain a strict vigil on

**● Armed forces can make purchases of weapons worth Rs 500 crore****● Armed forces told to forcefully deal with Chinese aggression along LAC**

Liberation Army has not yet talked about the number of casualties it suffered.

The sources said the armed forces have been given full freedom to deal with any act of aggression by China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de-facto border between the two countries.

The two armies had mutually decided not to resort to use firearms during face-offs in sync with provisions of two agreements on border management. The agreements were signed in 1996 and 2005.

"Henceforth, our approach will be different. The ground commanders have been given full freedom to take decisions depending on the situation," a top military official told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The IAF has already moved a sizeable number of its front-line Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar, Mirage 2000 aircraft and Apache attack helicopters to several key air bases including Leh and Srinagar in the last five days.

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**Oppn MPs demand Par panel meeting, BJP men demur**

A meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs should be called at the earliest and briefed by the foreign secretary, defence secretary and other top officials on the violent faceoff with China in which 20 Indian soldiers died, several panel members from the opposition parties said on Sunday. However, panel members from the ruling party termed the demand an act of politics and said it wouldn't be feasible to call the meeting when the country is grappling with the coronavirus crisis. The committee is chaired by former Union Minister and BJP MP PP Chaudhary.

Twenty Indian Army personnel were killed in a brutal attack by Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley on June 15. This was the worst cross-border violence between the two armies in 45 years and it has frayed ties between India and China. Following the incident, members from various opposition parties demanded that a meeting of the standing committee on external affairs be called to discuss the matter.

3

# YSRCP MP seeks Central protection from his own party

**● Letter to LS Speaker reminds AP of SEC situation**

CHINNAM PRADEEP KUMAR ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP MP Raghu Rama Krishna Raju Kanumuri on Sunday wrote a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, requesting him to provide security through the Central government agencies.

Raju's letter immediately brought to mind a similar letter by State Election Commissioner N Ramesh Kumar, in which he had apprehended threat to his life and requested Central protection. The MP informed Birla that he was writing the letter after receiving a humiliating and life-threatening warning from his own party leaders and cadre.

Later, Ramakrishna Raju confirmed that he requested the Lok Sabha Speaker to provide security as the State government utterly failed in protecting him.

He said that despite witnessing the burning of his effigies and warnings from the



Raghu Rama Krishna Raju Kanumuri



N Ramesh Kumar

YSRCP leaders and cadre on open platforms, the state police did not lodge an FIR against them.

"Is the CM not aware about YSRCP activists torching my effigy?" the MP asked, adding that people of a certain community have been making phone calls to him from the USA and Singapore.

"If an opportunity is given, I would meet the CM and air my grievances," Raju said.

The MP expressed his inability to even visit his own constituency due to the threat

to his life. He said that he would be able to go to his constituency only if proper security is provided to him by Central security forces.

Reminding that he was adjudged 'the best Parliamentarian' Raju said that he would have to visit his constituency sooner or later.

Raju reminded that he lodged a complaint against the people who threatened him in the local police station, but his efforts were disregarded by the police.

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# 477 new Covid cases take AP tally to 8,929

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The alarming upward surge of the Covid-19 graph in Andhra Pradesh post-lockdown since June 1 continued as 477 fresh cases were added, taking the total to 8,929 on Sunday.

The toll too increased by another five to 106 while 151 patients had recovered and been discharged from hospitals across the state, the latest Covid-19 bulletin said.

After a total of 4,307 recoveries, the number of active cases in the state now stood at 4,516, it said.

In the three weeks since the 'unlock' started on June 1, as many as 5,253 coronavirus cases were added in Andhra Pradesh, with 1,540 of them being from other states and

another 330 from other countries.

Through lockdown 1.0 to lockdown 4.0, the state recorded as many as 3,668 coronavirus cases.

While the first Covid-19 case was registered in the state on March 12 (in SPS Nellore district), there were only eight cases till March 24, prior to the lockdown.

During lockdown 1.0, another 495 cases were reported in 21 days, 1,147 in the next 19 days (lockdown 2.0), 782 in 14 days (lockdown 3.0) and 1,244 in the subsequent fortnight (lockdown 4.0), according to government data.

During the 68-day lockdown period, the state averaged 54 Covid-19 cases per day but, since June 1, the average shot up to 262.

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# 730 new cases in TS, 659 in GHMC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana state on Sunday reported 730 new Covid-19 cases, by far the sharpest one-day spike since the start of the pandemic in March.

Seven more deaths were reported from across the state taking the death toll in Telangana to 210.

The state has recorded a total of 7,802 cases till date.

Of the 730 new cases reported on Sunday, the GHMC area alone accounted for 659. This is also the highest-ever cases reported in GHMC area till date. As many as 3,297 samples were tested on Sunday, of which 2,567 returned negative. A total of 57,054 samples were tested across the state till date, of which 49,252 returned negative and 7,802 positive.

The total active cases in the state currently stands at 3,861.

On Sunday, 225 patients were discharged from hospitals upon recovery, taking the overall number of recoveries to 3,731.

3

# Satellite images show China intrusion: Rahul

Amid tensions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi again targeted the Prime Minister, saying that satellite images show that China has intruded into Indian territory.

In a tweet in Hindi, Gandhi said, Prime Minister said no body intruded and no body has occupied our territory, but the satellite images show clearly that China near Pangong lake has occupied the holy land of Bharat Mata."

Rahul Gandhi used an

image with the tweet shown by one of the TV channels.

Earlier on Sunday, Rahul Gandhi attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying, "Narendra Modi is actually Surrender Modi."

This was in continuation of his attack on Saturday when he said, "Prime Minister has surrendered Indian territory to Chinese aggression."

The barb came a day after the Prime Minister asserted in the all party meeting that Chinese troops did not intrude into Indian territory.

The war of words started after 20 Indian soldiers, including an officer, were killed in an unprecedented violent clash with Chinese PLA troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on June 15.

**JAGANNATH RATH YATRA**

# 19-yr-old Muslim moves SC seeking recall of its order

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A 19-year-old Muslim student from Odisha's Nayagarh district is among the 21 persons and organisations who have moved the Supreme Court seeking recall of its order staying the historic Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The apex court had on June 18 said that in the interest of public health and safety of citizens, this year's rath yatra, which was scheduled for June 23, at Puri in Odisha cannot be allowed and "Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow" it.

The yatra is attended by lakhs of people from across



the world.

Aftab Hossen, who moved the apex court over the rath yatra, is a final-year BA economics student at the Nayagarh Autonomous College and is now being

referred to as the second Salabega of the state on social media

Salabega was a Muslim man and a great devotee of Lord Jagannath. During the three kilometre yatra from the main

**Aftab Hossen, who moved the apex court over the rath yatra, is a final-year BA economics student. He said he has been influenced by Lord Jagannath since his childhood and that his late grandfather was also a devotee**

shrine to the Gundicha Temple, the lord's chariot stops for a while near the grave of Salabega located on the Grand Road as a mark of respect.

Salabega, who was the son of a Mughal subedar, occupies a special place among the devotional poets of Odisha as he had devoted his life to Lord Jagannath. He lived in the first half of the 17th century.

Hossen said he has been

influenced by Lord Jagannath since his childhood and that his late grandfather Multab Khan was also a devotee.

The 19-year-old has filed an intervention application before the Supreme Court through his advocate P K Mohapatra. Hossen said his grandfather had constructed a Trinath (Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar) temple at Itamati in 1960.

3

**SOLAR ECLIPSE**

# Cloudy skies play spoilsport for many

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The sun appeared as a ring of fire on Sunday in an annular solar eclipse, fascinating skygazers in parts of India but disappointing many for whom the celestial event was obscured by cloudy skies. Across a narrow belt which included parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand, the eclipse was annular or ring-shaped. In other parts of the country, it was the more common partial solar eclipse.

Reports of weather playing spoilsport came in from sev-

eral places, where people expected a partial eclipse or the ring-of-fire phenomenon, this time coinciding with the summer solstice, the longest day of the year.

Delhi teacher Harpreet Kaur, who is the coordinator of the science club at her school, was somewhat disappointed.

"I could not see the eclipse properly due to the clouds," she said. But she took some pictures and videos she will share with her students on the school's WhatsApp group.

3

**TODAY****ALMANAC****Month & Paksham:**

Jyeshtha &amp; Krishna Paksha Panchangam

**Tithi :** Pratipada: 11:58 am**Nakshatram:** Ardra: 01:31 pm**Time to Avoid:** (Bad time to start any important work)**Rahukalam:** 07:24 am - 09:02 am**Yamagandam:** 10:40 am - 12:18 pm**Varjyam:** 01:32 am - 03:08 am**Gulika:** 01:56 pm - 03:33 pm**Good Time:** (to start any important work)**Amritakalam:** NIL**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:52 am - 12:44 pm**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

Forecast: Cloudy

Temp: 29/27

Humidity: 79%

Sunrise: 05:43 am

Sunset: 06:53 pm

Current Weather Conditions Updated June 21, 2020 5:00 PM





There were recently upsetting and perturbing reports in a section of the media that a middle-aged woman died in Hyderabad after she was denied emergency medical aid by both government and private hospitals.

Her husband, after approaching both private and government hospital, finally brought her to Gandhi Hospital, but by then her condition deteriorated to such an extent that she passed during treatment.

Though the facts of this incident are subject to verification, possibilities of such an occurrence exist. Such a situation, if true, is a pointer to serious shortcomings. Unless these are addressed, the society will be at a loss.

Unless there is a stringent law that makes denial of emergency medical aid and treatment to patients approaching a doctor or a hospital — be it private or government — a heinous crime, there is no safety for patients. It's high time that a law is enacted all over the country.

Only when there is a deterrent in the form of an Act, inci-

# Denying emergency medical aid is an offence

dents like this will not recur.

Even after 70 years of Independence, medical and health facilities in rural areas are inadequate, despite measures taken by successive governments. There are plenty of reasons for this, which need a debate and thorough discussion. In towns and cities, though corporate level medical facilities are plentiful and are easily accessible for the rich, they remain a luxury for middle and lower middle classes.

If this is the situation under normal circumstances, who would patients look at for remedy in emergencies?

With the spread of Coronavirus, the situation is alarming for the middle-and lower-income groups. In case of an emergency, where will these middle class and low-income groups go for treatment? In rural areas, the doctor-patient-hospital ratio is poor and in urban areas, beyond their financial capacity.

**Unless there is a stringent law that makes denial of emergency medical aid and treatment to patients approaching a doctor or a hospital — be it private or government — a heinous crime, there is no safety for patients. It's high time that a law is enacted all over the country**

Whatever may be the reasons, refusal to admit and provide treatment to patients is going on unabated in private hospitals.

In August 2006, the then Law Commission of India in its 201st Report, titled Emergency Medical Care, drafted a Bill and was sent to all the state governments for their perusal, approval and adoption with state-specific measures. But till date, no state government has really bothered to offer comments or work on making an Act.

A three-member Commission, headed by

Justice Mamidanna Jagannadha Rao, a Telugu, drafted a Bill pertaining to private hospitals and practitioners and treatment of accident victims and emergency patients.

According to the Bill, hospitals cannot refuse care to an emergency victim even if is a medico-legal case. At the very least, they must provide emergency treatment and transport, with medical support, to another hospital, seeking the help of the police if an ambulance is not available. Doctors or hospital administrators who refuse emergency treat-



VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO  
CPRO to Chief Minister

ment face imprisonment and a fine, suggested the report. The Commission also suggested that the Government reimburse the treatment expenses, including ambulance charges to the hospital or the doctor concerned. It also suggested that a special scheme be prepared by the governments in this regard. The Commission also men-

tioned the important dictum in medical parlance called the 'Golden Hour' — the first hour after a traumatic injury when timely treatment is most likely to be successful.

On the whole, irrespective of legal concerns, doctors should not refuse emergency treatment, at least on moral grounds was the essence.

Long time ago, in undivided Andhra Pradesh, there was a sudden spurt in cases of stray dogs biting children in Hyderabad. It led to death of several infants. In one case, a hospital not only demanded money for treatment but also sought money to provide a cloth to cover the body!

Since it was reported prominently, the matter of hospitals refusing treatment is still a topic of discussion.

Several verdicts by the Supreme Court, Consumer Forums have clearly stated that doctors cannot shy away from their professional oblig-

ation on any pretext. The Supreme Court also observed that since ours is a welfare state, it's the responsibility of the government to extend all services to the people.

Though the Constitution mandates the State with the protection of the life of its citizens, many lives are still lost due to non-availability of medical treatment on time.

This situation prevails all over the world. Amidst complaints that a large number of private hospitals across India are either refusing critical patients or have been shut, the Centre asked states to ensure that hospitals keep functioning for every patient needing medicare.

In a letter to state Chief Secretaries, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan said the government had received reports that many private hospitals are reluctant to provide critical services even to their regular patients either

due to fear of Covid-19 or because they are not functioning.

"It is also noticed that at many places, hospitals and clinics are insisting on Covid-19 tests before providing services," Sudan's letter said. The letter said it must be ensured that all health facilities, especially in the private sector, remain functional and critical services accessible to needy patients.

Moreover, patients have some basic rights such as Right to Appropriate Medical Care and Humane Treatment, Right to Informed Consent, Right to Privacy and Confidentiality, Right to Information, The Right to Choose Health Care Provider and Facility, Right to Self-Determination and Right to Medical Records.

After all, "Vaidyo Narayano Harihi!" (Doctor is Lord Narayana Himself) is the saying right from our Vedic Period. Let denial of emergency medical aid by any hospital or doctor be made as a serious and punishable offence.

## 97,428 MSMEs to get IoT devices in AP soon

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

To reduce the consumption of electricity in the state, the Andhra Pradesh state government plans to implement Internet of Things (IoT) and enable power monitoring devices in 97,428 MSMEs across the state.

Minister for Energy Balineni Srinivas Reddy said that the Energy department has enquired with the IIT, Hyderabad campus about the possibility of supply of 50,000 to One lakh IoT devices to the state in a phased manner to get it installed in all micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). According to the minister, IIT-H has expressed willingness to supply 10,000 devices initially in the ensuing five months. He added that APSECM, Energy department will assist industries department in purchasing these cost-effective IoT devices.

The state government will provide IoT devices in a phased manner to MSMEs and this device will help around 10,000 to 11,000 units per annum in



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— BALINENI SRINIVAS REDDY  
Minister for Energy

each MSME. Earlier the government implemented IoT project in a few MSMEs under a pilot project and recieved positive response, enabling the government to extend the energy efficiency project to all MSMEs in State.

## New playlist to boost your Yoga skills

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

At a time, when social distancing is the norm, HCCB is encouraging people to stay home and practise yoga with family by releasing an entire music playlist on YouTube. The playlist is based on the music anthem composed by Dr Ilaiyaraaja for HCCB. The playlist has 11 short tracks suited for asanas ranging from physical endurance to breathing and meditation exercises, including one for relaxation.

The playlist is available for free at HCCB's YouTube channel (https://bit.ly/2Nb1dU1). The



choice of releasing a music playlist for International Yoga Day also coincides with the day being celebrated as World Music Day.

Reflecting on the playlist and its launch, Kamlesh Sharma, Chief Communications Officer,

HCCB, said "Given the situation this year, people will find their own unique spots and quiet places to do yoga. We therefore felt that a series of good music-only tracks would be a suitable accompaniment for various asanas ranging from meditation to physical exertion. While the charm of doing a group activity on yoga day is hard to compensate, music always provides great company. I take this opportunity to encourage my team, my colleagues, friends and family to whole heartedly participate in yoga celebrations - India's gift to the world."

## Drug against Covid cannot be taken as preventive medicine

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The much-awaited medicine against deadly Coronavirus is out in the market. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has received the approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), for Coronavirus treatment in India. The company launched antiviral drug Favipiravir, under the brand name FabiFlu, for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 infection.

The news of the antiviral drug for treating the virus spread across through electronic, social and print media giving the people a much needed relief from the pandemic that claimed thousands of lives and infected lakhs of people in the country. However, according to sources, the drug is no new drug that is manufactured by Glenmark, which is used to treat patients suffering from Flu and Fever.

Though the medicine to



treat the virus is handy, people should follow the guidelines laid by the government to contain the spread of virus. It is mandatory that people should wear masks, maintain social distance, use sanitiser and come out of the house only in an emergency so as to contain the infection from spreading.

However, it is observed that a few people throng on the streets violating norms like

wearing mask, maintaining social distance, among many others.

Although a drug is out in the market, people should realise that the antiviral drug would treat mild and moderate Covid cases, the drug will not help to contain the deadly virus. One should be very cautious and follow the guidelines for a long time to win the battle the virus.

## BJP to hold its second virtual rally for AP today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

BJP state vice president S Vishnuvardhan Reddy informed that the State BJP will conduct its second virtual rally on Monday at 4 pm. Minister for Home Affairs Kishan Redd will be the chief guest to the programme.

"The central minister will explain the people of the state about various welfare schemes and the schemes which are renamed as YSRCP schemes at the virtual rally. The minister would also disclose the



BJP government led by PM Modi 2.0 first year rule, various initiatives, welfare and

development programmes taken up by the central government," said Vishnuvardhan Reddy.

State president Kanna Lakshminarayana, BJP national secretary Satya Kumar, AP BJP state incharge Sunil Deodhar, MP GVL Narsimha Rao, MLCs Somu Veera Raju, PVN Madhav and others state leaders will take part in the virtual rally, the politico added.

About 20 LED screens are arranged across the state for the programme.

## Gold continues to shine amidst Sino-India tensions, Covid-19

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The week ending Saturday witnessed the bloody face-off between India and China on the Ladakh border resulting in the martyrdom of 20 of our soldiers, including an officer. Besides, Covid-19 pandemic continued to play havoc with lives of the people with more intensity. On global level, too, the situation remained highly volatile due to Covid-19 and explosive geo-political situation.

Consequently, the yellow metal remained firm and closed at US dollars 1,742.64 (per Oz) so also the white metal which closed at US dollars 17.60 (per Oz). Platinum and Palladium followed suit and closed at US dollars 801 and 1,828

respectively. Leading foreign currencies vis-a-vis Indian Rupee were firm and stood as follows: US dollar

76.19, British Pound 94.16, Euro 85.23, Australian dollar 52.12, Canadian dollar 56.03, New Zealand dollar 48.86, Kuwaiti dinar 247.66, UAE dirham 20.76, Japanese Yen 0.71, Swiss franc 80.07, Omani rial 198.07, Singapore dollar 54.57 and Saudi riyal 20.32.

With increasing relaxations of global markets, economy has been limping back to normal. Consequently, demand for Crude oil and its variants is picking up gradually. Brent closed at US dollars 41.92 while MCX crude closed at Rs 3, 051 (per barrel).

Due to unshakable confidence in our economy, despite the face off against China, the Sensex and Nifty

50 closed at fairly higher levels of 34,731.73 and 10,244.40 points. MCX copper closed at Rs 447.80 (per kg). Ny Mex closed at Rs 39.43. MCX gold and MCX silver were quoted at Rs 47,937 (per 10 gm) and Rs 48, 598 (per kg) respectively.

