

OPINION 6
THE TABLIGHI
TANGLE

MONEY 9
SENSEX SOARS 997 PTS;
NIFTY TOPS 9,850 MARK

SPORT 12
PSG AWARDED
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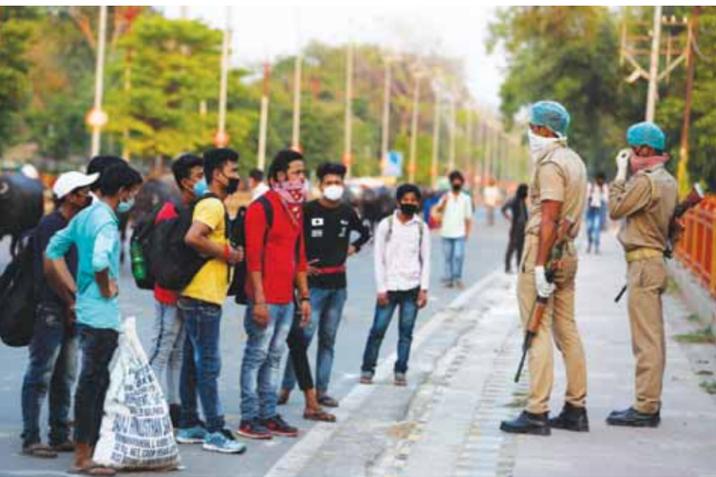
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States demand migrants' trains

Lakhs of buses not feasible; Railways plans to run 400 spl trains/day



Migrant workers from other States speak to policemen as they arrive to catch a bus to travel to their hometowns in Prayagraj on Thursday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
A day after the Centre allowed States to bring back migrant workers to their respective States by roads, the logistical nightmare in arranging tens of thousands of buses for this purpose has begun to haunt the State Governments. At least seven States — Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab and Bihar — have asked the Centre to run trains to move the migrants to their States citing the distance and the difficulty in logistics of travelling by bus.

Sources said the Railway Ministry is planning to run 400 special trains per day and may increase the number to 1,000 special trains. As safeguards, the train will run to the passenger-carrying capacity. Taking to Twitter, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot wrote, "Long-awaited demand of movement of migrant workers has finally been accepted by the GoI. It is a welcome step but until GoI allows Indian Railways to operate, practically it will not be possible to facilitate smooth and hassle-free transport to their home."

The Rajasthan CM said more than six lakh migrants have registered with the Rajasthan Government, asking for help to get home. They are being screened for coronavirus symptoms and those who don't have any are being allowed to proceed. Telangana Animal Husbandry Minister T Srinivas Yadav also demanded that the Centre arrange special trains and provide free transportation for migrant workers to their native States. The Bihar Government also urged the Centre to allow running of special trains to

facilitate the return of people stranded in different parts of the country. Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi made an appeal in a video message claiming that depending on the road route could take months because of the limited availability and capacity of buses. Modi said the number of those wanting to return is likely to be huge. According to officials of the Bihar Government, it is estimated that there are 25-30 lakh people from Bihar, including students and migrant workers, stranded across the country and it needs at least one lakh buses to bring them back by road. In a related development, Jan Adhikar Party leader Pappu Yadav took the Twitter to announce that he has sent 30 buses to Kota, Rajasthan to

bring back students from Bihar. "If we depend on buses, the process could take months to complete. I would therefore urge the Centre to run special trains. These could be non-stop ones, with no halts between the points of departure and the destinations. Seating arrangements could be made for passengers in a way that social distancing is ensured. Food, water etc could be made available on board," Sushil added. The Nitish Kumar Government has been facing criticism from all quarters over its handling of the migrant crisis and its reluctance to bring back their people who have been stuck across the country during the lockdown. **Continued on Page 2**

Maha leads Covid surge, total 35K

10.5K cases in Maha, spike in TN, Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As citizens wait with the Government's decision on lockdown on May 3, the number of Covid-19 cases in India continues to surge. On Thursday, it came close to 35,000 mark with Maharashtra alone logging more than 10,500 case and 459 deaths. Maharashtra was followed by Gujarat and Delhi, the two of the other States that have been severely hit with more than 4,350 and 3,515 cases respectively. It was another day of big spike of Gujarat, which added 303 new cases to reach the total of 4,395 and 214 deaths. Tamil Nadu also saw a big surge on Thursday with the addition of 161 cases. The State has now 2,323 cases and 27 deaths. Maharashtra recorded 27 deaths due to Covid-19 and with 583 fresh cases, the total number of infected cases crossed 10,500 mark to touch a tally of 10,498 cases. Of the latest 27 deaths, Mumbai accounted for 20 deaths, while there were three deaths in Pune, two in Thane and one each Nagpur and Raigad. Of those dead on