In local jewellery market sentiment was from weak to moderate. During the week, standard gold (24 carats) appreciated by Rs 210 and closed at Rs 49, 720 (per 10 gm). Ornamental gold followed suit and was quoted in the range of Rs 45, 480-45,580. Silver (0.999), on the other hand, declined by Rs 400 and closed at Rs 48, 050 (per kg).

The sentiment in principal wholesale commodity markets in the twin

City of Hyderabad-Secunderabad was moderate. Due to good Khariharvest and higher volumes of carry forward stocks, price levels of essential commodities, such as food grains, pulses, spices and common edible oils and Vanaspati remained at reasonably lower levels. Easing of restrictions on the interstate movements of goods have come in a big way to maintain the supply line uninterrupted.

Fairly good rains in the vegetable growing areas have favourably impacted their retail prices. The wholesale egg price of NECC in the twin City recorded an increase of Rs 18 at the closing price of Rs 378 (per 100). The highest price of Rs 450 was recorded at Chennai while Delhi recorded the lowest price of Rs 355.



WEEKLY MARKET REVIEW

# INDO-CHINA FACE OFF: PROTOCOL VS. SELF DEFENCE

HC UPADHYAY ■ HYDERABAD

Indeed, the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on northern borders is explosive. The recent skirmishes between Indian and Chinese troops resulting in the death of over 4 dozen soldiers on both sides is very sad. Undoubtedly, the entire nation stands like a rock behind our armed forces. At the same time, diplomatic channels have been actively engaged to sort out the contentious border issue.

However, it is not only disturbing but also annoying that instead of offering constructive cooperation to the government, some opposition parties are routinely voicing a hostile stand about the situation. The recent outbursts of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that Galwan martyrdom could have been avoided had our forces used fire power is not only childish but also shows the bankruptcy of his mind about the history of border issues

between India and China. Such utterances by the leader of a major political party not only shake the confidence of the people in the government but also demoralises our armed forces. Not that Rahul Gandhi did not know about the bilateral agreements on maintaining status quo on borders, but also about the refrain in using gun power on the face of any provocation by either side. Therefore, our brave, disciplined and committed army, even in the face of grave provocation and the killings of 20 men, did not fire a single bullet. They deserve adulation and not insults.

True, the 1996 and 2005 bilateral agreements prescribed a protocol for tackling any unsavoury situation on the borders including refrain from using arms. But as is the general principle of any contract, this protocol mandated to be followed in letter and spirit by 'both' sides. There is no gain saying that one party would

resort to the breach of contract or attempt to breach the contract and the other one would keep quiet or stick to the terms of the contract. Further, Indian army consists not only of weapons, vehicles and tents but most importantly soldiers i.e., the human beings. They too, have the right of self defence and this should have been made clear to the officers and men fighting on the borders. Had it been done so, the loss of life could have been avoided or at least minimised. Protocol comes only after the right to self defence. And when the Chinese side had already breached the agreements, the international community also would have supported the Indian side had our forces opened fire in retaliation to physical assaults by the Chinese.

While it is good to look good in the eyes of others, political

**Undoubtedly, the entire nation stands like a rock behind our armed forces. At the same time, diplomatic channels have been actively engaged to sort out the contentious border issue**

diplomacy alone cannot deter a monster enemy like China. Any belated action by India would only result in frustration and anger on the Indian side, particularly by our brave armed forces.

**P o c s o amendment Act does not have retrospective effect: SC**

The Supreme Court on June 15 held that the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences ( P O C S O ) (Amendment) Act, 2012 does not have a retrospective effect when the punishment needs to be meted out prospectively



LEGAL ROUNDUP

the Trial Court.

**TS HC in the vortex of religions**

If media reports are to be believed, the poser by the Telangana High Court to the State government on why the police booked a 'disproportionately' high number of cases against Muslims for violating lockdown rules, strikes at the very root of secularism and impartiality while dealing with criminals. It is unfortunate that the court thought it fit to jump to the conclusion that only Muslims were targeted by the police. Ever since the advent of the PIL in the 1980's, all sorts of issues are brought before the High Courts and Supreme Court by public spirited persons as well as by some others masquerading as social workers. The above observation came from the bench while hearing a PIL on alleged police excesses during the national lockdown. The courts are well aware that the law does

not discriminate between the people-their age, religion, caste, language, residence, education, social status etc; but it only recognises the 'offence' and if an offender happens to be a Muslim or Hindu or of any other religion, the police are duty bound to register a case against him. By observing that only Muslims were targeted, the Court has unfortunately jumped to a conclusion that the police force as a whole was biased against Muslims. Further, just because Hindus and others were not booked for any offences, it cannot be concluded that the police was partisan. In the absence of any complaint or proof, the police cannot use its powers against the people of any community just for the sake of balance. No doubt, such an observation by the highest court of the state would have demoralising effect on the police force and may also add to the widening gulf between Hindus and Muslims.

**SC declines relief to OZA**

The Supreme Court on June 16, declined to intervene in the contempt proceedings initiated by the High Court of Gujarat against the senior advocate and president of the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association, Yatin Oza and permitted him to withdraw the petition.

It may be recalled that Oza, a repeat contemnor, had this time invited the wrath of the Gujarat High Court by his public utterances and a 12 page letter addressed to the Chief Justice of High Court wherein he made serious allegations of corruption, red-tapism and favouritism. The High Court took suo motu cognisance of these allegations terming them as baseless, frivolous, motivated and contemptuous and slapped the contempt notice on him. Earlier, Oza had been hauled up by the apex court in another contempt matter and had to apologise.



# HSL pips others to bag contacts worth Rs 3,250 cr

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), a public sector company in Vizag city, has bagged orders worth Rs 3,250.5 crore amidst stiff competition from public sector shipyards and Private ship-yards.

Chairman-and-Managing Director of HSL, Rear-Admiral LV Sarat Babu said that HSL bagged orders on a competitive basis for construction of two Diving Support Vessel worth Rs 2,390 Crore and four 50 Ton BP Tugs worth Rs 260 Crore for Indian Navy. HSL has also won orders for construction of four Pontoons worth Rs 10.25 Crore and three Flap Gates worth Rs 20 Crore with Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam. Further, HSL has emerged as L1 bidder for construction of semi-submersible pontoons worth Rs 420 Crore and HSL has also won refit orders worth Rs 150 Crore for normal refits of INS Sutlej and INS Sujatha of Indian Navy through competitive bidding. HSL is progressing activities expeditiously for signing of the contract with the Indian Navy for fleet support ships.

The 79th Foundation Day of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd was commemorated in a limited way on Sunday here in Vizag city. CMD of HSL LV Sarat



Babu, along with all directors, senior officers and representatives of recognised union paid rich tributes to the founder Seth Walchand Hirachand and said that he was a great visionary and a pioneer of shipbuilding in India.

The shipyard was established by him in the city of Visakhapatnam due to its strategic location. This patriotic industrialist decided that foundation stone for the shipyard should be laid by an Indian Leader in the thick of the freedom struggle. Accordingly, the foundation stone was laid on June 21, 1941, by Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Independent India's first ship 'Jala Usha' was launched soon after independence at this shipyard. The chairman conveyed his felicitations to all

serving and retired employees on this occasion.

Sarat Babu highlighted the fact that the shipyard has transformed itself and achieved remarkable growth in all activities. Since Jan 2016, HSL has undergone a major turnaround and posted operating and net profits for the last four consecutive years after a gap of 65 years.

During the last four years the Contribution per employee increased from Rs 13 Lakhs to Rs 59 Lakhs. HSL has set a record by delivering 14 new construction Ships and 4 Pontoons to its customers. The shipyard has also achieved a historical milestone in submarine repair capability by completing the Normal Refit of submarine INS Sindhuvi ahead of schedule. Further, the shipyard

**The 79th Foundation Day of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd was commemorated in a limited way on Sunday here in Vizag city. CMD of HSL LV Sarat Babu, along with all directors, senior officers and representatives of recognised union paid rich tributes to the founder Seth Walchand Hirachand and said that he was a great visionary and a pioneer of shipbuilding in India**

completed maiden refit of INS Astradharini, a torpedo launch and recovery vessel for Indian Navy, two weeks ahead of contractual refit schedule.

The Company also cleared Rs.108 Cr towards its legacy liabilities from its earnings for partial settlement of ESSAR Oil long pending liability.

The long pending issue related to 53000 Bulk Carrier, built by HSL for M/s Goodearth Maritime Ltd has been resolved after 5 years and the vessel sailed from HSL to the location of the new buyer on February 22 2020.

# SEB arrests 18,000 in one month for smuggling liquor

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB), after its formation last month has booked as many as 1,545 cases for illegal transportation of sand and sand dumps in the state. In all, 2,837 persons were accused in the illegal sand transportation while 1,924 vehicles were seized and 3,82,636 tonnes of sand was seized after forming the SEB in the state.

The SEB sleuths also filed about 14,200 cases on illegal liquor transportation and sales in the state and arrested about 18,961 persons. As many as 4,872 vehicles were seized, said Vineet Brijlal, SEB commissioner.

The commissioner informed that the SEB has already initiated enforcement operations in coordination with police department and showing substantial progress in seizures. He said that during the one-month operations, 14 two-wheelers, 56 three-wheelers, 18 four-wheelers, 1,535 four-wheelers (Heavy vehicles (kind of vehicle) Tractor, Mini Lorry, Truck, Lorry, tippers, JCB), 301 (Engine boat & bullock carts) were seized involved in illegal sand transportation.

In Liquor smuggling about 4,872 vehicles were seized including 4187 two-wheelers, 127 three-wheelers, 400 four-wheelers light Vehicles (Car & Bolero), 60 Heavy vehicles (kind of vehicle) Tractor, Mini



Lorry, Truck, Lorry, tippers and 98 other vehicles informed the commissioner.

The liquor seized during the month was 75,731 litres of ID Liquor, 59,161 IMFL and 1957 Beer (NFPL). The quantity of duty paid liquor seized was 23,999 IMFL and 618 Beer. About 544 litres of Toddy and 10,530 litres of Ganja was seized by the SEB officers at various places across the state, he said and added that in a major operation SEB has busted Punjab NDPL racket and seizure of 145 boxes containing NDPL Liquor of Punjab diverted to AP at Kankipadu, Vijayawada.

As many as 2,460 bottles of NDPL caught from Bolero truck in the early hours at Penuganchiprolu PS limits. About 200 bottles of NDPL hidden underneath onion bags while transporting the same from TS State by SEB Krishna district were among

a few major catches.

Pertaining to sand, heaps of sand weighing 231 tonnes (dump) was seized along with 5 tractors at Garividi, Jami and L.kota Mandals by Additional SP, SEB, Vizianagaram. While 2 sand dumps weighing about 126 tons along with 24 tractors at Nerniki Thanda village, by SEB, Kurnool district.

The SEB organised programme at Nidamoru village to quit the brewing of ID arrack, Parivartana (Spandana) programme was held for 120 families in Krutivenu mandal in which the villagers who were brewing ID Liquor have surrendered their Vessels. As a part of Parivarthana (Spanadana) Programme Additional SP, SEB, Kuravada village, Visakhapatnam District, distributed volley ball kits to youth who are indulging in brewing ID liquor, said the commissioner.

## YSRCP MP seeks Central protection from his own party

Continued from Page 1

In the letter, the MP made it clear that there was no security for his life in AP and found fault with the state police for not acting on his complaint.

He said that the rift started after opposing the proposed sale of TTD lands in public auction and also condemned the corruption in the land acquisition procedure in the State that led to the burning of the effigies by YSRCP leaders and cadre.

Raju said that when the police in the State could find Sections in the law to file cases against former ministers and TDP leaders Ch Ayyannapatru, N Chinaraajappa and Yanamala Ramakrishnu, but wouldn't bother finding a suitable Section to book the culprits who threatened him.

He pointed out that he was the second VIP to seek Central protection in the State, Ramesh Kumar being the first.

He said that he would not make public the letter as rules prohibit him from doing so.

It may be mentioned that Ramesh Kumar had purportedly written to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and requested high security for him and his family.

The letter was leaked soon after the SEC postponed the local body polls in the state which irked the YSRCP government.

## CPI leader wants free sand policy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

CPI state secretary K Ramakrishna wrote to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy demanding free sand policy and to supply quality sand in the state.

Ramakrishna in his letter on Sunday pointed out that even after one year of the YSRCP rule, sand mafia did not stop. He recalled that during the previous government the cost of one tractor sand was Rs 1,500 against the present price at Rs 6,000 per tractor.

He also alleged that quality sand is being transported to other states illegally, while the construction sector in the state is bearing the brunt due to poor quality sand available in the state's market.

# Arrest Vijayasai Reddy, his kin in Rs 307 crore scam, demands TDP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Alleging that YSRCP senior leader V Vijayasai Reddy and his relatives were involved in a scam worth Rs 307 crore, TDP official spokesperson K Pattabhi Ram on Sunday demanded the arrest of the MP, and his son-in-law Rohit Reddy's father PV Ramprasada Reddy.

Pattabhi Ram alleged that Vijayasai Reddy and Ramprasada Reddy were involved in the alleged Rs 307 crore scam in 108 ambulance services.

The TDP has accused the YS Jaganmohan Reddy Government of resorting to massive irregularities in yet another scam by issuing seven to eight GOs within a few months for purchase and main-

tenance of 108 ambulances.

He said that Ramprasada Reddy's Aurobindo Foundation was given the contract to maintain 108 services through GO 116 issued on February 13, 2020, in utter violation of a prevailing agreement with the BVG- U K S A S Emergency Medical Services.

"The Chief Minister and his co-accused Vijayasai Reddy are not even sparing the emergency medical services for poor people and did not hesitate to unlawfully undermine the

agreement with BVG," alleged Pattabhi Ram.

He said that the Chief Minister and DGP Gautam

Sawang now prove their credibility by ordering a probe and getting the CID

to complete the investigation in one day in order to arrest the culprits.

The TDP leader recalled that his party's MLA K Atchannaidu

was arrested just after a one-day probe and similar action should be taken against Vijayasai Reddy and others involved in the alleged scam.

Pattabhi Ram alleged that

Aurobindo was getting Rs 307 crore in excess compared to earlier contract and this was twice the size of the alleged Rs 150 crore scam in which Atchannaidu was wrongfully implicated.

He said that Vijayasai Reddy was still giving dowry in this form to his son-in-law Rohit Reddy even after six to seven years of the marriage being performed.

Stating that BVG runs thousands of 108 ambulances in Maharashtra and Delhi, Pattabhi Ram said the CM has to explain the people of Andhra Pradesh why his Government has removed such an efficient company while preferring Aurobindo which has no prior experience in this field.



## 477 new Covid cases in AP...

Continued from Page 1

"What we are seeing now is the peaking of the pandemic after we have opened up. Also, our testing strategy has changed and we have scaled up the number of daily tests. In the last 24 hours, we did a record 24,451 tests and detected 477 positive cases," a senior official of the health department pointed out.

From 0.9 per cent, the infection positivity rate climbed to 1.32 per cent in the last three weeks, while the recovery rate dropped from 63.49 per cent to 48.24 per cent.

The government has said that it has conducted the highest number of 12,675 tests per million population in the country, with the aggregate crossing 6,76,828 on Sunday.

"We have ramped up our testing capacity

so much that we are now taking less than a week to test one lakh samples whereas it took 58 days for the initial one lakh samples," the official pointed out.

Besides, the state has also been going aggressive in testing people aged 60 and above, and those with co-morbidities.

"We are targeting the right areas like containment zones, old towns, vegetable markets and also the right categories, including primary contacts and migrants. All this is reflecting in the growing number of Covid-19 positive cases," the official added.

"We have to fight the pandemic together and get rid of it. Everyone should take it as a social responsibility and partner themselves in this fight," Special Chief Secretary (Health) K S Jawahar Reddy said.

## 19-yr-old Muslim moves SC seeking recall of its order...

Continued from Page 1

He said that he has also read several books on Lord Jagannath and developed devotion towards the 'Lord of the Universe'. Hossen's father Imdad Hussain, mother Rashida Begum and younger brother Annol have never opposed him worshipping the idol of Jagannath.

However, Hossen said he has not visited the 12th century shrine in Puri as he was born in a Muslim family. Only Hindus are allowed to enter the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri. "I have not visited the temple as I am not

allowed. I believe that I am a human being and there is one creator in the universe," he said.

With great confidence, Hossen said that "the apex court will allow holding the rath yatra once it gets to know the fact that the managing committee is in favour of conducting it on a limited scale in the absence of devotees in view of the Covid-19 pandemic".

"I am confident that the verdict of the Supreme Court on Monday will not let down the people of Odisha," he said.

Hossen had on June 17 had filed a petition opposing the

Odisha Vikash Parishad which sought a stay on the festival.

Later, his lawyer Mahapatra sought a modification in the order of the apex court to conduct the rath yatra only in Puri.

Besides Hossen, Jagannath Sanskriti Jana Jagaran Manch, Viswanath Das, Nituranjan Dash, Bijan Paikray, Sanjeev Kumar Chinnara, Daitapati Nijog Committee, Raghunath Gochhikar, Janardhan Pattajosi Mahapatra, Shree Jagannath Sevayat Samilanim, International Hindu Mahasangha, Shree Jagannath Sewa Santha and others, Shree Shree Abhiram

Cultural Centre and others, Santanu Kumar Pradhan Abhigya and others have filed interventions in the apex court.

The apex court had on June 18 stayed the rath yatra, which was scheduled to begin on June 23, and all activities related to the festival, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The same evening, the Odisha Cabinet passed a resolution in an emergency meeting, asking the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTMC) to carry out rituals inside the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, in accordance with the direction

of the court.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the pleas seeking recall of its order staying this year's historic Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra, attended by lakhs of people from across the world, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A single judge bench of Justice S Ravindra Bhat is scheduled to hear on Monday these applications.

The top court's June 18 order had come on a PIL filed by an Odisha-based NGO seeking cancellation or postponement of this year's Rath Yatra.

## Forces get 'full freedom' to give China befitting response

Continued from Page 1

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria on Saturday said the IAF is "well prepared" and "suitably deployed" to counter any security challenge along the border with China and even hinted that his force has flown combat air patrols in the Ladakh region as part of heightened preparedness.

Under combat air patrols, fully armed fighter jets can be scrambled at short notices for specific missions.

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

The situation in eastern Ladakh deteriorated after around 250 Chinese and Indian soldiers were engaged in a violent face-off on May 5 and 6. The incident in Pangong Tso was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9.

Prior to the clashes, both sides had been asserting that

pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it was necessary to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

Singh's review of the situation in eastern Ladakh came a day before he embarks on a three-day visit to Russia to attend a grand military parade in Moscow to mark the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Germany in the Second World War.

Similar military powers were given to the armed forces after the Uri attack and the Balakot aerial strikes against Pakistan.

The Air Force had emerged as the biggest beneficiary of the powers granted by the government after the Balakot airstrikes as they procured large number of equipment including the Spice-2000 air to the ground stand off missiles, Strum Ataka air to ground missiles along

with multiple spares and air to air missiles for its aerial fleet.