Health workers talk to attendants of a patient at a hospital meant for treating Covid-19 patients in New Delhi on Thursday

Thursday, 19 were men while 8 were women. "Fourteen of the deceased were aged over 60 years, while 13 were from the age group of 40 to 59 years. "Twenty two out of 27 patients (81%) had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, etc," the State health bulletin said. Mumbai, which continues to be the worst-coronavirus affected city in the country, continued to be in the vice grip of Covid-19, as the pandemic claimed 20 more lives taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis to 290. Similarly, the total number of infected cases rose to alarming 7,061. Of the 20 deaths reported in Mumbai, 16 deceased had co-morbidities. Out of 1,45,798 laboratory samples, 1,34,244 tested negative, while 10,498 have tested

positive for coronavirus until Thursday. There are 733 active containment zones in the State currently. Total 10,092 surveillance squads worked on Friday across the State and surveillance of 42.11 lakh population was done. As many as 1,773 patients have been discharged till date after full recovery. Currently, 1,68,266 people are in home quarantine and 10,695 people are in institutional quarantine. Meanwhile, four teams from Government of India visited various parts of Mumbai to monitor and assess the prevention & control measures undertaken by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) at community level and treatment facilities in the month of April. **Continued on Page 2**

CAPSULE

INDIA VISIT REAFFIRMED COMMITMENTS: TRUMP
Washington: US President Donald Trump has said his historic first official visit to India in February reaffirmed the commitments of two countries to build a comprehensive global strategic partnership grounded in shared interests and common purpose.

PHILIPPINES REJECTS CHINA'S LABEL ON SCs
Manila: Philippines protested on Thursday China's designation of a disputed South China Sea reef, which it has turned into a heavily fortified island base, as a Chinese "administrative center." The Department of Foreign Affairs issued a statement objecting to what it called China's "illegal designation" of Fiery Cross Reef as a regional administrative center in the hotly contested Spratly archipelago.

NIA ARRESTS 1 MORE IN SUSPENDED BY SP CASE
Jammu: The NIA on Thursday arrested an alleged arms dealer, who unsuccessfully contested the 2014 Assembly election on a BJP ticket, in connection with a case related to suspended Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh who was caught while ferrying terrorists outside the Kashmir valley. The accused, identified as Tariq Mir, a resident of Maldoora of Shopian district in south Kashmir.

Ensure movement of trucks swiftly, MHA tells States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry on Thursday asked the States to facilitate easy movement of trucks to speed up the supply of all items, including essential commodities. In a letter to Chief Secretaries, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said all inter-State as well as intra-State truck movements must go on without any hindrance for the smooth movement of goods. This is Home Secretary's fourth letter on easy movement of truck movements. The MHA also said empty trucks or trucks carrying any item should not be blocked anywhere, including at borders of States. The letter also reiterated that all trucks can carry a person apart from driver in the cargo carrying vehicles. Except drivers' licence, nothing should be subject to checking by authorities, it said, adding that all transportation of non-essential commodities is allowed. There were complaints from truck owners' bodies that they were facing checks from



some State borders and harassment from authorities. "The MHA has re-iterated to all States/UTs that, as per the consolidated revised guidelines on lockdown measures, no separate passes are required for through traffic of trucks and goods carriers, including empty trucks etc," the MHA said. In order to ensure compliance to these guidelines, the MHA has asked all States and UTs to ensure that district authorities and field agencies are sensitised about the above instructions, so that there is no ambiguity at the ground level, and movement of through traffic of trucks and goods carriers, including empty trucks, is allowed without any hindrance.

Rahul begins web talk for post-Covid revival

Rajan says India needs ₹65K cr to help poor recover from crisis from Covid lockdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has started political web-based talk show with internationally acclaimed personalities to discuss ways to help India's recovery post-Covid19 era. Rahul held his first interaction with former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan who said India needs around ₹65,000 crore to help the poor currently hit hard by the nationwide coronavirus lockdown. The 27-minute-long video clip was released on Thursday by the Congress on Twitter where the two had discussion on economy and way out of the crisis situation. To a question on how much money will be needed help the poor currently hit hard by the nationwide coronavirus lockdown, Rajan said, "India will need ₹65,000 crore, it is not that much to save the lives of the poor." **Continued on Page 2**



Rahul Gandhi in a conversation with former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on the economic impact of the Covid-19, via a video link on Thursday

The former RBI chief, speaking on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy, also said a prolonged lockdown would not be sustainable for the economy. As Indian economic activity opens up after weeks, Rajan said steps should be taken to isolate new cases of coronavirus that emerge. "A second lockdown will be even more devastating and will destroy people's trust in the measures taken by the Government," he said. During the 30-minute interaction, Rajan also asked Rahul how he compared the response in India and the US to which the Congress leader replied that he saw deep-seated inequality in India as the biggest difference between the two nations. **Continued on Page 2**

Pak phishing Aarogya Setu tries to trap Indian Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the world, including India, is fighting the coronavirus pandemic, Pakistan spy agencies are resorting to nefarious designs by creating an application similar to the Aarogya Setu in order to trap the Indian Army personnel by hacking their mobile phones. Realising this threat, the Indian Army has issued warning to the troops to be cautious and download the Aarogya Setu app only through the Government website (mygov.in) or Android Play Store or iOS Apple Play Store. The directive came as all forces' personnel have been asked to download the Aarogya Setu application to help in the detection and checking the spread of Covid-19. The app has been developed by Government agencies. Elaborating upon the challenge posed by Pakistan, sources said here on Thursday "inimical" intelligence agencies have devised an app by the name Aarogya Setu.apk. **Continued on Page 2**

Corona recovery rises to 25%, doubling rate improves to 11 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday said that the recovery rate of Covid-19 patients has increased to 25.19 per cent, while the doubling rate of positive coronavirus cases has gone up to 11 days. At least six States and Union Territories have reported a doubling rate of 20 days and above, with Himachal Pradesh taking the lead. "The progressive recovery rate of Covid-19 patients in the country now stands at 25.19 per cent, which was 13.06 per cent 14 days ago," Joint Secretary at the Union Health Ministry Lav Agarwal said at a Press conference here. Doubling time means the number of days it takes for the Covid-19 cases to duplicate. Agarwal cited data saying that coronavirus cases in Assam are doubling in 59 days, Telangana in 70.8 days, Chhattisgarh in 89.7 days and Himachal Pradesh in 191.6 days. Besides this, Karnataka is witnessing doubling in 21.6



A medical worker waits inside a protective booth to take samples of people in Srinagar on Thursday

days, Ladakh in 24.2 days, Haryana in 24.4 days, Uttarakhand in 30.3 days and Kerala in 37.5 days. Delhi saw doubling in 11.3 days, whereas cases in Uttar Pradesh became twice in 12 days, J&K in 12.2 days, 13 days in Odisha, 17.8 days in Rajasthan, 19.1 days Tamil Nadu and 19.5 days in Punjab. **Continued on Page 2**

Relief for Uddhav as Guv asks EC to hold Council elections

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a big relief for Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Thursday requested the Election Commission of India (ECI) to schedule elections to the nine vacant seats of the Maharashtra Legislative Council "at the earliest." A day after Uddhav spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sought the latter's intervention to speed up the process of Koshyari nominating him to the Maharashtra Legislature Council, the Governor wrote a letter to the ECI, urging it to fill nine seats that have been lying vacant



from April 24, "with a view to end the current uncertainty in the State." In his letter to the Election Commission, the Governor stated that the Centre had announced many relaxation measures regarding the enforcement of lockdown in the country. **Continued on Page 2**

SC refuses to stay Central Vista project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a plea against the Centre's Central Vista project which covers a 3-km stretch, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, and includes construction of new Parliament building. A Bench, comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justice Aniruddha Bose, did not agree to the submission that the project in Lutyens' Delhi needed to be stayed as the Government bodies were to approach the authorities concerned for clearance and other formalities. "Nobody is going to do anything" during the Covid-19 pandemic, said the Bench. **Continued on Page 2**