The Army has acquired the Israeli Spike anti-tank guided missiles along with the preci-

## Oppn MPs demand Par panel meeting...

Continued from Page 1

RSP MP NK Premchandran, a member of the panel, said a meeting has to be called on the standoff between India and China.

"A meeting has to be called at the earliest as it is an issue of national importance. Foreign secretary and defense secretary should be invited to brief the panel on the violence faceoff," Premchandran said.

Former Home Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said all top officials who can throw light on the incident should be called to brief the members.

"A meeting must be called and the foreign secretary should brief on the violent stand-off between forces of India and

China in Galwan Valley and members must be allowed to call other top officials of the government who can throw more light on this, Chidambaram said.

But BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi said political leaders from across parties should stand united with the government in a time of crisis. She also said there's politics behind this demand at such a moment.

"To fight the Chinese wall, political leaders should stand united with the government as a firewall and avoid propaganda and politics," Lekhi said. Wondering why MPs from opposition parties didn't demand a meeting of the standing committee amid the coronavirus pandemic, she

asserted that "there is definitely politics behind this meeting (call)."

Her party colleague and member in the committee Poonam Mahajan said the meeting wouldn't be feasible as it could be risky for members of the Lok Sabha Secretariat due to the pandemic.

The members have a right to demand meetings of the parliamentary standing committees but these panels are not a platform to do politics on issues of national interest, she said.

Meanwhile, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu have asked the secretary generals to explore the possibility of arranging a meeting via video conference.

prepare themselves at a short notice for any contingency.

## Cloudy skies play spoilsport for many

Continued from Page 1

Solar eclipses occur when the moon casts its shadow on the sun. In an annular eclipse, the three bodies are aligned in a manner that the sun appears only as a slim circle of light for a while. The eclipse, beginning and ending with a partial phase, lasted from 9.16 am to 3.04 pm, across regions.

Apart from the weather, social distancing norms imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic too marred the experience.

The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUCOST) scaled down its plans, one among several science bodies across the country to do so.

"No big event was organised due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But to provide a glimpse of the eclipse, we arranged a limited programme at GUCOST office in Gandhinagar with telescopes, pinhole cameras and solar filters for students and enthusiasts," Narottam Sahoo, an advisor at GUCOST, said.

But enthusiasts, equipped with

protective eye gear, gathered on the terraces and in other open spaces to take a look as the moon cast its shadow over the sun. Many watched the phenomenon live-streamed online.

At one point, it seemed dusk had set in and birds began chirping. Prominent temples closed down before the eclipse. In Uttarakhand, the Chardham shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri closed at 10.30 the previous night.

They reopened for prayers only after the eclipse was over at 2.30 pm on Sunday.

In Haryana's Kurukshetra, about 200 priests gathered around the sacred Brahma Sarovar chanted from the scriptures as the eclipse progressed. Usually during solar eclipses, lakhs of people gather in the holy city for a dip in the sarovar. This time the administration had imposed a curfew, allowing only small-scale rituals.

The traditional fair was also not allowed because of social distancing norms to be followed to contain coronavirus.

Some scientists were also allowed to observe the eclipse in Kurukshetra. Arvind Ranade, a scientist with the Department of Science and Technology, was among those who travelled there.

"We could see the eclipse clearly, especially the Bailey's beads," Ranade said. Named after English astronomer Francis Bailey, Bailey's beads are an arc of bright spots seen during total and annular eclipses of the sun.

Apart from Kurukshetra, Dehradun, Chamoli, Joshimath, Srisa and Suratgarh were some of the towns on the annular eclipse path where the ring of fire around the sun could be seen if the weather permitted.

The annular path also passed through parts of Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, and China.

The next annular eclipse will be seen in South America in December. Another annular eclipse will occur in 2022, but will be hardly visible from India, according to N Rathnashree, Director of the Nehru Planetarium in Delhi.





# Isolation wards, rapid tests to curb spread of Corona in jails: committee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With several inmates and staff at prisons in the city testing positive for COVID-19, a high-powered committee headed by a Delhi High Court judge has issued several directions, like creating isolation wards and carrying out rapid tests, to prevent further spread of the virus among prisoners.

The high powered committee (HPC), headed by Justice Hima Kohli, also directed prison authorities to take extra precautions with regard to inmates over 55 years of age after a 62-year-old prisoner, who died in his sleep, was later found to be COVID positive.

The committee further said that new prisoners between ages 18 and 21 be kept in isolation wards and also asked the DG Prisons and Special Secretary (Home) of the Delhi government to make efforts to get the 360



**"PM has surrendered Indian territory to Chinese aggression. If the land was Chinese: Why were our soldiers killed? Where were they killed," he had asked on Twitter on Saturday, tagging the PM's remark**

vacant police quarters adjacent to Mandoli jail here for use as a temporary jail to create isolation ward for new prisoners and COVID positive cases.

To prevent new prisoners from spreading the virus among the inmates, the HPC was of the opinion that rapid tests needed to be conducted on every new entrant and it directed accordingly.

The committee, in its meeting

held on June 20, further resolved that all jail hospitals must be equipped with 'oxygen concentration machines' and two such machines for each of the two jail hospitals must be procured at the earliest. To prevent spread of COVID-19 among inmates through jail staff, the committee resolved that rapid testing of the staff be carried out as per guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

"This is to ensure that the suspected cases of corona positive jail staff could be prevented from getting in touch with jail inmates," according to the minutes of the meeting.

With regard to decongesting jails by granting interim bails and parole, the committee was informed that total 4,129 under-trials and convicted prisoners have been released till June 20.

## Naqvi dons role of Yoga instructor, performs 'asanas' with people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Marking the International Day of Yoga, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday donned the role of a Yoga instructor as he performed various 'asanas' with people from different communities at his residence here.

The Minority Affairs minister marked the day by performing Yoga with people from Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian communities.

He not only showed them how to perform different Yoga 'asanas', but also informed them about the health benefits of these different 'asanas'.

Naqvi, who has been practicing Yoga for the last several years, impressed those present with his skills and knowledge as a Yoga instructor.



Yoga has become an "Indian health hamper" for the entire world, he told reporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made India's thousand years old culture of health and peace a 'household brand' for the entire world, he said.

Yoga connects the entire humanity by removing barriers of religion, caste, region, language and the country, Naqvi said.

## Armed forces told to forcefully deal with Chinese aggression

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The armed forces deployed along the 3,500-km de-facto border with China have been given "full freedom" to give a "befitting" response to any Chinese misadventure, government sources said after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the situation in eastern Ladakh at a meeting with the top military brass on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria.

India has already mobilised fighter jets and sent thousands of additional Army troops to forward locations along the border with China after 20 Indian Army personnel were killed in a brutal attack by Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley on June 15.



The clash in Galwan Valley, the worst cross-border violence in 45 years, significantly frayed ties between the two countries, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi sending a strong message to China that "India wants peace but if provoked, India is capable of giving a befitting reply".

In the meeting on Sunday, Singh told the top military officers to maintain a strict vigil on Chinese activities around the

## Nepal's FM radio stations say Lipulekh theirs

PNS ■ PITHORAGARH (U'KHAND)

Nepal's FM radio channels close to the border with India are broadcasting propaganda to back Kathmandu's claim on Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura, residents in India's border villages said.

Nepalese parliament recently adopted a new political map of the country showing these areas as part of its own territory, a move strongly opposed by India.

"Some Nepalese FM channels have of late started playing anti-India speeches in between Nepali songs," said Shalu Datal, a resident of Dantu village in Pithoragarh's Dharchula sub-division.

"As people on both sides of the border listen to Nepali songs, they also hear the anti-India speeches delivered by Nepalese Maoist leaders in between them," he said.



The main FM stations playing anti-India content between songs are Naya Nepal and Kalapani Radio, Datal said.

"Some old channels like Mallikarjun Radio and a website named annapurna.online are also broadcasting reports depicting Kalapani as Nepalese territory," he said.

The FM stations are situated at Chabrigar near the district headquarters in Nepal's Dharchula.

The stations have a range of about three kilometers and can be heard in Dharchula, Baluakot, Jauljibi and Kalika on the Indian side of the border.

These radio stations have also started giving weather reports on Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura, treating them as Nepalese territory, Krishna Garbiyal, a Rang community leader based in Dharchula said.

## IAS provides study material to those who can't afford online classes

PNS ■ BAHRAICH

A trainee IAS officer here is providing study material to nearly 12,000 children who cannot afford online education during the COVID-19 crisis.

Suraj Patel, who is posted as the joint magistrate in Bahraich, is helping children studying in classes 3 to 5 in Chitaura development block of the district to keep their education going.

As all schools across the country remain shut due to the COVID-19 pandemic, online classes have become the new normal, but lack of digital connectivity among some students remains a challenge.

Basic Education Officer, Bahraich, Dinesh Yadav said, "Suraj Patel is providing study material to students through the Basic Education Department."



Patel approached the department to provide printed education material to children who do not have laptops or smartphones, Yadav said.

If proved to be successful, the project will be replicated in other blocks as well, he said.

"As many as 12,000 children are being provided printed question papers of Mathematics and other subjects," the basic education officer said.

## Chariot artisans shed tears after Puri Rath Yatra stayed

PNS ■ PURI

The news that the Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra here will not be held this year in view of the COVID-19 pandemic has left multitude of artisans connected to the construction of the grand chariots for the world famous festivals of Hindus in tears. The makers of the gigantic chariots, which are pulled by lakhs of devotees, include a number of biswakarmas (carpenters), blacksmiths, roopakaras (painters), darzis (tailors) and 'Bhoi' servitors who supply logs to the carpenters.

A Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde on June 18 said that in the interest of public health and safety of citizens, this year's Rath Yatra in the Odisha pilgrim town cannot be allowed.

The nine-day Rath Yatra festival in this seaside pilgrim town will begin on June 23 and the Shree Jagannath Temple



Managing Committee and the servitors of the 12th-century shrine have urged the Odisha government to file a fresh application in the Supreme Court, seeking modification of its order.

The Rath Yatra has continued uninterrupted since 1736. It could not take place 32 times between 1558 and 1735 due to Mughal invasions, said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in the Jagannath Culture.

"I was shocked to hear the news about the Supreme Court's order. I came to know it when

giving final touches to the chariot," said Bijay Kumar Mahapatra, the chief carpenter of 'Nandighosh', Lord Jagannath's chariot.

"Never before I have seen such a situation when chariots will not be used even after being completed. I have been engaged in chariot making since childhood. My father and grandfather also made chariots for the deities," said 65-year-old Narasingha Mahapatra, the chief carpenter of Lord Balabhadra's chariot Taladhawja.

## 35 transgenders participate in online yoga

PNS ■ INDORE

Nearly 35 members of the transgender community joined an online yoga session conducted from here in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga, and prayed to God for the eradication of COVID-19 from the world.

Transgenders from places like Indore, Bhopal (in Madhya Pradesh), Pune, Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Bengaluru performed different yoga asanas while joining the session, city-based yoga trainer Krishnakant Mishra, who conducted the special session, said.

The participants adhered to the physical distancing guidelines while performing yoga, said Mishra, a clerk with the LIC, who in 2018 held a yoga session with 40 people at Hilsa, a mountainous region located at an altitude of 11,940 feet near Nepal-China border.

## Rtd MEA official's wife stabbed to death during robbery attempt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A 94-year-old retired External Affairs Ministry official was attacked and his 88-year-old wife stabbed to death during a robbery bid at their home in southwest Delhi's Safdarjung Enclave, police said on Sunday.

B R Chawla and his wife Kanta Chawla lived alone after the death of their two children a few years ago.

The incident took place around 9 PM on Saturday when the recently-appointed security guard of their building arrived at their home with his two-three associates, the police said.

According to police, the security guard and his associates barged inside the Chawla house, overpowered the couple and forced them to sit on a sofa. When Kanta tried to resist the robbery bid, one of the accused stabbed her with a sharp object. She became unconscious and fell on the



sofa, a senior police officer said. The men then went to their bedroom and managed to flee after taking away all the cash and jewellery kept in their cupboard, he said.

While his wife was lying injured, the man managed to go outside the house to alert the neighbours who informed the Residents Welfare Association president.

The woman was taken to a nearby hospital where she succumbed to the injuries, he

**The men then went to their bedroom and managed to flee after taking away all the cash and jewellery kept in their cupboard, he said**

said. A case has been registered and teams have been formed to nab the culprits, police said, adding that CCTV cameras are also being scanned.

### LIFE THROUGH A COVID PRISM:

## Nurses, docs walk tightrope between work and home

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Being trapped inside PPE suits for six hours is tough, battling the fear of contracting COVID-19 tougher and not meeting children, spouses or parents for weeks the toughest. But that is what they signed up for and that is what they do, say the doughty doctors and nurses at the AIIMS Trauma Centre.

Their days revolve around their COVID-19 patients and their lives around their families and the twain can never meet. That is the maxim for the band of frontline warriors in the battle against the pandemic who go to extraordinary lengths to isolate themselves from their loved ones and ensure the two halves that make up their world stay completely separate.

Like Vikas and Jyoti Yadav, both nursing officers, who live



with their children, an 11-year-old daughter and a nine-year-old son, in suburban Gurgaon but haven't met them for days.

The couple, both posted in the COVID-19 ward of the Trauma Centre, make it a point to return to their apartment complex about 40 km from their place of work. But make sure they isolate themselves from their children.

They haven't been within touching distance of their children since their COVID-19 duties began. "Isolating ourselves from the children is the most difficult part," Jyoti said.

The children have their own room and have been very understanding. Since the lockdown began on March 25, Vikas and Jyoti spend most of their time at home in the garden close to the children's

**Like Vikas and Jyoti Yadav, both nursing officers, who live with their children, an 11-year-old daughter and a nine-year-old son, in suburban Gurgaon but haven't met them for days**

room, watch them go about their daily work and talk to them from there.

It is tough but it is a commitment they made.

"Vikas proposed to me inside the trauma centre in 2007 and since then we have been working and living together," Jyoti said.

## No plan to open liquor vends: JK govt

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Religious and political organisations in Kashmir have opposed a reported move to open liquor vends in the Valley, prompting the government to clarify on Sunday that it was not considering any such move.

The Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of socio-religious organisations, headed by Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, said any move by the administration to open liquor shops across the length and breadth of the Valley will be strongly opposed and resisted.

"The government order which is widely circulating on social media clearly stating governments plan to set up liquor shops at 67 locations in Kashmir valley is causing grave concern and anguish among the Muslims of the valley," it said.

## India playing 'pharmacy of the world' role during COVID-19

PNS ■ BEIJING

India is playing the role as the "pharmacy of the world" during the COVID-19 pandemic with its vast experience and deep knowledge in medicine, setting the tone for many regional and global initiatives, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Vladimir Norov has said.

India has so far supplied medicines to 133 countries in the fight against COVID-19, which shows India's generosity, despite the fact that the country's government has taken urgent measures to prevent and treat the disease on a national scale, Norov said.

This is a worthy and responsible example of the behaviour of a major power, and at the same time demonstrates the complementarity and mutual support of the SCO member states, he said.



India last week overwhelmingly won the election to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a non-permanent seat.

Commenting on India's election to the UNSC, Norov, who visited New Delhi in January this year and held extensive

### SHORT READS



#### Facing health issues due to 'torture' by Cong: Pragna Thakur

Bhopal: BJP's Lok Sabha member from Bhopal Pragna Singh Thakur on Sunday attributed her health issues, including alleged loss of vision, to "torture" she suffered under the Congress regime. Thakur, who participated in the International Yoga Day event at the state BJP headquarters here, told reporters that she had "swelling and pus from retina to brain", adding she lost vision from one eye. "I sustained several injuries due to torture by the Congress for nine years. Many injuries resurface due to this torture. There was formation of pus and swelling in my eyes and brain. I have blurred vision in the right eye and I can't see at all from the left one," she said, apparently referring to her imprisonment in the 2008 Malegaon blast case.

#### Delhi Police holds yoga session to de-stress, boost immunity

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police organised an hour-long yoga session for its personnel on the International Day of Yoga on Sunday to de-stress them and enhance their immunity, police said. Around 100 officers and staffers of Delhi traffic police led by its Special Commissioner Taj Hassan and Joint Commissioner Meenu Chaudhary took part in the yoga session, they said. According to police, the idea was to help them de-stress and enhance their immunity as well as increase their concentration level through certain yoga 'asanas' such as 'Sukshma Vyayam', 'Bramari', 'Nadi Shodhan Pranayam', 'Bhastrika Pranayam' and 'Chakra' meditation. The Police Families Welfare Society (PFWS) also organised a yoga session at the office of their president Pratima Shrivastava. A limited number of team leaders and officers attended the event due to social distancing norms in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Biden is 'helpless puppet' of radical left, says Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has kicked off his re-election campaign with a rally in Oklahoma where he launched a frontal attack on his Democratic opponent Joe Biden, describing him as a "helpless puppet" of the radical left. Trump, 74, is pitted against former vice president and Democratic Party's presidential nominee Biden, 77, in the November 3 presidential election. As per the latest opinion polls, he is trailing behind Biden on an average by eight percentage points. Trump, in his address to the thousands of his supporters at an indoor stadium in Oklahoma's Tulsa city on Saturday, said: "Biden is a helpless puppet of the radical left. And he's not radical left. I don't think he knows what he is any more. But he's controlled by the radical left".



SHORT READS



Overcast conditions play a spoilsport for sky gazers

**LUCKNOW:** Overcast conditions here on Sunday proved a dampener for sky gazers keen on having a glimpse of an annular solar eclipse which coincided with the summer solstice, the longest day in the northern hemisphere. Arrangements were made at Indira Gandhi Planetarium here to view the solar eclipse while adhering to physical distancing norms in view of the COVID-19 outbreak, a senior official at the facility said. The annular solar eclipse occurs when the sun, moon and the earth come in a straight line. During the celestial phenomenon, the sun appears to be a ring of fire. The annular solar eclipse started in Lucknow around 9.27 am and continued till 2.02 pm. Because of the cloud cover, it was only around 1 pm that the eclipse was visible. At the planetarium, barely 100-150 people saw it," Anil Yadav, state project co-ordinator at the planetarium said.

Navi Mumbai complainant's wife held for Rs 4.07 lakh theft

**THANE:** A probe into a housebreaking theft of cash and jewellery totaling Rs 4.07 lakh in Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra ended with police zeroing in on the complainant's wife who had cooked up the incident after pulling off the crime single-handedly, an official said on Sunday. As per the complaint, some persons bent the window grill of a house in Borikode between June 15 and 17, when the complainant and his wife were not at home, and stole cash and jewellery totaling Rs 4.07 lakh, the Khoparkhairane police station official said. "Complainant Mahendra Veta (48) is a builder. Our probe had reached a dead end and even CCTV footage of the area wasn't of help. We then decided to question the complainant and his wife which led to the crime being solved," the official said.