The Kapoor who stood out in the *khandaan*

RINKU GHOSH ■ NEW DELHI

Sometimes you think you know all about the stars. Simply because you have seen them larger than life onscreen while growing up. Simply because you have read so much about them. In the end, you have formed a picture of them in your minds, just like the cinema projector, and have convinced yourself that is as good as it gets. Till you meet them in person. And they leave you with a stray memory of their inner selves. Rishi Kapoor was one such and more. He would lay his heart bare. Many years ago, when he was on the cusp of his second coming as an actor rather than the star by playing the brutally cold villain Rauf Lala in *Agneepath*, I had met him at home. He was old world that way, relying on his secretary to



RISHI KAPOOR
4 September 1952-30 April 2020

find a time slot that would allow him to talk at length on his craft without the noise of film promotions. I was early for my appointment at Krishna Raj on 56 Pali Hill, fearing Mumbai traffic. Twenty minutes too

early for Rishi Kapoor who was to meet me at 11 am. His office staff was readying for the day, shining up the awards shields and trophies, the cars had been lined up, indicating the denizens were in. I went down

a flight of steps and was shown into a reception lounge which opened into a lawn encircled by azulejo panels. The lounge itself was a tribute to European tile art, with holy crosses of various colours and sizes adorning the walls and pillars and a blithe Mary and Jesus alcove spreading benediction all around. "I just love Portuguese ceramic tiles and have been collecting them whenever I travel. It's not religious though my going to a missionary school may have had something to do with my love for the holy cross," said the man who showed up early because a guest was waiting. And the re-energised Rishi Kapoor, beginning the day with an earthy *chaach*, was not done with the artiste inside, be it decorating his little comfort zone or experimenting with his

versatility in the second innings of his life. But that day he wanted a great conversation with a journalist guest and to play some word games on Literati. That year was 2012. So he was most curious about what the UP Assembly elections were going to throw up and whether governance would be an issue. He was clued in about politics and corruption, saying he never missed the 9 pm news, a far stronger addiction than the food or drink he loved. Apart from discovering a news junkie, he also appeared a practicalist, saying though the Kapoor eco-system was such that all members knew how to make films by the time they were 10, the sons of Raj Kapoor didn't know the niceties of business too well and would have to ultimately sell RK studios, which they did. **Continued on Page 2**

India visit boosted Indo-US strategic partnership: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump has said his historic first official visit to India in February reaffirmed the commitment of the two countries to build a comprehensive global strategic partnership grounded in shared interests and common purpose.

In a proclamation issued on the occasion of Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month, 2020, Trump said the US remains committed to strengthening its ongoing relationships with Asian and Pacific partners.

"Last year, I was proud to stand alongside Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an

event in Houston, Texas, and earlier this year I made my first official visit to India as a demonstration of our Nation's enduring friendship with one of the world's largest and most diverse countries," Trump said on Wednesday.

"During this historic visit, I had the honour of speaking about the importance of the relationship between our two countries before more than 110,000 Indian citizens," he said referring to his joint address with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad.

"The visit also reaffirmed that India and the United States

are committed to building a comprehensive global strategic partnership grounded in shared interests and common purpose, benefitting both of our countries," Trump said.

The president made his maiden visit to India in February.

Trump said that during Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month, the country celebrates the indelible mark these people from this community have left on America's culture and pay tribute to the myriad ways in which they continue to strengthen our Nation.

US in talks with India, other 'friends' to restructure global supply chains, says Pompeo

Washington: The US is in talks with its "friends", including India, for restructuring the global supply chains, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said, as he praised New Delhi for lifting the export ban on critical medical supplies to combat the global coronavirus pandemic.

The novel coronavirus has infected over 3,193,960 people and claimed more than 227,640 lives across the globe. The US is the worst-hit with 1,039,909 cases and 60,967 deaths — the highest in the world.

Addressing a news conference here on Wednesday, Pompeo said, "We're working with our friends in Australia,

India and Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and Vietnam to share information and best practices as we begin to move the global economy forward." "Our conversation certainly involved global supply chains, keeping them running smoothly, getting our economies back to full strength and thinking about how we restructure the supply change chains to prevent something like this from ever happening again," he said. "One example of our work together is with India. It has lifted export bans on critical medical supplies, including pharmaceuticals, used to treat some Covid-19 patients," Pompeo said.

WH briefly follows Twitter accounts of host country during Prez visit: Official

Washington: The White House has explained that its Twitter handle typically 'follows' the accounts of officials from host countries for a brief period during a presidential trip to retweet their messages in support of the visit. During President Donald Trump's visit to India in the last week of February, the official Twitter handle of the White House — @WhiteHouse — had started 'following' the accounts of President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister's office, the Indian Embassy in the US, the US Embassy in India and the US Ambassador to India, Ken Juster.

PM holds meet to discuss strategy to attract investment amid pandemic

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a "comprehensive" meeting to discuss strategies to attract more foreign investments into India as well as promote local investments to boost the economy against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

An official statement said various strategies to bring investments into India on a fast-track mode and to promote Indian domestic sectors were discussed in the meeting.

The high-level meeting comes amid the ongoing global backlash against China.

Several companies are now looking for new bases to set up

their businesses, according to reports. Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, besides others, attended the meeting.

Detailed discussions were also held on guiding states to evolve their strategies and to be more proactive in attracting investments, the statement said.

Reform initiatives undertaken by the various ministries should continue unabated and action should be taken in a time bound manner to remove any obstacles which impede promotion of investment and industrial growth, the statement said citing the discussions.

Veteran scribe Ronald Vivian Smith dies at 82

New Delhi: Veteran journalist, author and historian Ronald Vivian Smith passed away here on Thursday. He was 82.

Mr Smith, who retired as News Editor of The Statesman in 1996 after a long career that began with Press Trust of India (PTI), had been unwell for some time. Author of several books and two widely read newspaper columns, 'Quaint Places' and 'Down Memory Lane', he was a marvellous raconteur of all things to do with the history of Delhi and Agra, his native town where he spent his early years. "R V Smith, the chronicler of our great city Delhi, passed away this morning," tweeted Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Pak phishing...

From Page 1

Such apps were found to be sent by Pakistan-based Pakistani intelligence operatives to WhatsApp groups of Indian Army personnel, the Army said while issuing warning to its troops.

Moreover, Pakistan is using social media accounts with Indian names to target the Indian personnel. Given this scenario, local commanders were also asked to sensitise their troops about the latest ploy by Pakistan.

Explaining the implications of Pakistan's activity, they said once a malicious software is installed on a device, it has the ability to extract sensitive information about the forces and send it to the originator without the knowledge of the owner. Also, the contact lists or any other sensitive information inadvertently stored on a device could be accessed by inimical intelligence agencies with such malicious software.

Corona...

From Page 1

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had earlier said that the rate of growth of new cases in the country is steady. Before the lockdown, India's doubling rate was about 3 days.

On the mortality rate due to coronavirus in the country, Agarwal said that the current case fatality rate is 3.2 per cent for Covid-19 in the country, with 65 per cent of it males and 35 per cent females.

"If we divide it on basis of age, then 14 per cent case fatality was seen below 45 years, 34.8 per cent between 45-60 years and 51.2 per cent case fatality at above 60 years," he said.

Agarwal further said that the recovery rate for Covid-19 has improved from 13.06 per cent to over 25 per cent in the past 14 days.

"8,324 Covid-19 patients, which is 25.19 per cent of the total cases, have recovered so far," he added.

Replying to a question on testing protocol, he said that as of now we have to use RT-PCR test only for testing and treatment.

Relief for...

From Page 1

"As such the elections to the Council seats can be held with certain guidelines," Koshiyari stated.

Uddhav, who was sworn in as the Chief Minister on November 28 last year, is not a member of either of the Houses of the State Legislature. As provided under the Constitution, Uddhav will in the normal course have to get elected to either of the Houses on or before May 27, the six-month deadline for his becoming a member of either of the Houses.

In the normal course, the Election Commission was to hold the elections to fill the posts of nine MLCs, who would be retiring on April 24 from Upper House, and Uddhav was to contest these elections. However, the EC has postponed these elections in view of the coronavirus-triggered lockdown.

On April 9, at a meeting presided over by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, the State Cabinet had recommended to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari to nominate Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray as a Member of Legislative Council, from one of the two vacant slots.

SC refuses...

From Page 1

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said a new Parliament building is being constructed and wondered as to why anybody should have objection to this.

"Shikhil Suri, counsel appearing for the petitioner prays for withdrawal of this petition with liberty to amend the writ petition...Which has been transferred to this court from the High Court. Prayer is allowed. Accordingly, the writ petition is dismissed as withdrawn with the liberty aforesaid," the apex court said in its order.

Another plea related to the project, filed by the same petitioner, is pending with the top court which refused to entertain the fresh plea. The earlier plea was against the Delhi High Court order which had said that the DDA was not required to apprise it before notifying changes in the Master Plan to allow the Central Vista project.