Charge sheet against 12 Tablighi members from Nepal

**MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP):** A charge sheet has been filed against 12 Tablighi Jamaat members from Nepal for assembling here in violation of the lockdown orders imposed to combat the coronavirus threat, police said on Sunday. According to the prosecution, the members of the Tablighi Jamaat have been charged under the IPC and the Epidemic Diseases Act. The charge sheet was filed in a court here on Saturday. A case was registered against them in early April, they said. The Jamaat members have already been released on bail. Meanwhile, the police have also filed separate charge sheets against 22 other Tablighi Jamaat members hailing from Delhi, Manipur, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

# Yoga helping COVID patients to defeat disease: PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The world is feeling the need for yoga more than ever due to the coronavirus pandemic and the ancient Indian practice is helping a large number of COVID-19 patients across the globe in defeating the disease, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

The coronavirus specifically attacks the respiratory system and 'pranayama' or breathing exercise helps in strengthening the respiratory system the most, Modi said in his message on the sixth International Day of Yoga.

The sixth International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country through electronic and digital media, an official statement said.

Modi said yoga has emerged as a force for unity and it does not discriminate as it goes beyond race, colour, gender, faith and nations.

"Yoga enhances our quest for



a healthier planet. It has emerged as a force for unity and deepens the bonds of humanity. It does not discriminate. It goes beyond race, colour, gender, faith and nations. Anybody can embrace yoga," the prime minister said.

In his nearly 15-minute address early Sunday morning, Modi said that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the world is feeling the need for yoga more than ever.

"If our immunity is strong,

it is of great help in defeating this disease. For boosting immunity, there are several methods in yoga, various 'asanas' are there. These asanas are such that they increase the strength of the body and also strengthen our metabolism," he said.

Talking about the benefits of 'pranayama' -- a form of breathing exercise, Modi said it is very effective and has countless variations like 'Sheetali', 'Kapalbhati' and

**"Yoga enhances our quest for a healthier planet. It has emerged as a force for unity and deepens the bonds of humanity. It does not discriminate. It goes beyond race, colour, gender, faith and nations. Anybody can embrace yoga," the prime minister said**

Bhrastika'.

"All these forms of yoga, help a lot in strengthening both our respiratory and immune system," he said, urging people to include 'pranayama' in their daily routine.

A large number of COVID-19 patients all over the world are taking the benefits of all these techniques of yoga. The strength of yoga is helping them defeat this disease, Modi said.

## ‘Surrender Modi’: Rahul’s swipe at PM over LAC face-off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Jun 21 (PTI) A day after accusing the prime minister of having "surrendered" Indian territory to Chinese aggression, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at him on Sunday, saying "Narendra Modi is actually Surrender Modi".

Gandhi took the dig at the prime minister in a tweet, wherein he tagged an article in a foreign publication with the headline — "India's appeasement policy toward China unravels". "Narendra Modi is actually Surrender Modi," he said in the tweet.

In another tweet, the Congress leader said even though the prime minister says no one has taken over Indian territory, satellite images show that the Chinese have "captured" Indian territory near Pangong Tso in Ladakh.

"The prime minister said - no one entered the country, nor did anyone take over our land. But satellite images clearly show that China has cap-



tured Mother India's sacred land near Pangong Lake," he said in the tweet in Hindi.

Gandhi also posted a television news clip with his tweet, showing Indian territories under Chinese occupation with the help of satellite imagery.

The Congress leader had accused Modi on Saturday of having "surrendered" Indian territory to Chinese aggression, after the latter's remarks made at an all-party meeting that neither is anyone inside India's territory nor has anyone captured its posts.

"The PM has surrendered Indian territory to Chinese

**The Congress leader had accused Modi on Saturday of having "surrendered" Indian territory to Chinese aggression, after the latter's remarks made at an all-party meeting that neither is anyone inside India's territory nor has anyone captured its posts**

aggression. If the land was Chinese: Why were our soldiers killed? Where were they killed," he had asked on Twitter, highlighting the prime minister's comments.

A statement issued by the government after Friday's all-party meeting called by Modi to discuss the situation at the Sino-India border in Ladakh said, "At the outset, the prime minister clarified that neither is anyone inside our territory nor is any of our posts captured."

## Students-run think-tank to find jobs for lockdown-hit workers in Delhi-NCR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A group of students from IITs, IIMs and other reputed institutions on Sunday launched a pilot project and a helpline number to help workers, who lost their jobs during the coronavirus-necessitated lockdown, find work.

The students, who have created Students For Involved Governance and Mutual Action (SIGMA), are being assisted by Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, Abhishek Singh and bureaucrat Durga Shakti Nagpal in their endeavour.

The helpline — 8800883323 — "ekatra" was conceptualized by the students to help the hiring of the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers across Delhi-NCR, Singh said



during the online launch of the pilot project and the helpline number.

The helpline will be operational from 10 am to 7 pm everyday. Student volunteers will attend calls from potential employers and workers and take note of their requirements.

The lockdown has had a serious impact on the livelihoods of workers, many have been rendered jobless.

## India's Covid-19 tally crosses 4 lakh with highest single-day spike

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A record single-day spike of 15,413 new COVID-19 cases took India's infection tally past the 4 lakh-mark on Sunday, while the death toll rose to 13,254 with 306 new fatalities, according to Union Health Ministry data

India has been registering record single-day spike for the past four days The jump of 15,413 cases took India's case load to 4,10,461.

The number of recoveries also continued to surge with 2,27,755 patients cured so far, while there were 1,69,451 active cases, according to the updated official figures at 8 am. One patient has migrated.

"Thus, around 55.48 per cent of the patients have recovered so far," an official said. The total number of confirmed cases includes foreigners.



India registered over 10,000 cases for the tenth day in a row. The country has witnessed a surge of 2,19,926 infections from June 1 till 21 with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh among the top five states that have seen a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases.

**"Thus, around 55.48 per cent of the patients have recovered so far," an official said. The total number of confirmed cases includes foreigners**

## Chennai comes to a standstill on first ‘Sunday shutdown’

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The first "Sunday shutdown" with exception only for hospitals and allied health services brought Chennai and suburbs to a standstill while the city's civic body said its fever camps to help detect coronavirus cases have evoked tremendous response from the people.

It was a virtual curfew with deserted roads, bridges and intersections fully blocked by police using barricades and with the exception of police, sanitary workers and health personnel of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) most of others stayed indoors.

City police said as many as 4,799 cases have been filed for violation of curbs and 7,907 vehicles (7,395 two-wheelers, 168 autorickshaws, 344 light motor vehicles) have been seized.



While vegetable shops, groceries and petrol pumps have been allowed to function from 6 am till 2 pm during the 12-day lockdown period that began on June 19, such outlets too are closed today.

The government had already announced that on two Sundays (June 21 and 28) barring milk supply, pharmacies, hospitals and ambulance

services, no other services or shops will be permitted to function. The present spell of lockdown was implemented in view of continuing surge in coronavirus cases and before that most services and businesses were allowed to function.

On Saturday, of the 2,396 fresh virus cases in Tamil Nadu, Chennai accounted for

1,254 and the state capital's tally stood at 39,641.

GCC Commissioner K Prakash said as many as 533 medical camps were conducted on a single day on Saturday in which 36,671 people took part and over 1,198 Influenza Like Illness cases were detected and swab samples were taken from 1,029 people.

"The fever clinics run by the Corporation have evoked tremendous response from the people. The services came in handy for people for many ailments (apart from helping detection of coronavirus symptoms) especially when many clinics and dispensaries in private sector remain unopened," he said.

According to the civic body, the fever camps, which were 100 plus during the end of May steadily increased and crossed the 500-mark on June 18 and touched 533 on Saturday.

## Railways wonders how to beat the heat in COVID coaches

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equipped with handheld showers, mosquito nets, bio-toilets, power sockets, oxygen cylinders and more, the Railways' COVID-care coaches have it all to keep patients comfortable – but only if they can withstand the summer heat trapped inside the metal 'boxes'. In an effort to augment the government's efforts to build infrastructure to deal with the spread of COVID-19, the Railways has converted 5,321 non-AC sleeper class ICF (older design) coaches and developed them into COVID Care Level 1 centres for patients with mild symptoms or those suspected to have the infection.

Suspected and confirmed cases will be kept in separate coaches, officials said, adding



that 960 coaches in five states have already been deployed. These include 503 coaches in Delhi and 372 in Uttar Pradesh.

The coaches are "ready to move in" but there are no takers yet. Two or more air-conditioned coaches will also be provided for the medical staff to rest in. June is a hot month, the

hottest in many parts of the country, and the biggest challenge is how to make sure the patients are comfortable. Officials are hoping the monsoon sets in to bring some relief from the infamous Indian summer and some said in hushed tones that the coaches might well be useless otherwise.

## NGT imposes Rs 10L fine on K'taka govt over pollution in Kithiganahalli Lake

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NGT has imposed an interim penalty of Rs 10 lakh on the Karnataka government over pollution in the Kithiganahalli Lake, near Bommasandra suburb in Bengaluru, saying criminal offence is being committed by the authorities in not stopping the discharge of pollutants into the water bodies.

A bench headed by National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also slapped a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the municipal council of Bommasandra for failure to discharge its duties.

"Failure of important constitutional obligation by the municipal council as well as apathy and defiance of orders of this tribunal and the Supreme Court by state authorities is at the cost of environment and public health and is very unfortunate for



which prompt remedial actions must be taken and accountability of erring officers fixed," the bench said.

The NGT said only writing a letter is not compliance of the law and the stand taken by the authorities concerned can hardly be described as a responsible one. Discharge of untreated sewage into water bodies causes a huge damage and the prevention of the same

is the duty of the state authorities as the trustees of people's rights, the tribunal said, adding that such duty is being clearly breached.

"In view of the above for the damage caused to the environment, the state of Karnataka and Municipal Council, Bommasandra are held liable to pay interim compensation assessed on ad-hoc basis at Rs. 15 lakh.

**In view of the above for the damage caused to the environment, the state of Karnataka and Municipal Council, Bommasandra are held liable to pay interim compensation assessed on ad-hoc basis at Rs. 15 lakh**

"Karnataka is liable to pay Rs 10 lakh and the Municipal Council, Bommasandra is liable to pay Rs 5 lakh. Final compensation will be determined after hearing the state and the municipal council," the bench said.

If necessary, an expert committee will be appointed and it would be open to the state and the municipal council to recover the amount from the erring officers, the tribunal further said.

## Stakeholders seek phase-wise unlocking of Goa tourism industry

PNS ■ PANAJI

Tourism stakeholders in Goa urged the state government on Sunday to facilitate phase-wise unlocking of the industry, saying if the shutdown continues, it will result in job and revenue losses.

The tourism industry accounts for 40 per cent of Goa's GDP and is important for the country's economy, Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG), an umbrella body of tourism stakeholders in the state, said in a statement.

Goa's tourism industry has been shut since March when the lockdown was enforced in the country due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The state government earlier this month said hotels will be allowed to reopen from June 8, in adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs).

However, most of the hotels still remain closed.

The TTAG appealed to the



government to unlock Goa's tourism industry "in a phased manner at the earliest".

The industry cannot remain closed much longer as there will be substantial jobs and revenue losses for Goa, it said.

"Tourism activities are reopening gradually in various parts of India. We in Goa also have to follow suit and bring in guidelines and protocols for the reopening of hotels, restaurant, bars and all ancillary industries connected with tourism, it said.

Though the protocols and guidelines require hotels to reopen, they cannot successfully do so unless bars and restaurants are also given permissions to reopen. Therefore, there is a need to reopen hotels together with restaurants and bars, it said. The association said hotels and restaurants were required to open from June 8 and applications were invited for seeking permission for it. However, the industry is still waiting for the government's nod to start operating all its units, it said.

## Delhi govt issues revised order on home isolation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has issued a revised order stating that the novel coronavirus patients who do not have comorbidities or require hospitalisation could opt for home isolation following withdrawal of the decision on five-day mandatory institutional quarantine.

"All individuals who are positive will be referred to the COVID care centres for assessment of clinical conditions, severity of illness and presence of co-morbidities," it said in an order on Saturday. An assessment will also be done to check whether adequate facilities like minimum two rooms and a separate toilet exist so that the family members and neighbours are protected and a cluster of cases does not develop in that locality, according to the order.



## Bare facts

For all the displays of bonhomie, the Modi Govt has failed to read China. Ladakh is a reminder why we need to up our game



In reversing the image of India from the Nehruvian era, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has almost always highlighted his aggressive foreign policy, one which propagandists claim to have elevated us internationally. One which has been built on hugplomacy and charisma and, therefore, is good for optics but not for diplomacy. Certainly not for China, which cannot be bracketed with anybody considering the over 3,000 km of shared boundary and contentious issues we have had with it and its economic supremacy in regional markets. The fact of the matter is for all kinds of muscular leadership that we might profess, we have failed to read China. And

continue to be intimidated by it. Our eastern neighbour continues to be as inscrutable as it was in 1962. If Nehru nurtured a romantic notion of civilisational loyalties, then Modi graduated that to a shared sense of Asian leadership, one which saw even more Chinese investment in India and a mounting trade deficit. Yet China has remained just the same, hovering over us, bullying us through salami-slicing of our territories, as sore about our sympathies for Tibetan refugees and still seeing us as a rival claimant to Asian greatness that President Xi Jinping has currently rechristened as the “Chinese dream.” China wants India to fuel that dream with our dependencies on it and believes in an asymmetrical relationship. It certainly doesn’t like the US-led Western endorsement of India in a post-pandemic world. And for all practical purposes it has besieged us. India may not participate in China’s Belt and Road Initiative, or economic colonisation of smaller nations in the region, but those very nations, reduced to serfs caught in a debt-trap, are now China’s bulwark against us. For all our chest-thumping against Pakistan as the arch enemy, the country, which we use to measure our nationalism against, is but a pawn. Nepal is hostile, Bangladesh is silent, Sri Lanka and Maldives have been taken over. And though the PM may assure the nation that not an inch of our territory has gone to the Chinese, the violent ambush by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the brutal killing of 20 Army personnel certainly were acts of offence, not defence by any stretch. Besides, Chinese ingress is not new in Arunachal Pradesh or Uttarakhand. So the PM may keep silent but his brand of engagement has not stopped the dragon from using its forked tongue. Doklam should have been a reminder. We may like to believe that we stared the Chinese down but fact is they moved negligibly and have now ramped up fortifications close to it, something we do not want to talk about. The Chinese continue to insist they won’t restore status quo ante at Galwan Valley, which allows them strategic edge over our troop movements and a key connecting road, though we insist that they had only pitched a tent and were removed. Besides, China has not reconciled to our new map showing Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Home Minister Amit Shah’s fiery speech in the Lok Sabha that we would take back Aksai Chin. Although External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar assuaged anxieties of expansionism, China distrusts our plans to upgrade border infrastructure. Pandemic-hit it might be, but being the only nation that will not slip into negative growth, it can sustain such adventurism and heat up flashpoints to deter India while staying under the escalation threshold and claim miscommunication at the troop level that could be settled through talks. By then, we would have lost more men and resources. We must remember that the PLA never does what is not mandated by the Communist Party of China and its head Xi.

For all the “Howdy Modi” and red carpet to Trump, the US has not lived up to its newfound ally in the region. Except for making some noise about “China troubling India,” there has been no statement by the US President or even Quad countries in India’s favour. Besides, the US supports the “one-China policy” and has stayed away from taking a stand on Taiwan. Even Australia, which is at the receiving end of Chinese hitback over trade tariffs for leading the global probe on the Wuhan contagion, remained silent despite friendly vibes. The US itself wants a better trade deal with China. India’s hopes that it would get all fleeing companies from there to set up shop here are not realistic given the depth and cost-competitiveness of the Chinese economy. Every nation, India included, is just about waking up to the need for self-sufficiencies but the global supply chains will still be dependent on the factory floors of China. We may boycott Chinese goods and investment in government infra and review trade pacts but we account for just two per cent of China’s trade volumes. It won’t hurt it that much. China is one of our largest trading partners and has \$1.8 billion of FDIs locked in between 2015 and 2019. Of course, while we rebuild our strengths in the long-term and develop attractive markets for the world, in the short term we must deal with China one-to-one, intensify dialogue, delink it from contexts, keep it business-like and maintain an operational preparedness along the border. We must keep a hawk’s eye on PLA movements. Most importantly, the PM should keep it transparent and use Parliament to keep the Opposition and the nation abreast of developments. Or silence would be interpreted as appeasement, something the Chinese love to feed on.

## L-G gives in

Baijal recalls 5-day mandatory institutional quarantine order, stops short of confrontation with AAP Govt



Pandemic management is not about politics or a game of one-upmanship. If anything, there must be a unified command structure in protocol. What matters is the right judgment call. So Lieutenant Governor (LG) Anil Baijal has rightly withdrawn his earlier order of a five-day mandatory institutional quarantine for every COVID-19 patient in home care. He has clarified that all patients will be sent for home isolation, except in cases where symptoms require further hospitalisation or where the home set-up is not conducive to cure. Till now, the ICMR has permitted asymptomatic and mild symptom COVID-19 patients in the whole

country to self-isolate at home. This was much in line with other countries and was done to ease the pressure on the already overcrowded quarantine centres being run by the Government. Naturally, the AAP Government had challenged the LG, terming his decision “arbitrary” and one that would “seriously harm” citizens. The fears of the Delhi Government were not unfounded as the city is already struggling to cope with the surge in the number of Coronavirus infections that for the first time since the pandemic began, recorded over 3,000 fresh cases in one day on June 19. So as it is the pressure on quarantine centres is bound to increase. With asymptomatic people and those with mild symptoms being forced to go to the quarantine centres, too, the entire infrastructure would have been thrown out of joint. As it is, there have been complaints of overcrowding and unhygienic conditions in State-run facilities. Some patients have avoided getting tested or fled because of the sorry state of affairs. As frontline workers fall prey to the virus, there is already an acute shortage of doctors and nurses to tend to serious COVID-19 cases. Where will the Government get more workers to look after those in the quarantine centres? With more people crammed into limited spaces, the risk of even those with mild symptoms getting a full-blown infection or some other disease grows exponentially.

Last week’s *diktat* was ill-advised and short-sighted to say the least. Also, despite a high-powered panel set up by Union Home Minister Amit Shah recommending fixing the cost of a COVID-19 isolation bed in private hospitals in Delhi in the range of ₹8,000 to ₹10,000, this is not something that everyone will be able to afford, particularly in the present atmosphere of job losses, major salary cuts and uncertainty about continued employment. This will further burden the Government infrastructure. Imagine what institutional quarantine would do. This is not the time to question the Delhi Government’s every move for the sake of it. Anyway reason has prevailed. That’s all what we need.

# opinion

## Restore their dignity

It is unfortunate that for certain democracies, the military willy-nilly becomes an inadvertent piece of the political legitimisation framework and is milked for partisan purposes



BHOPINDER SINGH

Democracies across the globe have seen the sudden rise of the far-Right and the neo-nationalists, who posture muscular stances in a bid to undo the “weaknesses” of the past. From Washington, DC, to Rio de Janeiro, to Budapest, Ankara and Manila, the template is the same: Supposed “strongmen” recklessly pander to the basest instincts. The common playbook for the leadership entails “majoritarianism”, “illiberality” and “discomfort” with constitutional restraints. Profundity of patriotism is replaced by supremacy of unbridled nationalism. The tone and tenor accompanying such leadership is decidedly “unapologetic” and “aggressive.” Another commonality in such nationalistic fervour and rhetoric is the dangerous appropriation of the apolitical military to buttress the political credentials of the “strongman.” Herein, the leadership seeks to dovetail, champion and posit the military as its natural supporter and ambassador. This affords it political legitimacy in the eyes of the citizenry to do many more dangerous unconstitutional acts. The military willy-nilly becomes a partisan accompaniment, a tool and an inadvertent piece of the political legitimisation framework.