Maha...

From Page 1

As per the report of the monitoring team, the doubling rate of Covid-19 cases in Mumbai has improved from 8.3 days to 10 days between April 17 to 27. Similarly, the fatality rate among admitted cases of Covid-19 in Mumbai came down from 6.3 per cent to 3.9 per cent till April 26. The Central monitoring team appreciated the efforts of MCGM in preventing the spread of Covid-19 in Mumbai.

One hundred and five coronavirus positive patients have died in West Bengal so far, of whom 33 have perished due to Covid-19 and 72 due to comorbidities. Similarly, Punjab on Thursday saw 105 new cases of coronavirus, the highest single-day spike, with 87 of them those who returned to the State either after a 1,750-km odyssey from the Sikh shrine in Maharashtra's Nanded or Rajasthan's Kota this week, said the State officials.

Among the States which reported highest day spike was Odisha also. With 17 new Covid-19 cases, State's tally rises to 142. All 17 cases reported today are from Jajpur district.

Rahul begins...

From Page 1

"One of the things that annoys me is the level of inequality. A lot of social change required in India. Different States save different issues. A blanket solution will not work for India. But there is an element in our governance system of control. You cannot control Covid-19. But I think this is historic, even before the British. That is one of the challenges we are facing," Rahul replied.

Rajan said it was "all too easy to have a lockdown forever", but that would not be sustainable for the economy.

"We need to be cleverer in lifting the lockdown. We need to open up in a measured way as India does not have capacity to feed people for long. We have to manage the reopening so when there are cases we isolate them," he said.

This is the first in a series of video-dialogues of Rahul with intellectuals on charting a path to recovery after the pandemic. The move is seen as an attempt to give the Gandhi scion a lead role in the main Opposition party's offensive against the Government's policies.

बिहार सरकार

नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग

आवश्यक सूचना

कोविड-19 का संक्रमण एवं लॉक डाउन के कारण नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के अधीन 377 कनीय अभियंता (असैनिक), 44 कनीय अभियंता (यांत्रिक) एवं 42 कनीय अभियंता (विद्युत) के रिक्त पदों पर सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के संकल्प दिनांक-24/01/2020 दिनांक-18/07/2020 के आलोक में सविदा के आधार पर नियोजन हेतु कम्पिटी द्वारा अनुशुचित अभ्यर्थियों की शैक्षणिक योग्यता, जन्म तिथि, आरक्षण कोटि आदि का सत्यापन Online किये जाने का निर्णय लिया गया है।

2. उक्त निर्णय के आलोक में कनीय अभियंता (असैनिक/यांत्रिक/विद्युत) का निम्नांकित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार Online Counselling निर्धारित किया जाता है:-

क्र	पदनाम	आरक्षण कोटि	Online Counselling की निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय
1	कनीय अभियंता (असैनिक)	अनारक्षित (पुरुष)/ आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (पुरुष)	06.05.2020 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक एवं अपराह्न 3:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे तक
		अनारक्षित (महिला)/आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (महिला)/पिछड़ा वर्ग (महिला)/अत्यन्त पिछड़ा वर्ग (महिला)/अनुसूचित जाति (महिला)/अनुसूचित जनजाति (महिला)/पिछड़े वर्गों की महिला (BCW) से संबंधित सभी अभ्यर्थी	07.05.2020 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक एवं अपराह्न 3:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे तक
		अत्यन्त पिछड़ा वर्ग (पुरुष)/पिछड़ा वर्ग (पुरुष)/अनुसूचित जाति (पुरुष)/अत्यन्त पिछड़ा वर्ग (पुरुष/महिला)/अनुसूचित जनजाति (पुरुष)/सभी कोटि के दिव्यांगजन/स्वतंत्रता सेनानी से संबंधित सभी अभ्यर्थी	08.05.2020 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक एवं अपराह्न 3:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे तक
2.	कनीय अभियंता (यांत्रिक)	अनारक्षित (पुरुष/महिला)/ आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (पुरुष/महिला)/सभी कोटि के दिव्यांगजन/स्वतंत्रता सेनानी से संबंधित सभी अभ्यर्थी	11.05.2020 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक
		अनुसूचित जाति (पुरुष/महिला)/पिछड़ा वर्ग (पुरुष/महिला)/अत्यन्त पिछड़ा वर्ग (पुरुष/महिला)/अनुसूचित जनजाति (पुरुष/महिला)/पिछड़े वर्गों की महिला (BCW)	11.05.2020 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे तक
3.	कनीय अभियंता (विद्युत)	अनारक्षित (पुरुष/महिला)/ आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (पुरुष/महिला)/सभी कोटि के दिव्यांगजन/स्वतंत्रता सेनानी से संबंधित सभी अभ्यर्थी	11.05.2020 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक
		अनुसूचित जाति (पुरुष/महिला)/पिछड़ा वर्ग (पुरुष/महिला)/अत्यन्त पिछड़ा वर्ग (पुरुष/महिला)/अनुसूचित जनजाति (पुरुष/महिला)/पिछड़े वर्गों की महिला (BCW)	11.05.2020 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे से 6:00 बजे तक

3. अनुशुचित अभ्यर्थियों की सूची नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के वेबसाईट www.urban.bih.nic.in के Notice Board पर उपलब्ध है।

4. Online Counselling के लिए निर्धारित तिथि को प्रमाण पत्र सत्यापन के लिए अभ्यर्थी अनिवार्य रूप से निम्नलिखित प्रमाण पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ अपने पास रखना सुनिश्चित करेंगे:-

- मैट्रिक उत्तीर्णता का मूल प्रमाण-पत्र,
- डिप्लोमा अथवा समकक्ष योग्यता से संबंधित मूल प्रमाण-पत्र एवं अंक प्रमाण-पत्र,
- शैक्षणिक योग्यता से संबंधित प्रमाण-पत्र, जो Online आवेदन पत्र के साथ संलग्न किया गया हो,
- अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी/अंचलाधिकारी द्वारा निर्गत जाति प्रमाण पत्र (SC/ST आरक्षित कोटि में अभ्यर्थियों के लिए),
- सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा निर्गत आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग से संबंधित प्रमाण पत्र (EWS Certificate) (जिसपर लागू हो),
- बिहार राज्य सरकार की नौकरियों के निमित्त जिला पदाधिकारी अथवा उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत और समहस्ता स्तर के पदाधिकारी द्वारा निर्गत क्रिमिनेल रिकॉर्ड प्रमाण-पत्र (BC/EBC/WBC अभ्यर्थियों के लिए),
- जिला पदाधिकारी द्वारा निर्गत स्वतंत्रता सेनानी का प्रमाण-पत्र (जिसपर लागू हो),
- सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा निर्गत नि:शुल्कता प्रमाण पत्र (विकलांग कोटि के अभ्यर्थियों के लिए),
- Online आवेदन की प्रतियाँ।

5. अनुशुचित अभ्यर्थियों का Online Counselling Video Conferencing Software/ Mobile App के माध्यम से आयोजित की जायेगी। इससे संबंधित दिशा-निर्देश अभ्यर्थियों को Counselling से पूर्व email एवं SMS के माध्यम से उपलब्ध करा दी जाएगी। Online Counselling हेतु आवश्यक उपकरण यथा - Smart Phone/Laptop/Tab एवं 4G Internet की व्यवस्था करना अभ्यर्थी स्वयं सुनिश्चित करेंगे। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.prbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

(सम सवेक प्रसाद) सरकार के अवर सचिव

PR. No. 000573 (Urban) 2020-21

नवल कोरोना के संक्रम में हिस्सेदार जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

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States demand...

From Page 1

Kumar has refused to bring back students and migrant labourers, sticking to his stand that puts lockdown rules first.

The issue of migrant workers has rattled the Nitish Government after his UP counterpart has managed to tackle this crisis with a fair

degree of success.

Kumar also took exception to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's decision to send hundreds of buses to bring back stranded students, saying it goes against the "principles of lockdown". The Nitish Government has maintained the move is completely against the principles of social distancing and lockdown, which alone can contain coro-

navirus at the moment.

The Nitish Government was also left red-faced after it emerged that the State authorities issued a special travel pass to a local BJP MLA to bring back his daughter from the Rajasthan town during the lockdown.

Another reason why Kumar does not want the entry of migrants in such large numbers is protests by residents.

The Kapoor who stood out in...