Ironically, these adopters of militaristic symbolism are usually not from military background or sensibilities. Take the example of Presidents Donald Trump, Rodrigo Duterte, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Their formula of nationalism entails interventionist, revisionist and authoritarian agenda that necessitate the subliminal endorsement and usurpation of the military imagery. In all such democracies, these tendencies unsettle the traditional rectitude of the armed forces, which unequivocally disdains topical politics, societal divides and reckless liberties. The required “distance” between the political leadership and the relatively-independent and professional domain of the military gets compromised. The military then stands to assume a partisan slant and preference. Under the garb of “recognising” the military, condescending platitudes are routinely dished with no material benefit for it. The institution is only milked to serve partisan purposes. Given its regimented and disciplined ethos of not speaking up to the national leader-



ship — even when related to personal and career considerations — often, the senior leadership in the military does not do enough to stop the politicisation of this institution. Thus, the armed forces risk compromising their constitutional commitments.

Trump has displayed child-like glee for militaristic trappings such as parades, weaponry, language and self-claimed obsession with “quick action,” ignoring the fact that behind the powerful symbols of the institution resides the purest, noblest and the most constitutionally adherent spirit in action. Combat units do not encourage “divides” as the US military is disproportionately populated by minorities like the Hispanics and African-Americans. This political polarisation would prove to be a natural anathema to the institution. But fragility in the military-political relationship in the US started brewing after most veterans voted in favour of Trump when he seduced them with his uber-nationalistic bluster and bravado. But the military was getting increasingly restless with the interferences; with the hallowed chain and command passing the buck to the “Generals” on operational failures; and with the institution being dragged into the theatrical politics of Trump.

One defining moment of this tenuous military-civil equation in the US came forth when the President strolled down to a nearby church, accompanied by a posse of his team, and dramatically held aloft a Bible. The photo-op caught the

“ONE DEFINING MOMENT OF THIS TENUOUS MILITARY-CIVIL EQUATION IN THE US CAME FORTH WHEN ITS PRESIDENT STROLLED DOWN TO A NEARBY CHURCH, ACCOMPANIED BY A POSSE OF HIS TEAM, AND DRAMATICALLY HELD ALOFT A BIBLE”



Washington police by surprise as they had to crudely and forcibly push away the peaceful demonstrators. The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington was “outraged” at the use of the church as a political stage. Even worse was the sight of the senior most US military General Mark A Milley in combat fatigues, forming the backdrop of that overtly dramatised “moment” and he being used as a willing prop.

Yet again, willingly or unwillingly, Trump had drawn the avowedly apolitical institution into extremely politically-loaded “moment.” The optics also inadvertently signalled the institution’s alignment on the way security was being handled and worse, it sought to be further handled by invoking the military. What followed next was an unequivocal and bipartisan roast of the apparent conduct of the top General. The military’s cherished political abstention was visibly compromised — all eyes turned on Gen Milley but not much was expected as Trump has routinely interfered, fired and bulldozed opposition.

But Gen Milley demonstrated the highest levels of military courage, uprightness and morality when he apologised for the optics, knowingly earned presidential ire and risked getting fired. Milley unambiguously said, “I should not have been there” and that “my presence in that moment and in that environment created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics.” In one sweep, Milley restored the larger dignity of the

regrettable situation, the institution and the nation. Gen Milley’s apology does not show him in weak light. On the contrary, both he and the institution have been strengthened by reiterating the supremacy of the US Constitution as opposed to the vanity and whims of any individual — even if he happens to be the Commander-in-Chief. Gen Milley salvaged the situation from getting dangerously and irreparably undermined. This is especially applicable for the military, which holds the coercive instruments of sovereign power. Gen Miley’s extraordinary public apology also included a very telling and direct comment when he told his troops to “defend the Constitution” — the distinction between the President and the Constitution was unmistakable.

Gen Milley may join the revolving door of the White House administration that has seen the fired backs of some of the most decorated, valourised and respected veterans. Ironically, veteran affairs and the military were signature Trump issues in his politics but the treatment meted out to the institution, its traditions and values will make the most Republican Party supporting veterans think twice. The humility in Mark Milley’s words, “As a commissioned uniformed officer, it was a mistake that I have learned from, and I sincerely hope we all can learn from it” is both rare and thoroughly inspirational.

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

## SOUNDBITE

We are not at war with China but are fully geared up to meet any contingency arising out of the recent conflict on the Line of Actual Control.

Air Chief Marshal —RKS Bhaduria



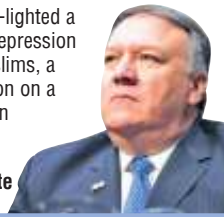
Love in any relationship is only about putting the other person’s needs ahead of your own. And that, my friend, is just as simple and as complex as you make it.

Actor —Twinkle Khanna



Xi Jinping has green-lighted a brutal campaign of repression against Chinese Muslims, a human rights violation on a scale we haven’t seen since World War II.

US Secretary of State —Mike Pompeo



Has the Prime Minister given a clean chit to China? If so, what is there to negotiate with it? Why are the Major Generals negotiating and about what?

Congress leader —P Chidambaram



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dubious propaganda

Sir — It has been reported that the People’s Liberation Army of China has returned 10 members of the Indian Army whom it had detained after the violent face-off in the Galwan River Valley on June 15. Details of the 20 soldiers killed during the assault in eastern Ladakh is scarce. Some media reports have said that most of the deaths occurred as soldiers fell off the cliff into the river in the narrow Galwan Valley. What should be concerning for us is that last week’s brawl saw the first LAC casualties in more than four decades. Post this incident, relations between India and China are bound to undergo a sea change.

Beijing has been using coercive methods to gain hegemony in the Asian region. At a time when Chinese President Xi Jinping is facing backlash at home and globally over his role in the Corona outbreak that has swept the world, he thinks border distraction will serve him well. But China must get the message clear that such an approach is untenable.

Nimai Charan Swain  
Bhubaneswar

### Delhi in the grip of Coronavirus

In the post-independent era, Chaudhary Brahm Prakash Yadav served as the first Chief Minister of Delhi and took charge in March 1952. In February 1955, he resigned following a bitter tussle for power with the Chief Commissioner. Same year, the State Reorganisation Commission submitted its report, which *inter alia* commented, “It is hardly necessary to discuss in detail the reasons why Delhi, if it is to continue as the Union capital, cannot be made part of a full-fledged constituent unit of the Indian union.” The report pronounced that there would be no Statehood for Delhi. The Assembly was abolished forthwith. It further recommended that “municipal autonomy for Delhi in the form of a corporation would appear to be the most appropriate method of meeting and reconciling the broader requirements of the national Government as well as the local needs and the wishes of the people.” This despite the strong objections raised by the State Government against such an arrangement. After 37 years, the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991, restored the Legislative Assembly of Delhi. Municipal Corporation of Delhi, too, came into being. Currently, the local administration is in the hands of five civic bodies. Yet, the tussle for power continued.

Together, the constitutional institutions, the Union



Government, the State Government and the three municipal corporations have turned the State of Delhi into a cauldron of crisis. Recently, the Supreme Court was called upon to adjudicate on the dispute between the State Government and the Centre. Shockingly, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government kept itself aloof from the bloody communal riots and its victims. Warning bells didn’t ring even when the COVID-19 pandemic lurked at the doorstep. Alone, the AAP Government gasped to check the growth of the contagion. Besides, hospitals had no beds, oxygen support, ICU beds and ventilators. No wonder, Delhi is a city of sorrow now.

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

### Healthcare in tatters

Sir — At a time when State Governments are permitting some businesses to carry out

their daily activities, Tamil Nadu is being trolled for extending the lockdown till June 30. On the other hand, Delhi’s COVID-19 case numbers are going up relentlessly

like Mumbai. Why single out a State or two when the entire nation is wilting under a pandemic? With several phases of the lockdown, metro cities are yet to sequester support infra-

structure and equipment.

Forget about mofussil towns, they are not even in the picture. In sum, the healthcare scenario is poor in both rural and urban areas. Around 72 per cent of India’s health spend is through high-priced private sector care. The working class acquires the malady through exposure by necessity but has no money for private care and municipal hospitals have no equipment to treat them.

R Narayanan  
Navi Mumbai

### Less than accurate

Sir — The inflation figure of 3.21 per cent released by the Government is less than accurate and shocking to say the least. The Government has failed to control the rising prices of essential goods. Had inflation really been so low, would it not be reasonable to expect a fall or stability in the prices of essential items? The Government must stop fooling the people.

Bhagwan Thadani  
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

## It is time for focussed action

We need a proactive policy effort based on post-pandemic realities of the country's economic potential



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

COVID-19 is probably one of the topics about which more has been written and spoken than perhaps any other subject in the last several months. The subject itself would be suffering from some kind of “author’s fatigue.” Content wise, the articles have little more to say than perhaps reflecting philosophically or administratively on certain categories, policies or more. All this is a part of life and several media fora flourish on this. So be it!

On May 25, in a write-up titled *Impenetrable Barriers* in these columns, a description had been put forth on the logic and birth of the concept of the National Capital Region (NCR). It pointed out how an over-anxious administrative zeal on the part of some in the affected NCR States had created impenetrable boundaries, barricaded with permits. For weeks, misguided zeal, an ill-informed search for solutions and an urge for seeking applause had created a state of competitive “statism.” Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi took turns to make the life of average law-abiding citizens hapless, forcing them to try and build bridges in an attempt to integrate divided lives across barricaded State borders. There is at least some data on faulty test kits, alternate test kits, the number of people tested and the number of people who ought to be tested but there is no data available on how many suffered and in what manner, (all in the name of containing COVID-19) due to the closure of State borders. It may be recalled that much of this was post the lockdown phase of COVID-19.

Bless the Home Minister of India, who announced from a forum on June 18 that NCR for the purposes of the present concerns and more, should be seen as one unit. In matters like this, no credit needs to be claimed but one needs to count one’s blessings. Since the Home Minister made this announcement, at least, the comparative babble of containing the virus through entry passes seems to have receded. What the future will bring remains to be seen.

The truth is, that as of now, the only instruments of containing COVID-19 are the common sensical ones of basic hygiene, social distancing, wearing masks, avoiding crowded events and the like. This is no rocket science. All diseases would be better controlled with these measures. Only in the case of COVID-19, they seem to be the only route. The drug and pharmaceutical options are clearly months away even though there has been some progress in the right direction. Of course if you are rich and powerful or both, you can get into a hospital where your influence or money could move the treatment from one to the other of the five-six options available and hopefully, something would work.

Earlier in this text, there have been references to a kind of fatigue that is setting in with all Coronavirus-related issues. A similar fatigue is setting in on social media platforms too. Messages and jokes on strained husband-wife relations on account of the “absconding” maid are becoming fewer, wise-cracks on domestication have significantly reduced and spaces so vacated are being taken over by China-bashing and posts on rejection of Chinese made goods and so on.

The kind of leadership shown by the Home Minister could be emulated by the Finance Minister. Few will doubt her attempt to try but it becomes more effective if the attempt is focussed. Doling out money in its various incarnations, including in the so-called bailout plans for the banks, in the past, did not work. Now the fond hope is that if you cut down the EPF share of the working individual and thereby put more money in the people’s hands, the economy would boom. Even an undergraduate student of economics would know that this is the classical case of misconceived economic correlation. There are other options of course. Clearly, all is not lost on the economic front. Some of the sectors of the pharma industry are poised for big gains. That gain itself may be coterminous with COVID-19. The important thing is to select lines of pharmaceutical industry, which are prone to multiple drug formulations from an assortment of drug research streams. Those who have dealt with technology-oriented start-ups know that it is doable. At the policy level, both at the Centre and at the States, this could be done. It could be done by channelling of funding in a sectoral mode. However, this can only happen if focussed policy frameworks modulate the propensity to chase the last wagon of the train.

Now that it is obvious that, whether officially accepted or not, 2020 is a “zero year”, there needs to be some attention on a proactive policy effort focussed on the realities of the economic potential. Our success in the motorcycle sector, especially in the manufacturing of its component parts, is a good example. It establishes what Indian acumen can do with a little bit of support and some encouraging policies.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

NEITHER HAS ANYONE (CHINA) INTRUDED INTO OUR TERRITORY NOR HAVE THEY TAKEN OVER ANY (BORDER) POST.  
—PRIME MINISTER  
NARENDRA MODI



MODI HAS SURRENDERED INDIAN TERRITORY TO CHINESE AGGRESSION. IF THE LAND WAS CHINESE, WHY AND WHERE WERE OUR SOLDIERS MARTYRED?  
—CONGRESS LEADER  
RAHUL GANDHI

# Irreconcilable differences

China has learnt the hard way that its army is not combat-ready and no match for our battle-hardened soldiers. Our preparedness and alertness can keep PLA in check



ANIL GUPTA

The gory events that took place at the Galwan stand-off point (PP 14) on the evening of June 15 and carried on late into the night have exposed the barbaric tendencies of the Chinese army. Throwing all treaties and conventions to the wind, they attacked the unsuspecting Commanding Officer (CO) of an Indian Army unit with iron rods, chains, baseball bats covered with spikes and barbed wires and gloves fitted with iron spikes. This led to a brawl that resulted in heavy casualties on both sides.

One thing is certain, that the attack by the Chinese was unprovoked, premeditated and had the blessings of senior commanders. It cannot be brushed off as the work of a local commander obsessed with the Chinese movie *Wolf Warrior*. It was a clear case of betrayal of faith by the Chinese after having agreed to certain pullbacks as part of an overall de-escalation plan that would have led to an end to the stand-off between the two armies in eastern Ladakh. What prompted the Chinese to resort to such a treachery is a matter of conjecture but it is definitely driven by its “Middle Kingdom” syndrome.

The devious Chinese mindset can be gauged from the contents of an article published in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) mouthpiece, *Global Times*. “India has been building extensive infrastructure facilities along the border and forcibly built part of the facilities on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) regardless of bilateral divergences over the border disputes. The two sides went into repeated physical clashes as Chinese soldiers tried to stop their Indian counterparts.” This is a blatant lie since there has never been any dispute in the perception of the LAC between the two armies in the Galwan Valley sector. The Chinese had never crossed the LAC here. The *Global Times* version is a cover-up as it is at variance with the earlier statement issued by the spokesperson of the Western Theatre Command of PLA. It would be pertinent to mention here that India is building a road up to PP14, which is well within its territory.

The article highlights Chinese anxiety and fear. It reads, “The arrogance and recklessness of the Indian side is the main reason for the consistent tensions along China-India borders. In recent years, New Delhi has adopted a tough stance on border issues, which is mainly resulted from two misjudgements. It believes that China does not want to sour relations with India because of increasing strategic pressure from the US, therefore China lacks the will to hit back provocations from the Indian side. In addition, some Indian people mistakenly believe their country’s military is more powerful than China’s. These misrepresentations affect the rationality of Indian opinion and add pressure to India’s China policy.” This article is a reinforcement of China’s “neighbourhood bully” image. The Chinese leadership believes in, “Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past.” The global community has not forgotten how China bullied its way into the South China Sea (SCS) despite an international tribunal’s verdict to the contrary and has since declared a SCS District. This is a classic example of China’s cartographic aggression, a legacy of the Middle Kingdom.

China’s attempts in Ladakh are similar, a well-planned and coordinated cartographic invasion beginning with forcible occupation of Aksai Chin in the late fifties, retention of territories occupied in 1962, annexing Shaksgam Valley through an agreement with Pakistan and thereafter frequent forays into Ladakh to lay claim on the grazing

“AFTER GETTING AN UNEXPECTED RESPONSE FROM THE INDIAN SOLDIERS, WHO RETALIATED HARD, CHINA IS NOW LOOKING FOR A FACE-SAVING EXIT FORMULA. ITS TREACHEROUS ATTEMPT TO SHIFT THE BLAME ON INDIAN TROOPS IS FINDING NO TAKERS AND DESPITE TOTAL CONTROL ON THE CHINESE MEDIA, BEIJING IS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO HIDE THE LARGE NUMBER OF FATALITIES IT HAS SUFFERED



grounds of local Mons. China is well-known for shifting stances, mixing the past and present with a motive for the future and throwing all bilateral agreements to the wind. Putting together various threads available, it appears that as part of the agreement reached during the Corps Commander level meeting held on June 6, the Chinese troops opposite PP14 were required to move further eastwards to their base called Post 1. It may be recalled that the Chinese have built two posts namely Post 2 and Post 1 along the bank of Galwan River after it takes a turn and runs almost parallel to the LAC well within the Chinese territory before it enters India at PP14.

They have also built a road up to Post 1. The entire process was required to be completed within 10 days ending on June 15. The Chinese were to begin the thinning out since they had begun the build-up. The Indian CO and his platoon had gone to oversee the de-escalation process, it being the last day for the Chinese pullback. During the talks, the Chinese soldiers attacked the CO with spiked rods and baseball bats. Indian troops rushed to the scene and the brawl took an ugly turn. After the initial casualties, there was no backing down from either side. The scene of the clash was a narrow ledge with a deep ravine. Reinforcements arrived and the mayhem continued well into the night at those icy heights in the open. It was the Chinese side which broke all agreements, conventions and treaties in a barbaric manner. But as expected of the Chinese, they shifted the entire blame on the Indian side.

The fact that the Chinese action was premeditated and had the blessings of the higher military commanders can be substantiated from the fact that the spokesperson of the Western Theatre Command issued a Press note. It reads, “China always owns sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region, and the Indian border

defence troops are inconsistent with their words and seriously violated the agreements both countries have reached, the consensus made during the army commander-level talks and harmed the relations of the two militaries and the feelings of the two countries’ peoples. India should stop all provocative actions, meet the Chinese side halfway and come back to the right path of solving disputes through talks.” One only needs to compare this statement to the *Global Times* article to understand how China is trying to change the entire narrative by shifting the blame on India. China was still looking for a face-saving strategy to get out of the Coronavirus mess when it has landed into another global embarrassment India.

After getting an unexpected response from the Indian soldiers who retaliated hard, China is now looking for a face-saving exit formula. Its treacherous attempt to shift the blame on Indian troops is finding no takers and despite total control on the Chinese media, Beijing is finding it difficult to hide the large number of fatalities it has suffered. China has learnt the hard way that its army is not combat-ready and its soldiers are no match for battle-hardened Indian counterparts. Despite carrying the improvised lethal equipment, the Chinese were no match for the Indians in hand-to-hand combat. Despite starting the altercation and having suffered humiliation, China has started talking peace, which is quite unlike it.

China’s actions in Galwan have only reinforced what was always known the world over since the Korean War, that Beijing’s word can never be trusted and agreements are only a piece of paper. They are past masters in twisting facts through bluff and bluster. Similarly, the Chinese appeal for restraint and peace should not be taken at face value. They are always conscious of their global image of a respon-

sible and peace-loving State and would try to portray India as the aggressor.

China has yet to see India’s aggression. It will have to pay for the unnecessary provocation leading to a bloody conflict and will no more be able to mislead Indians through sweet talk and diplomatically-laced statements.

The Chinese for once have crossed the red line and pushed back the efforts being made by the two sides at the political level to continue good relations despite the pending boundary issue. It has also made a mockery of all the five treaties signed so far between the two nations to maintain peace and tranquility on the border. China has been violating them frequently but never crossed the Rubicon. Fatal casualties have taken place for the first time since 1975 when a patrol clash took place in Arunachal Pradesh. If China thinks that it can dictate terms to India on border management and carry out bilateral trade on its terms because of a perceived superior military, it is sadly mistaken and has learnt a lesson the hard way.

China’s land mass today consists of 60 per cent forcibly-occupied territories. It has been bullying its neighbours to continue with its expansionist policies. So far, it had not provoked India beyond a point. Though it had off and on been talking of Tibet being its palm and Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh being its fingers, it never dared to enforce its baseless and erratic claim. With the recent treachery, China can forget about the fingers and should prepare to lose the palm as well. The Galwan incident will become a defining moment in Sino-Indian relations. China has lost the plot and the dominating position it has always been proud of. The Chinese pride has been shattered beyond repair and the same goes for Sino-Indian relations.

(The author is a Jammu-based columnist and analyst)

# A conundrum of race, relics and righteous rage

In a world where our fates are inextricably tied, it is difficult to imagine a future based on the erasure of the past, however traumatic or unjust it might be



GAUTAM CHOUBEY

There is nothing new about the US race riots. After nearly three centuries of slave trade, hundred years of racial violence, decades of racial tension, numerous incidents of unrestrained police behaviour towards the African Americans, routine protests and occasional riots, the recent images emerging from the US attest to a social realism that the world is all too familiar with. With the protests growing in spread, strength and vehemence, the demonstrators have started targetting Confederate landmarks and pulling down statues of slave traders. There have also been calls to rechristen army bases named after Confederate

commanders; a move which US President Donald Trump has vowed to oppose in order to protect American heritage and the history of military triumphs. Taking a cue from the US, anti-racism campaigners in England, too, have set out on a defacing spree, unleashing their ire on statues of Winston Churchill, Queen Victoria and even Gandhi. However, when we attempt to reset the clock by “killing” the dead and decapitate statues, we often fail to build something of value in its stead.

In the BBC documentary, *Tearing up History: The Art of Revolution*, which deals with the large-scale destruction of art and architecture during the French revolution, art historian David Clay argues that such acts of vandalism are well nigh as powerful as acts of creation. Accounts of 1792 capture the zeal with which the revolutionaries went about demolishing statues, memorials and palaces — all symbols of the ancient regime. So copious was the revolutionary zeal to de-

Christianise and rationalise France that the seemingly innocuous ways of registering time were also altered. Names of days and months were changed on the calendar and days commemorating saints were removed. Sylvain Marechal, a notorious atheist, poet and political theorist, went as far as secularising the connotation of December 25 from the birth of Lord Jesus to that of Isaac Newton.

In spite of the reign of terror, the monarchical ambition of Napoleon in his later years and the sheer fact that within a space of 22 years the deposed Bourbon dynasty was restored, French experiments with radical social reengineering did yield a few results. However, bulldozing art or attempts at reordering time according to revolutionary ethics have only left behind a bitter legacy of confusion and pain.

The past never really evaporates and continues to inform our present. The erasure of the past, however bitter, cannot be the basis of a lasting future. We know this because Nelson

Mandela carved a rainbow nation in post-apartheid South Africa through reconciliation and Germany decided against dismantling the Nazi concentration camps, lest the coming generations of Germans forget the crimes their ancestors had committed.

This is not to suggest that busts of slave traders should adorn public squares in the US or wherever coloured races have suffered. But how much of the world can be really built anew? Statues, institutions and edifices of what antiquity or which period can be safely removed?

In the context of India, much like any other country of the world, these questions precipitate a set of irredeemably baffling answers. There are so many overlaps between pre-and post-Independence India and there is so much that we have borrowed from our colonial exploiters. Our Constitution draws generously from the Government of India Act, 1935, our Parliament is modelled on the British Westminster style and the best of our

universities were established during colonial times. Must we shut our hal- lowed temples just because of their colonial past? Should we destroy the busts and the forts of India’s erstwhile royals because of the caste and economic discrimination they represent and because democracy by its definition is antithetical to feudalism? Or should we prohibit the sons and daughters of former royal families from holding public offices because some of them continue to thrive on account of those identities and in those palaces?

Surely, their heritage notwithstanding, no Indian would ever contemplate dismantling the aforementioned institutions which have served our democracy so faithfully. Surely we cannot overlook the monumental contributions of the Maharajas of Darbhanga, Travancore and Bikaner, to name just a few, who have done so much to modernise India. If we start retracing our steps to arrive at the origin of a crisis, located at some point in the remote past, we would find our-

selves stranded in the middle of Darwin’s archipelago. Hardening of administrative positions, calling the protestors “thugs” or making propositions like “no justice, no peace” lend themselves to the archaic Aristotelian logic of the “excluded middle” — a premise which leaves no room for negotiation or a middle ground — planks that we need for lasting truce. Besides, such a position blurs those distinctions that exist between the real oppressors and ideological adversaries. If we allow ourselves to be blinded by rage, however fair it might be, we often tend to misjudge and even Gandhi becomes a racist class enemy.

It is true that melting pots like the US leave much to be desired. Equally valid is the contention that transfer of power, such as the one that took place in India, is at best incomplete. In a country like the US and for that matter in most European nations, the process of integration is far from perfect. If we keep throwing the moments of “first contact” or the unfortunate

reality of colonialism into relief, we are bound to regress several steps away from a possible resolution. Mrinal Sen’s film *Interview* offers an interesting take on this dilemma. The film opens with a newsreel showing the removal of colonial statues from Maidan, Kolkata’s largest public park. However, attempts to sanitise the city of its colonial vestiges contrast ironically with the fate of the protagonist. Ranjit fails to get a lucrative job with a multinational company because he fails to show up for the interview dressed in immaculate Western attire.

In a world where our fates are inextricably tied, it is difficult to imagine a future based on the erasure of the past, however traumatic or unjust it might be. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine RK Narayan’s fictional *Malgudi*, which has over the decades become a universal metaphor for the “real” India, without the statue of that unknown British general that stands proudly in its bustling market.

(The writer teaches English at DU)



# Covid-19 has led to 20L job losses in bus, taxi sector; more on anvil: BOCI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 20 lakh people have lost employment and an equal number are staring at job losses as private bus and tourist taxi operators have been hit hard by the coronavirus lockdown, according to the Bus & Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI).

BOCI, which claims to represent 20,000 operators with 15 lakh buses and maxi-cabs and 11 lakh tourist taxis providing direct employment to 1 crore people, said these private operators need government support in the form of waiver of taxes and interest on loans as many of them are facing closure. "During lockdown 95 per cent of our vehicles were off road. Very few buses operated for company contracts, while some were used for transporting migrant labourers," BOCI President Prasanna Patwardhan told PTI.



With no business, the members are struggling to pay salaries and wages to employees, he added.

"At least out of the 1 crore people, 30-40 lakh people will lose their jobs, 15-20 lakh people have already lost their jobs. Balance they will also lose their jobs," Patwardhan said while seeking government support for the private bus and cab operators.

"From September onwards, once the (RBI order on loan) moratorium is over and when operators will not be able to pay their EMIs, that is the time when it is going to hit the hardest," he added.

Seeking government support, he said, "Our demand is to waive off motor vehicle taxes and give concessions on diesel, while removing toll taxes for inter-city travel."

**BOCI, which claims to represent 20,000 operators with 15 lakh buses and maxi-cabs and 11 lakh tourist taxis providing direct employment to 1 crore people, said these Pvt ops need govt support in the form of waiver of taxes**

Besides, since many of the vehicles have been idle in the last three months, he said, "For the lockdown period our insurance policy should get extended, at least by three months. Insurance is quite expensive, unlike before. For buses it can be between Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh a year."

Patwardhan also sought government intervention for waiver of interest on vehicle loans, saying, "Banks should waive off that interest for at least three months or six months. They should not levy any interest during the moratorium period."

From September, when the EMI payments are to restart, "businesses are not going to start immediately and come back to normal. So rescheduling of loans is also equally important. They should give us a 'ballooning kind' of EMI wherein the initial EMI is less and going forward that EMI will go up," he said.

Even for existing loans, he said the tenure should be extended by a year and operators should not be burdened with the same kind of EMIs paid last year.

# Hetero gets DCGI nod to launch Coronavirus drug

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drug firm Hetero on Sunday said it has received approval from regulator DCGI to launch investigational antiviral drug Remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19.

The company has received the manufacturing and marketing approval for Remdesivir from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for the treatment of COVID-19, it said in a statement.

The company's generic version of Remdesivir will be marketed under the brand name 'Covifor' in India.

The drug has been granted approval by DCGI for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in adults and children, hospitalised with severe symptoms of the disease, it added. "In the light of increasing COVID-19 cases in India, the approval of 'Covifor' (remdesivir) can prove to be a game-changer given its positive



clinical outcomes.

"Backed by strong backward integration capabilities, we can ensure that the product is immediately made available to patients across the country," Hetero Group of Companies Chairman B Partha Saradhi

Reddy said. The drug will be available in 100 mg vial (injectable) which has to be administered intravenously in a hospital setting under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner, Hetero said. The product is being launched under a licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences Inc to expand access to COVID-19 treatment in low and middle-income countries, it added.

## CAPSULE



### Tea exports dip by 5.6 in last fiscal

**NEW DELHI:** Tea exports have dipped marginally in the last fiscal to 240 million kg from 254.50 million kg the year before — a fall of 5.6 per cent — according to data. Exports to CIS countries — the biggest importer of India tea — also declined marginally to 59.40m kg in the last fiscal from 60.72 mkg in 2018-19, the Tea Board data said. Sources in the Tea Board attributed the dip to economic slowdown across the globe. Iran continued to be second largest importer with the country buying 46.47 mkg in 2019-20 - up from 41.02 mkg in the previous fiscal. Offtake by China also increased to 12.71 mkg from 10.58 mkg.



### Green certificate sales down 55 pc to 3.33 lakh in May

**NEW DELHI:** Sales of renewable energy certificates dropped over 55 per cent to 3.33 lakh units in May compared to 7.5 lakh in the same month a year ago, according to official data. Renewable energy certificate (REC) is a type of market-based instrument. One REC is created when one megawatt hour of electricity is generated from an eligible renewable energy source. According to official data, a total of 2.78 lakh RECs were traded on the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) in May, compared to 5.5 lakh in the same month of 2019. Power Exchange of India (PXIL) recorded sales of 0.55 lakh RECs in May as against around 2 lakh earlier.



### Developed land sold as plots will attract GST: AAR

**NEW DELHI:** GST will be levied on sale of land for which primary amenities - such as drainage, waterline and electricity - have been provided by real estate developer, the Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has said. The AAR has also concluded that sale of developed plots will be covered under the clause "construction of a complex intended for sale to a buyer" and accordingly GST would be levied. An applicant had approached the Gujarat bench of AAR on whether GST is applicable on sale of plot of land for which, as per the requirement of approved by the respective authority.

# CII suggests steps to improve EoDB to achieve self-reliance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body CII has identified measures in key areas for improving India's ease of doing business scenario that can help the country achieve self-reliance.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) need a special helping hand, and should be exempted from approvals and inspections for three years under state laws while following all rules, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said in a report. Self-certification route can be used for approvals for MSMEs with good track record, it has suggested.

It also sought effective implementation of online single window system, simplifying property registration and acquisition of land, expediting compliances for labour regulations and synchronised joint inspections. Besides, the chamber called for simplifying property registration and suggested that industry should be permitted to buy land directly from farmers with deemed approval after 30 days.

Observing that enforcing contracts is a challenge due to insufficient commercial courts and infrastructure, CII sug-



**MSMEs need a special helping hand, and should be exempted from approvals and inspections for three years under state laws while following all rules, CII said**

gested major digital reforms such as virtual court proceedings, e-filing, and work from home to speed up court deliberations.

The alternative dispute resolution institutions can be expanded in all parts of the country with arbitration and mediation centres, it added.

India's high logistics costs impact its competitiveness, CII said, noting this will require medium-term action

such as increasing the share of railways and waterways in transport, improving first-mile and last-mile connectivity and reducing port dwell time.

With more outcome-oriented action on ease of doing business, huge momentum to India's domestic and overseas investment can be imparted at a time when self-reliance is being strengthened, the chamber said.

# 'Yoga can play a vital role in building immunity'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday stressed on the need for practising yoga, saying the ancient practice can play a vital role in bolstering physical and mental wellbeing and building immunity.

The comments came as part of his remarks on the sixth International Day of Yoga. The theme of this year's International Day of Yoga is 'ghar ghar me yog', which signifies the importance of staying at home and practising yoga with family while observing social distancing.

"As you know, we are in midst of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we collectively fight this virus by wearing masks, ensuring social distancing, maintaining hand hygiene, spreading right information, it is time to also take other measures to strengthen our battle strategies," the Steel Minister said.

"One of the ways we can ensure this is by bolstering our physical and mental wellbeing and building immunity in which yoga can play a pivotal role," he added.

# Govt extends Rs 50 L insurance scheme for healthcare providers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rising number of COVID-19 cases, the government has extended the Rs 50 lakh insurance scheme for about 22 lakh healthcare providers for another three months till September.

The scheme implemented by New India Assurance was slated to end on June 30, as per the announcement made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the Rs 1.70 lakh Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package in March.

The insurance provides a comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs 50 lakh to a total of around 22.12 lakh public healthcare providers, including community health workers, who may have to be in direct contact and care of patients suffering from coronavirus infection and who may be at risk of being impacted by this. Insurance Scheme

for health workers in government hospitals and healthcare centres operationalised with effect from March 30, 2020, an official statement said, adding the scheme has been extended up to September.

The scheme is funded through the National Disaster Response Fund, operated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitation workers and a few others working in hospitals under the central and state governments will be covered under the insurance scheme.

While announcing the scheme, the Finance Minister had said, safai karmacharis, ward-boys, nurses, ASHA workers, paramedics, technicians, doctors and specialists and other health workers would be covered by the special insurance scheme.



# Ratan Tata calls for stopping online hate, bullying

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata on Sunday called for stopping online hatred and bullying and instead supporting each other in what has been a "year full of challenges" for everyone.

In a post on social media platform Instagram, Tata said the online community is being hurtful to each other and bringing each other down.

"This year has been full of challenges for everyone, on some level or the other. I see online community being hurtful to each other, bringing each other down, harshly and with quick judgments," the Chairman Emeritus of the Tata group said.

# NCLAT to start liquidation process of Surana Power

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has set aside an NCLT order, and directed to start liquidation process of energy firm Surana Power.

A three-member NCLAT bench has rejected the contentions of state-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), a secured creditor of the debt-ridden company. The PSU was claiming exclusive rights over the assets following an arbitration award in its favour.

The appellate tribunal said BHEL's claim on the secured assets is not exclusive.

Moreover, ten out of eleven secured creditors of Surana Power together - representing 73.76 of the admitted claims - have already relinquished their security interest, hence, it would be prejudicial to stall the liquidation process at the insistence of one single operation creditor BHEL.

"The Secured Creditors which 73.76 per cent in value have already relinquished the Security Interest into the liquidation estate. Thus, it would be prejudicial to stall the liquidation process at the instance of a single creditor (BHEL) having only 26.24 per cent share (in value) in the secured assets," said the NCLAT.

# AEPC seeks lifting of export ban on PPE kits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian apparel export industry body AEPC on Sunday urged the government to lift the ban on exports of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits as its production has reached 8 lakh units per day. Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman A Sakthivel said huge export opportunities exists for domestic players in the global PPE kit market.

"Domestic exporters are prepared to play a key role in the global market for PPEs, which is estimated to be more than USD 60 billion over the next five years. The AEPC has requested the government to lift the ban on export of PPE



kits," he said in a statement.

The industry, which was hit hard after the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, had rejigged large production facilities to manufacture PPEs by re-purposing their production lines amidst a nationwide lock-

down that disrupted material, labour and supply chains, he said.

Countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and others have lifted the ban on PPE exports and are receiving huge orders, he added.

# 'Muted economic sentiment will up value purchase'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The current muted economic sentiment will drive customers more towards the value purchases, and online as well delivery sales in retail sector would continue to grow even after the lockdown, a top Walmart India official has said.

The lockdown will fundamentally change consumer habits, and even after lifting of the complete restrictions, consumers will restrict movement to essential trips and prefer to stay indoors due to safety reasons and continue to order online and for delivery.

"With muted economic sentiment, we expect that customers will move towards more value purchases,"



Walmart India Best Price CEO Sameer Aggarwal said.

Due to the pandemic, there would be increased awareness around health and hygiene, and demand for related products will increase, he added.

"We also believe trusted brands will stand to gain as customers give more importance to safety standards and sourcing practices," said Aggarwal, who has been elevated as CEO of Best Price, Walmart India, from April 1.

# Expect pre-owned car sales to increase: Mercedes-Benz India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz expects its used cars business in India to stay robust even as the COVID-19 crisis continues to impact the overall dynamics of the automotive market, a top company official said.

The automaker, however, does not see the segment growing at the cost of its new car sales, where it expects some kind of revival happening in the festive season this year.

"Young and first-time buyers who aspire to own a three-pointed star usually opt for certified pre-owned cars to experience the product before moving



ing on to a new one. So whilst we expect pre-owned cars sales to increase, we don't expect that this will come as a substitute to new cars," Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Martin Schwenk said.

The pre-owned car business has been a strong area of

growth for the company with it having completed more than nine years in the market, he added. The product, service, financial offerings and brand experience for the pre-owned cars are similar to a brand new car, and that has been one of the major contributing factors for the popularity of the segment, Schwenk said.

The company is also witnessing strong interest for pre-owned cars on its online sales platform, he noted.

Mercedes-Benz Certified has sold over 20,500 units of pre-owned cars over the last five years and witnessed 20 per cent cumulative growth, Schwenk said.

# Malls see 77% degrowth in 1st half of June

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Malls witnessed 77 per cent degrowth while high street retail showed a decline of 61 per cent in business in the first half of June, as compared to the same period last year, with consumer sentiment remaining low even after lockdown relaxations, according to a report.

As per the survey conducted by the Retailers Association of India (RAI) with participation of more than 100 big and small retailers, it was found that lockdown relaxations did not benefit retailers as there was no significant surge in their business.

After lockdown guidelines were relaxed in early June, most states permitted malls and high street retailers to



reopen after a gap of more than 70 days. "However, it was found that consumer sentiment continues to be at a low. This is consistent with findings of a recent consumer survey by RAI which revealed that 4 out of 5 Indian consumers would reduce shopping expenditure

post the lockdown," the retailers' body said in a statement.

The sentiment was reflected in categories like quick service restaurant (QSR) and restaurants (dip of 70 per cent), followed by apparel and clothing (69 per cent decline), and jewellery, watches and other per-

sonal accessories (65 per cent decrease), it added.

RAI said although retail is slowly opening up, the relaxations in restrictions are not uniform across states. A lot of retail still remains closed, which is hurting businesses and as a result, the economy.

"The survey uncovers the urgent need for opening all forms of retail so India can start its journey back towards recovery," it added. RAI CEO Kumar Rajagopalan said, "While we appreciate the Centre's intent to restart the economy and open up retail with detailed guidelines under the Unlock 1.0 phase, it is important for states to embrace the mandate and ensure smooth and regular opening of all forms of retail."



## FINDING INNOVATIVE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Even as parents schools and society train people to grow to be want to be either a doctor or an engineer and fail to think outside this box, there are a few brave souls that risk good pay, secure future, and choose to follow their interest. Design professionals Satyam and Prasad Kantamneni talk to *The Pioneer's* K RAMYA SREE on their reason to follow their passion, their job, plans, and more...

**T**here are many individuals who left their corporate cubicles, comforts, perks, to follow their dreams.

Every story is different and inspiring in its own way. Some had plans to set up their businesses, others have traveled, yet some others have tried to give back to society. Here's another story of two UXDesigners who wanted to bring out a solution-based approach to Design for delightful user experience.

The idea is to bridge the skill gap in the market. The skills gap is the divide between the skills employers expect employees to have and the skills employees and job seekers actually possess. This Skill Gap was thoroughly identified by the design professionals Satyam and Prasad Kantamneni who believe that the UXDesign industry is living far below its potential in preparing young designers to become future leaders. Even educational institutes somewhere lack building a strong foundation of designers who can do proper justice to any problems that arise.

Now, what does a UX Problem mean? UX is essentially about solving a user problem, UXDesign is an approach that can help users

to solve such problems in a methodical, user-centric way. Many different steps go into both UX Design and Design Thinking processes — brainstorming ideas, sketching out potential solutions, creating prototypes, testing these prototypes, revising, and reiterating until you have a market-ready product.

So, Prasad and Satyam Kantamneni identified these challenges while they planned to start their own venture UXReactor. They understood the problem in the workforce and wanted to bridge the gap first by training aspiring designers as per the competitive requirement.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, Prasad Kantamneni, Founding Partner and Chief Training Officer at UXReactor, who brings with him a good 20+ years of experience with firms like Yahoo! and Honeywell, says, "We are a strategic design partner for our clients. Our engagement covers the whole gamut of Product Design activities including Strategy, Research, Validation, Design, and Evolution. We give the client's a 360-degree perspective and solution to their design problems. We also help a client to scale their People, Processes, and Environment by identifying challenges that a client may

face as they grow and help them implement effective strategies."

What do you aim to achieve with the UXReactor open training platform? Prasad tells us, "UXReactor — Open Training platform, is a valuable open resource for any person wanting to understand, learn, and build a career in UX design. The objective is to provide a platform for learning global best practices in UX Design from industry practitioners. To take it a step further, we have also introduced a Design Ambassador Program, where we work closely with Design colleges to help them improve the quality of design education. The ambassador also has access to remote classes, events, and can collaborate with like-minded professionals — using our community platform. The Design Ambassador program is highly selective, where aspiring candidates are evaluated on multiple criteria including aptitude and attitude."

Explaining their future plans, Prasad, who was the researcher and innovator of the path-breaking search assistance feature (also known as search suggestions) at Yahoo! which pioneered the way we use the Internet today, says, "With COVID-19, a lot of employers are now open to hiring people remotely, which means, Indian designers who can compete on a global stage — can get opportunities that were not possible earlier. Our goal is to upskill designers to attain these global standards, by providing access to a global community of designers and facilitate easy access to resources for Indian designers. In the long run, we hope that this design community will help initiate a dialogue on design and help people build impactful careers in design."

Satyam Kantamneni is the Chief Experience Officer and Design Educator at UXReactor who has a beautiful Track record for leading user experience and product evolution for multiple Fortune 500 Companies like Siemens Corporate Research, Lextant, Fidelity Information Services, Paypal and Citrix.



## Documentary on Indian docs fighting COVID goes Hollywood

**A**s film shoots are about to resume, Sweta Rai, an Indian filmmaker in Hollywood, shot a feature-length documentary film *A Pandemic: Away from the Motherland* under lockdown, all from her apartment in Downtown, Los Angeles! Sweta says, "This starts a new era of filmmaking or the 'New Normal' as they say. This lockdown has been difficult for everyone as the world came to a halt. Being alone at home, I decided to make the best use of this time." Even as the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing in India and worldwide, there is a section of doctors of Indian origin who are working abroad, away from their motherland, India.

"As these front-line workers were dealing with the crisis, I wanted to bring the story of these 5 Indian doctors in the USA who are away from their families. Their story needed to be told. When someone lives away from the family, their challenges are different; their emotions are different. But what I learned is that while their families back in India miss them every day, they're proud of these doctors for protecting the human race regardless of what country they are in," Sweta shares.

The documentary features Dr Ankit Bharat, who has just performed USA's first double lung transplant surgery on a COVID 19 patient. He is known worldwide for this and his previous achievements with Robotic lung surgeries

for which he was featured at Times Square, New York.

"I have been following Dr Bharat's journey since the Pandemic started in March this year. The double lung transplant surgery that he has performed on a COVID patient is a breakthrough in medical sciences, taking us closer to getting to the core of this virus until the vaccine arrives. I also interviewed Dr Bharat's parents in Meerut, India, and followed their journey to learn about their experiences of having their son living so far away from

avoid COVID spread. My Cinematographer, David Bouza, who has shot 60 Hollywood documentaries so far, and I came up with the idea of guiding the doctors about a mobile app for shooting professional videos. Dr Kulkarni and Dr Singh became a pro at the app and self-taped their interviews while I directed them through Skype, Zoom, and Whatsapp video calls. While I shot in different USA cities, I also shot in the smallest towns of India- all remotely under lockdown."

Producer, Director,

**THE DOCUMENTARY FEATURES DR ANKIT BHARAT, WHO HAS JUST PERFORMED USA'S FIRST DOUBLE LUNG TRANSPLANT SURGERY ON A COVID 19 PATIENT. HE IS KNOWN WORLDWIDE FOR THIS AND HIS PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS**

them," Sweta says. Apart from Dr Bharat, this story features 4 other Indian doctors and their families. Dr Pooja Malhotra (Nephrologist), who contracted COVID, recovered, and got back to work. Dr Uma Madhusudana (Internal Medicine), Dr Shreedhar Kulkarni (Internal Medicine), and Dr Shantanu Singh (Critical Care & Pulmonary Diseases) who are treating COVID patients.

"All these doctors are at the front line fighting this unseen enemy. We were not allowed to send the camera crew for some of the doctors to

and writer of this film, Sweta Rai, was born and brought up in Madhya Pradesh, India. She is also the founder and CEO of Indo Holly Films, which, as the name suggests, will collaborate Bollywood/ Asian cinema with Hollywood. She has produced movies with legendary Hollywood filmmakers like James Caan (Godfather), Jon Voight (Mission Impossible), Bo Derek (Tarzan, 10), to name a few. She is all set to shoot her next documentary, *Skin*, which is based on skin complexion biases women face in Asia.

**“**UXReactor — Open Training platform, is a valuable open resource for any person wanting to understand, learn, and build a career in UX design. The objective is to provide a platform for learning global best practices in UX Design from industry practitioners. To take it a step further, we have also introduced a Design Ambassador Program, where we work closely with Design colleges to help them improve the quality of design education.

PRASAD KANTAMNENI



## ‘THE DANCE OF YOGA’

**N**oted classical dance exponent Dr Yashoda Thakore gifted the members of FICCI FLO Hyderabad chapter with a lecture-demonstration titled "The Dance of Yoga", as the first in its Knowledge Labs series. The session espoused the interrelationship between classical dance forms of India and yoga.

Dr Yashoda Thakore is an exponent of Kuchipudi and Devadasi Nrityam (the repertoire of the hereditary women dancers) who reinforces her repertoire with her understanding and practice of Yoga, has performed across the globe by invitation at various prestigious fora. She was awarded the Doctoral degree for her research on Interrelationship between Yoga and Indian Classical Dances. "Patanjali, the sage, saw Yoga as clarity of mind, which leads to Kaivalya or joy." "Bharata, the author of Natya Shastra saw classical dance as the wholesome activity that leads to Rasa or an aesthetic experience bordering on trance. The two sound very similar and yet are slightly different from each other. This interaction is a peek into understanding the yogic aspects in Indian dance, Kuchipudi in

particular, through dancing," she explains.

Yashoda is now Chair, Department of Kuchipudi, University of Silicon Andhra, California where she teaches dance history, theory, and practice to graduate students. She was conferred the Bangalore Nagaratnamma award in 2017 by the Samskruti Organisation, Guntur, and the Ugadi Puraskaram by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

**BHARATA, THE AUTHOR OF NATYA SHASTRA SAW CLASSICAL DANCE AS THE WHOLESOME ACTIVITY THAT LEADS TO RASA OR AN AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE BORDERING ON TRANCE.**

Usharani Manne, Chairperson, FICCI FLO Hyderabad Chapter, and Founder Director, Polmon Instruments Pvt Ltd. says, "Enrich is an integral part of our vision statement this year. We endeavor to facilitate the experiential learning approach offering a treasure chest of powerful lifetime skills for transformation and personal growth. This session 'The Dance of Yoga', is aimed at nourishing the mind, body, and spirit. We

are honored to have been able to host Dr Yashoda Thakore, a renowned classical dance scholar, exponent, and Guru who showed us how yoga and dance can lead us to achieve inner peace. As a practitioner of yoga myself, I have been able to see the immense benefits that this great discipline has imbued in me. We have learned today several aspects of yoga that could transform our very perspective on how we view life."





# PRIDE Month: Empowered women, Empower women

Printing ahead, athlete Dutee Chand's professional and personal achievements make any Indian proud. In 2019, she became the first Indian sprinter, clocking 11.32 seconds, to win gold in the 100m race at the Universiad. In the same year she also became the first ever Indian athlete to openly come out as a member of the LGBTQ+ community and of being in a same-sex relationship.

The twenty-four year old has her share of ups and downs, depute being the first woman to represent India in the Olympics sprint event in 36 years. In an interview with *IANSlife*, the PUMA athlete and brand ambassador talks about her achievements and in celebration of Pride Month, discusses being India's first openly gay athlete.

**Sisters before misters, do you agree and why?**

Dutee Chand: I truly believe that 'Empowered women, Empower women'. The support I received from

them during my coming out journey gave me confidence. It gives me great happiness that PUMA is continuing to change the narrative in a progressive and positive way for women around the world. I broke many shackles to get to where I am. It helped me accept myself and urged me to come forward and make my own rules by being a 'Propah Lady'.

How difficult is to be in a same-sex relationship, do you think times have changed, and India is more accepting?

Dutee Chand: Not anymore. I am sure my achievements have made things easier for me, but I also feel that people in our country have a greater acceptance level now and appreciate honesty. I am glad that brands like the one I represent have come out in the support of the community. My association with PUMA reinforces my belief that people do understand that there is more to me as an athlete.

**You've been in the limelight whether it was your profession or**

**your personal life. Do you think that this is a good thing and does it work in your favour or against you?**

Dutee Chand: I'm glad to know that my story can be an inspiration for millions of women in the country. I have tried to live life on my own terms. I'm nobody to give advice to others. All I can say is that you have one life and live it the way it makes you happy.

**What does 'self-love' mean you and what are its benefits?**

Dutee Chand: For me self-love is being strong, bold and fearless. I believe in hard work and I will always keep giving it my all and driving myself to perform my best in all the competitions for my country.

**Do you think people need to be more aware of the prejudice and the difficulties people of the LGBTQ+ community face?**

Dutee Chand: I think we should not judge people and accept them as they are. We need to take pride in our

diversity and that is what we should practice. Through my association with PUMA, I want to set an example for the younger generations that your personal choices doesn't and shouldn't exclude you from playing sports, being an athlete or achieving your dreams.

**Coronavirus has created an unprecedented crisis, how does an athlete like yourself deal with being in lockdown and have you had access to regular training?**

Dutee Chand: Like all responsible citizens of this country, I too was observing the lockdown. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help people in my village in whatever little way I could. It was so humbling and reassuring to receive blessings from the elderly in my village with so much love and affection. It was very satisfying that I could do something for the society and village where I grew up. Where I stay, there is a track inside the campus, so I'm using that to train at the moment.



## Who's treating employees well and who isn't during COVID-19

A study conducted among 931 working respondents in the country between 9th and 15th June 2020 by YouGuv yields some surprising results when it comes to employee satisfaction.

There is a huge gap between employees from different sectors, these numbers reveal the true story.

When looking at the various sectors, there are stark differences in the levels of satisfaction. Considering an average satisfaction level of 55 percent, the levels are noticeably higher among employees working in the Education (66 percent) sector, followed by IT & telecom (62 percent) and Construction companies (57 percent).

Professionals in Retail (55 percent) and Manufacturing sectors (55 percent) reported average levels of satisfaction, but those in Finance/Accounts (48 percent) and Media/Marketing/Advertising (42 percent) showed lower degree of satisfaction than the others.

On the other hand, 23 percent of all respondents said their employer's treatment was 'good' and only 19 percent rated their treatment as 'fair' or 'poor'. This proportion is considerably higher among those working in the Manufacturing and Retail industry (24 percent and 20 percent, respectively rating 'Fair' or 'Poor').

**Who didn't fare to well leading to many disgruntled employees?**

When it comes to fast-food companies, a higher number find their behaviour poor rather than well- 48 percent compared to 37 percent.

Ratings of poor response are much higher for sectors such as Holiday & Travel companies (53 percent), Leisure Companies (52 percent) and Airlines (51 percent), where a majority described the behaviour of these companies as poor.

With regard to companies who have lost most of their

day-to-day business, four in ten Indians believe that despite the circumstances employees should be kept fully employed and fully paid (40 percent). More than a quarter (26 percent), however, said employees should have their pay cut until normal work resumes. A small minority feel if necessary, some employees should be laid off altogether from their jobs (12 percent) or should be furloughed (11 percent).

When it comes to government action to ensure companies are better suited to handle any future crises, close to half think the government should make companies release an annual statement about how they can deal with a future pandemic (48 percent), and should make them pay into a fund designed to provide protection in the future (46 percent).

When asked about the behaviour of various sectors within the economy in response to the pandemic, residents were more likely to say that most of the sectors have behaved well rather than poorly.



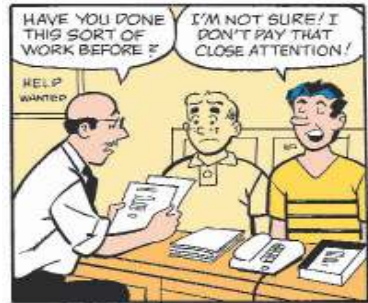
The Pharmaceuticals sector (83 percent) leads among businesses perceived to have responded well to the pandemic, followed by Utilities (79 percent), Banks (76 percent) and Technology sectors (75 percent).

36 percent feel companies should pay more to have better insurance against such events, and an equal number (36 percent) believe the company directors should be personally made more accountable for the business' ability to deal with such situations. Some (14 percent) feel that companies are not to blame, or already pay enough tax and have enough regulations.




Overall Indian employees are positive about how their employers have treated them during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 59 percent rating their company's treatment of staff as 'excellent' (31 percent) or 'very good' (28 percent), says a research.

## FUN




ARCHIE



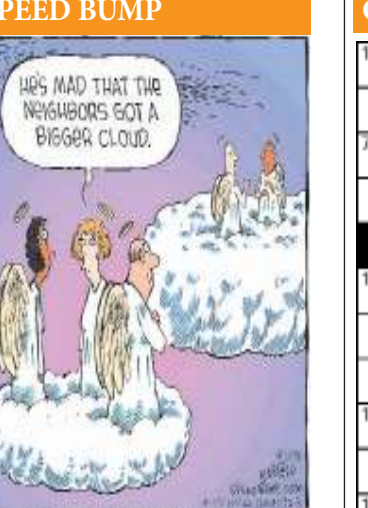
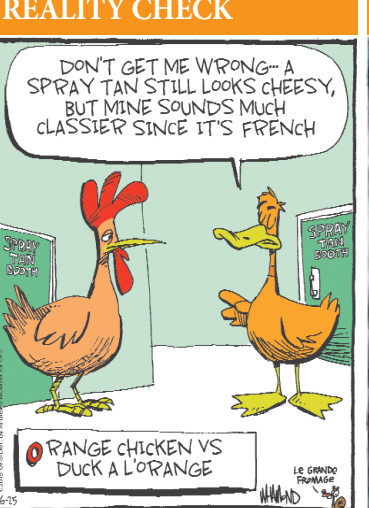
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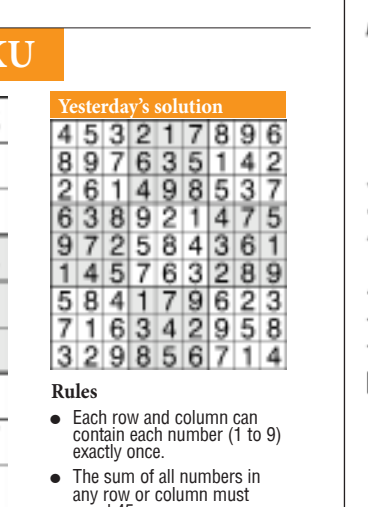
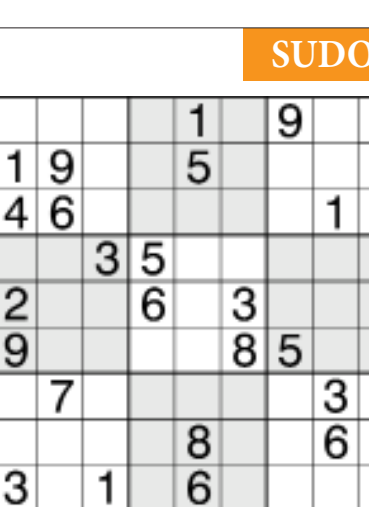
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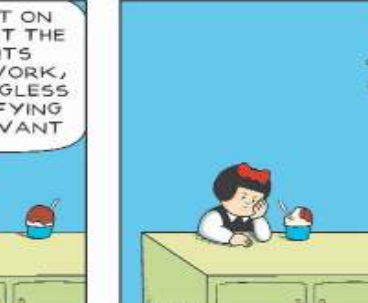


REALITY CHECK






SPEED BUMP



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



CROSSWORD

1	2		3	4	5
			6		
7			9		
	10				
11				12	
		13			15
16		14		17	
18			19		

ACROSS

1 The one who comes first in a race

3 Twirl around

7 Very impolite

8 A fire-breathing monster

10 A repairer of teeth

13 The head of an empire

16 Look very carefully for something

17 Jealousy

18 Moist

19 Centre

5 Two times forty-five

6 A painter uses these

9 A body organ

11 Touched lips with someone

12 Connected together

14 Peaceful and still

15 A rubber cover for a wheel

DOWN

1 A wriggly creature living in soil

2 Said "yes" with the head

4 These hold clothes on a line

SOLUTION

P	A	R	A	C	H	E		
S	O	U	T	H	N	I	G	H
T	H	E	E	M	A	L	S	
I	R	S						
T	A	S	T	E	D	P	E	R
H	A	A	I	R	E			
G	A	M	E	S				
O	E	T	O					
C	A	R	D	E	N	E	R	S



Most Read NEWS

## Man donates building to be a Covid hospital

A Mumbai-based builder has donated a 19-storey newly constructed building to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), for the building to be converted into a Covid-19 hospital. Mehul Sanghavi, of Shreeji Sharan Developers, was worried about the growing number of cases in the city and wanted to contribute in some way. "The country is going through a difficult phase right now. It's our responsibility to ensure that we step up and serve the nation to our best abilities. Locally speaking, our area, Malad is a COVID hotspot, where cases would likely double in the next 17 days. When MP Gopal Shetty suggested that we lend the building to the effort, we immediately agreed to do so," Sanghavi said. The building in Malad has 130 flats and was even ready to be handed over to the flat owners. "We have decided to bear the costs for the buyers, by providing them rent for their flats for the period, from our coffers", he added.



## Librarian uses drones to deliver books to kids

When schools, theaters, amusement parks and libraries around the country closed due to coronavirus, kids were left with few activities to keep them busy. So Kelly Passek, a school librarian in Virginia, came up with a creative way to ensure that kids in her community still have books to keep them occupied: She's delivering them by drone. "As a school librarian, it is extremely important to me to have connections with my students," Passek said in a video about her drone deliveries. "So that I can make sure that they have got access to the resources that they need and the resources that will allow them to be successful - not just academically, but also in life." Passek, who works for the Montgomery County Public Schools, said when remote learning began in the school district due to the coronavirus, it became difficult for her to make these connections.



## Hummingbirds see colors we can't even imagine!

A male hummingbird simply pausing on a perch can mesmerize us with his colorful, iridescent plumage. But it turns out we humans are likely missing the full effect-because hummingbirds see colors that humans cannot detect, a new study says. Scientists have long known that birds probably have better color vision than humans do. Like most primates, humans are trichromatic-that is, our eyes have three types of color-sensitive receptors or cones: blue, green, and red. But birds have four color cones, meaning they are tetrachromatic. With our three color cones, we can see the colors of the rainbow-red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet-the so-called spectral hues. We can also see one pure nonspectral (meaning, not in the rainbow) color, purple, because it stimulates our red and blue cones simultaneously.



## 'Giant' cherry unofficially breaks world record

A pair of siblings in Italy said they found a giant cherry in their orchard that weighs nearly an ounce and unofficially broke the Guinness World Record. Sebastiano Zanoni, 25, owner of a farm in Paese, Treviso, said he and his sister, Selene Zanoni, 22, were working in the cherry orchard when they spotted a giant cherry on one of their trees. The cherry weighed 0.88 ounce, and the siblings soon discovered the Guinness World Record for heaviest cherry was only 0.84 ounce. The pair said they looked into getting official recognition for the cherry, but they found out it would cost \$782 to have a Guinness adjudicator visit their farm soon enough that the cherry wouldn't rot before they arrived.



# ATM heat up top-4 race

Vitolo's strike makes difference for Simeone's side against Valladolid

AP ■ BARCELONA

Atlético Madrid honored the club's victims of the coronavirus pandemic and earned a hard-fought victory in its first home game since the Spanish league resumed.

Substitute Victor "Vitolo" Machín scored the winner in the 81st minute of a 1-0 win over Valladolid on Saturday.

The victory lifted Diego Simeone's team past Sevilla and into third place on head-to-head goal difference.

Barcelona leads the league by three points over Real Madrid, which can pull level if it wins at Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Madrid holds the tiebreaker between the two in case of a tie. Atlético and Sevilla trail Barcelona by 13 points with eight games left.

Atlético used the occasion of its first match at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in more than three months to pay tribute to its former coach Radomir Antić, three former players, and a 14-year-old youth player who died during the pandemic.

A jersey with Antić's name was



Atletico Madrid's Vitolo celebrates after scoring his side only goal of the match against Real Valladolid

## Barca confirm Frenkie's injury

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona confirmed they have detected an issue in the soleus muscle in Frenkie de Jong's calf after missing the draw with Sevilla.

The Netherlands international had to miss Friday's trip to the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, where Barca were frustrated in a goalless stalemate.

It was confirmed a day earlier that De Jong had been ruled out through injury, though the club did not reveal what the issue was.



Celta Vigo players celebrate after 6-0 win against Alaves

Following further medical tests, Barca were able to determine the former Ajax talent is suffering with a problem in his soleus muscle in the right calf.

However, the club have not commented on how long he could be out for, saying the "evolution of the injury will condition the player's availability."

De Jong is in his first season at Camp Nou and has made 38 appearances across all competitions.

Barca are next in action at home to Athletic Bilbao on Tuesday.

placed on a seat next to Simeone on the bench, while the four players had shirts with their names draped on seats in the empty stands.

A violinist played the club's anthem to honor all of Spain's over 28,000 virus victims before kickoff.

Vitolo went on in the 73rd and broke the deadlock when he headed in after goalkeeper José Caro failed to punch a corner away, leaving his goal undefended. The ball fell to Vitolo at the far post and he guided his header home.



## Very sure of playing IPL if T20 WC postponed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Opener David Warner is "very sure and positive" that he and other Australian players will be able to play the IPL if the T20 World Cup is postponed in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Though Cricket Australia chairman Earl Eddings has said that it is a bit "unrealistic" to host the 16-team tournament in October-November, the ICC is yet to decide the fate of the event and is expected to do so next month.

"...And if it is unlikely if the World Cup can't go ahead, then I am very sure and positive that we will be able to come and play in the IPL if that replaces the World Cup schedule," Warner was quoted as saying by 'India Today'.

"If that permits us from Cricket Australia giving the go-ahead to go over there, I am sure we will put our hands up and come and play cricket which at the end of the day is what we love."

The southpaw himself had said earlier that hosting the T20 World Cup would be a tough ask considering the the number of teams involved.

He said everybody is waiting for ICC's decision on the matter.

"Look, there has been a lot of talk about the T20 World Cup being postponed, the challenges around getting every single nation that participates in the World Cup into Australia, given the fact that we have the quarantine for 14 days.

"Nevertheless, making sure we are restricting the chances of a Covid-19 outbreak back into Australia. Those restrictions are in place with the Australian government at the moment. We have to obviously abide by those rules and obviously we await the decision from the ICC," said Warner.

He said most Australian players would want to play the IPL, which can be held in September-October if T20 World Cup and Asia Cup are postponed.

## Always wanted to score a century in Eng: Chase

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

West Indies all-rounder Roston Chase wants to be taken more seriously as a batsman and says personally it would be a big disappointment if he fails to score at least a century in the three-Test series against England, starting July 8 in Southampton.

The 28-year-old, who has scored 1,695 runs including five hundreds in 32 Tests, said he wants to be rated higher as a batsman and was looking forward to pile up some runs in England.

"I've always wanted to score a century in England. I scored a century against England in the Caribbean, but I would love to get one in England," he told media via video conference.

"As I said, when you score hundreds in England, I think, as a batsman people take you more serious and rate you a bit higher. I'm looking to have a good series



with the bat, score as many runs as possible. I will not be happy if I don't get at least one century."

While opening duo of Kraigg Brathwaite and Shai Hope will look to provide starts, Chase will

## Being mature is crucial: Patil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India batsman Sandeep Patil on Sunday advised players to remain mentally strong and ensure an injury-free return to cricket when the game resumes amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a halt in the cricket calendar due to the coronavirus pandemic, the first international match begins next month between England and the West Indies in bio-secure venues. There is no cricket match lined up for the Indians immediately.

"These are pretty uncertain times and the challenge to bounce back without any injuries will be a real task for any player. But they need to remember that all these challenges will first have to be dealt strongly in the mind," Patil was quoted as saying by 'Star Sports'.

"You need to begin slowly and ensure that you tune your focus firmly on making an injury-free comeback. Even during my tenure as coach of Kenya, I used to always focus on players being



mentally strong before any tournament."

The 63-year-old, who played 29 Tests between 1980 and 1984, cited the example of India's 1983 World Cup final triumph against the mighty West Indies, saying the match proved how mental strength can win games.

"During 1983 World Cup final, after we were restricted to 183, we thought we were down and out. But before stepping onto the field for second

innings, we all made a very fervent resolution in our minds and as a team. The rest they say is history!"

"Bowling to likes of Greenidge, Viv Richards was no easy task but because we were focussed on laying our hands on that trophy, we were able to do it. So, being mentally mature is very important for any sportsperson, not just cricketers," said Patil who was a member of that World Cup-winning team.

## Gopi props Prannoy for Arjuna Award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shuttler H S Prannoy has been recommended for the Arjuna award by chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand after the Badminton Association of India ignored him for a second successive year due to disciplinary issues.

On June 2, BAI had recommended Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty and Sameer Verma for Arjuna award, leaving out Prannoy which prompted the shuttler to express his displeasure on twitter.

"Same old story. Guy who has medals in CWG and Asian Championships not even recommended by the association. And guy who was not there on any of these major events recommended. #waah #thiscountry-isajoke," Prannoy had said in his now-deleted tweet.

It has emerged now that Prannoy's name was recommended by Gopichand on June 3 in his capacity as a Khel Ratna Award recipient.

"Gopichand recommended Prannoy for Arjuna on June 3 after BAI decided not to send his name. He did it as a winner of Khel Ratna and not as the chief India coach. He was not aware of the disciplinary issues," a source close to the development told PTI.

Gopichand, however, refused to comment on the issue, while Prannoy



didn't respond despite repeated calls.

On Friday, Prannoy was served a showcause notice asking him to respond for his outburst against BAI within 15 days.

"There are several instances of disciplinary issues with Prannoy. The Federation had been very tolerant all this while but in the recent past, his attitude has forced BAI to take action and also relook at the disciplinary policies," Ajay Singhania had said.

"A show-cause letter has been issued for the remarks made. If the player fails to respond in the allotted time, BAI will be taking stern action."

## Pak have a good chance of winning T20 WC: Malik

IANS ■ LAHORE

Veteran Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik feels that the team stands a very good chance of winning the 2020 T20 World Cup, if it goes ahead as per plans. The fate of the showpiece event, which is scheduled to be played in Australia later this year, hangs in balance due to implications put forward by the coronavirus pandemic.

Shoaib, who won the trophy once in 2009, stated Pakistan have a very good bowling attack and that is why they will be one of the top contenders at the tournament.

"I believe our chances are very good," Shoaib told PakPassion. "In order to win these kinds of events, you have to have a very strong bowling attack and I think we have that box ticked. In addition, we also have a good batting line-up to complement that strong bowling attack."

"Not only that, but our fielding has also developed and improved over the years, which is important on big grounds.

"Our fitness is much improved and better than it was in previous years, so overall, I think we will be right up there as a team that stands a very good chance of winning this tournament if it goes ahead," he added. Shoaib, in July, will join the 29-man Pakistan squad that leaves for England on June 28. The tour is set to consist of three Tests and as many T20Is and will all be played in empty stadiums due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Of course, we all like to see packed stadiums and matches that have a buzz from the crowd, which all adds to the spectacle. But right now, the situation around the world is very concerning and we must do what is right for everyone's health and safety," he said.

## Djokovic advances to final

IANS ■ ZADAR

World No.1 Novak Djokovic reached the final of his exhibition tournament in Zadar, Croatia, after easing through the round-robin group stage on the first day. This is the second stage of the Adria Tour with Austrian Dominic Thiem winning the first leg in Belgrade, Serbia.

Djokovic started by saving three set points in his 4-3, 4-1 win over fellow Serb Pedja Krstin. He then beat home favourite Borna Coric 4-1, 4-3 in front of several thousand fans at the Visnjik tennis complex.

The tournament in Zadar is being played on red clay over two days. In the other group, Russian Andrey Rublev is in pole position to advance into the final after wins over 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic and Serb Danilo Petrovic. He faces German star Alexander Zverev in the final round robin match on Sunday who stayed in contention after beating Cilic 4-3, 0-4, 4-3.

Djokovic's own inconsequential final group match is against Croatian Dino Sardarusic who replaced Grigor Dimitrov after the Bulgarian pulled out of the tournament with sickness following his opening 4-1, 4-1 loss to Coric.

"I hope we gave the crowd a good show," Djokovic said in a court-side interview.

"A few points here and there swung the tie my way. Many thanks to the fans who turned up and stayed late. The last few months have been difficult (because of the pandemic) and I hope you will come in numbers tomorrow too."



# Aha plans ventures with Tamannaah and Payal Rajput

With an eye top director's on one hand, the management of aha is also looking at leading heroines to shoulder some of the web series they've been developing for the past six months. To this end, the latest we hear is that aha think-tank is in advanced talks with *RX100* heroine Payal Rajput for a web series. While details are in short supply at this juncture, a source tells us that it's a female-centric story which has a lot of depth and will be bold. The actress has given her in-principle nod but formalities need to be sorted out. The source further adds that aha has also signed Tamannaah for a new venture of theirs. However, whether this is a web show or a talk show is yet to be ascertained, as there is extreme concealment around it. "If it wasn't for the lockdown, details about this new venture would've emerged by now," adds the source. — NG



# Actors need to be thick-skinned to survive in the industry: Nikhil



Participating in a live interactive session with his fans on Instagram over the weekend, actor Nikhil Siddhartha, who will start shooting for *Karthikeya 2* shortly, said that actors need to be thick-skinned to survive in the industry. "Yes, we are humans; we have good days and bad days but I advocate living life to the fullest. You have to fight to live, fight against society and fight to be successful. You shouldn't bother about what others think of you. Only if you are thick-skinned will you survive in the society. There are many people who are ready to criticize you and to bring you down. Only if you face them, there is some kick in life. Ending one's life is not the solution," the actor opined when asked about his thoughts on Sushant Singh Rajput who died by suicide last week in Mumbai. Nikhil, however, added that what transpired with Sushant is "unfortunate". "He is one of my favourite actors, as I loved his films like *Kai Po Che* and *Chhichhore*. I do believe that there are a lot of people who are facing mental issues and the best way to address such issues is to speak about them in the first place. You'll feel better and suicidal tendencies will come down. Always visit a therapist later," the actor, who has been taking film-making classes online for the past three months, suggested to his followers.



"We are still finalising Falaknuma Palace. Not that it is 100 per cent but it could be that place," Suresh Babu tells NAGARAJ GOUD



# FALAKNUMA PALACE TO HOST RANA AND MIHEEKA'S WEDDING

Rana Daggubati, who had a low-key roka ceremony with his lady love Miheeka Bajaj last month at the sprawling Ramanaidu Studios, will be tying the knot on August 8 in Hyderabad. Buzz doing the rounds indicate that the prestigious Falaknuma Palace has been chosen as the wedding venue. When *The Pioneer* reached out to Suresh Babu, Rana's father, to verify the news, he told us, "We are still finalising Falaknuma Palace. Not that it is 100 per cent but it could be that place. We are on the way... most probably it will be." With a venue as big and as luxurious as Falaknuma, is he planning to conduct the wedding on a grand note? "We will be adhering to the guidelines of the government at that point of time," he declared. Situated on a hillock, covering a 32-acre (13 ha) area in Falaknuma, which is five kilometers away from Charminar, Falaknuma Palace dining hall can accommodate 101 guests. The venue hosted Salman Khan's sister Arpita's wedding in 2014.

# Dear Comrade music director for Prabhas' next?

When Prabhas' next with Radha Krishna was launched more than a year ago, Bollywood name Amit Trivedi's name was attached to it as the music director. However, over time, production house UV

# THE YOUNG TUNESMITH MADE HIS TELUGU DEBUT LAST YEAR WITH DEAR COMRADE, ALBUM OF WHICH WAS A SUPER HIT

Creations failed to acknowledge his name, indirectly hinting that there might be a change of composer. To this end, the latest is that the highly talented Tamil composer Justin Prabhakaran has hopped on board the prestigious project. The young tunesmith made his Telugu debut last year with *Dear Comrade*, album of

which was a super hit. According to the grapevine, director Radha Krishna and the composer have started the recording sessions. It is believed that Radha felt the sound of Prabhakaran is apt for his love story and immediately roped him in. A text to the director on the development didn't elicit any response until the time of going to press.



# From CHIRU TO SHAURYA, T'wood celebrates father's day

A bevy of celebrities revisited their childhood memories of their fathers and wished them a Happy Father's Day on Sunday. From nostalgic throw-back photos to moments spent with their fathers, the T-town brigade has posted some memorable photos on social media along with some meaningful messages!

Here are some of the other adorable messages and pictures. Posting a picture of his dad along with his son Ram Charan, Megastar Chiranjeevi tweeted, "Chirutha with my charming dad. My dad's laughter... my son's smile.... I love both of them (sic)." Superstar Mahesh Babu wrote, "Strong, compassionate, loving, gentle, kind, caring are some of the words I could describe my

relationship with my father and I can go on and on... He is all that I am and all that I'm trying to be to my kids!! Happy Father's Day Nanna You are my way forward always (sic)." Sharing a childhood pic of him with father Chiranjeevi and a present picture, Ram Charan tweeted, "There is no need to define few bonds!! Happy Father's Day!!" Sreenu Vaitla wrote, "I grew up by admiring your

courage and willpower. The sacrifices which you've made for us are something beyond words can express. Thankyou for everything. Will love you always Naanna. #HappyFathersDay (sic)." Sharing pictures of his kids Gopichand said, "Being a father is the best feeling. Looking at my kids I feel so complete and blessed. My lovely little ones thank you for my being my strength. #HappyFathersDay (sic)." Shruti Haasan posted, "Happy Father's Day Appa dearest @ikamalhaasan Thankyou for being you, Thankyou for inspiring me to be courageous in art and in life. #bapuji (sic)." Sushanth wrote, "Happy Father's Day Nanna! Thank You for everything You are in our thoughts everyday #HappyFathersDay (sic)." Sudheer Babu wrote, "He hides all his hard-work, sacrifices, restlessness and every thing behind that smile. And that smile speaks with me without his notice ... We all have this silent love with our fathers. A different love story from the rest. Thank you Nanna for building ME. #HappyFathersDay (sic)." Swapna Dutt tweeted, "Father, friend, guru #HappyFathersDay2020 (sic)." Naga Shaurya wrote, "One day is not enough to honor how special you are Daddy cos you are spectacular everyday of the year. Thank you for all that you do for us #Myrealsuperhero #HappyFathersDay (sic)." Nabha Natesh said, "East or west my papa is the best! I had picked this line up from some commercial and chant it all day when I was a kid and even now in my head (sic)."