From Page 1

He said he had a soft spot for the new school of Bengali filmmakers for their revolutionary thinking as one of them had approached him to play Polonius in the Hindi version of Hamlet. And he was ever eager to understand the new ways of the world, though he might not have agreed with them. He said how the brothers lived in their own den but would assemble in this sitout in the evenings, ruminating over life and good times. And how he loved the simple things in life and never had regrets, even if he had to run around trees with beautiful girls in the heartthrob roles that he played in the early part of his career. "People are paying entertainment tax to be entertained and I cannot disrespect that even if there were not much acting chops involved. Kapoor are for the aam aadmi and we don't build an image of ourselves to stay relevant," he had said. Indeed, Rishi had played in the gallery all his life. He first emerged as the chocolate boy hero with a twinkle in his eye. His colourful jerseys, his swag, a heart-warming smile and a winsome tilt of the head made the nation's girls go weak in the knees. In fact, it was his lover boy charm that stereotyped him at a time when formula was trusted and out-of-the-box thinking was risky business. In that sense, Rishi had a far tougher job at hand to prove his versatility within the range of a romantic hero, lover, challenger and continue to be every woman's dream through decades. True, he made brand coupling a reality in Bollywood much ahead of its time, starring with wife Neetu Singh in over 12 films and setting what in today's parlance would be couple goals. But while he protected that duet as special, he was able to strike up a different kind of chemistry with each of his heroines who were to come later, some of them years younger to him, be it Jaya Prada, Sridevi, Juhi Chawla or even Divya Bharti. Who would forget the passionate clamour of Raju in Sargam, the encouraging lover of Prem Rog, the supportive husband in Damini or the bedazzled scion who would not give up his girl in Saagar? In fact, such was his self-control and confidence that he never attempted to overshadow actresses like Padmini Kolhapure, Dimple Kapadia, Meenakshi Seshadri or Sridevi. He was

the feminist hero, not dominating them but winning them over ever so gently, never possessing them. Then there was the music and dance extravaganza from Nasir Husain, Karz and Hum Kisise Kam Nahin, where Rishi became the dancing star when dance films as a genre didn't even exist in mainstream Hindi cinema. Of course, his challenge was tougher post the arrival of Amitabh Bachchan as the angry young man and the anti-establishment rebel, which resonated with the socio-political chasm of the times. Who would want love when everybody was waging a war of survival as the nation was going through a trough? Yet Rishi managed to leave a mark in many multi-starring films with Amitabh — Amar, Akbar, Anthony being the most celebrated — not only holding his own but calibrating his good humour as an antithesis to the anger and fury of other muscular heroes and balancing the film out in the end. This eglessness took Rishi far, even during the bad lump of meaningless films in the 80s and early 90s, and helped him form an enduring partnership with Bachchan. Call it fate but one of his last films with him was 102 Not Out where the senior Bachchan teaches his 60 something son that hope is a decision and old age was not about being morose. Rishi excelled in portraying the hopelessness and lack of self-worth in his sunset years, though he was more than spirited in real life. That's how we would like to remember Rishi, as the loveable, carnivorous Daddu in Kapoor S Sons, chewing on a very pleasurable pursuit that life has to offer. Or the proud Muslim father in Mulk, who much like Rishi, was a proud Indian before a religious stereotype. But then the actor always surprised us and himself with his rare ability to push himself under the limelight. "People never expected Rishi Kapoor to turn a visceral villain onscreen as Rauf Lala. I had done very little externally except the net vest, my hair, beard and the Kohl-rimmed eyes. The rest was my interpretation, my spontaneous emoting of what this character would do in real life. I never research, just rely on my instincts and my experiences. I do accept the fact that I am a reasonably good actor but this role has really worked wonders. If you ask me objectively, this has been a stand-out performance," he told us back then. But then he upgraded his benchmarks since. There was the patriotic sardar in Patiala House, the harried producer Romi Roy in Luck By Chance, the Everyman in Do

Dooni Char and the gay principal in Student of The Year. He sampled an unimaginable variety of roles, all the while consciously stripping himself of the stardom of his past years and letting himself go with full abandon. And he became the choicest talent for debutante directors waiting to leave their mark. He was appreciative of son Ranbir's pushing the envelope like him but then he was a tough father, always wanting his son to score commercially too and tame the formula. So he was happy when Ranbir's Sanju became a huge hit. "If you are an actor true to your craft, you can adjust with anybody. It is an art to sing, dance, fight or become a character. I am an artist, a genius of these virtues," he had said, escorting me to the car instead of letting his staff do the job. "I am a conventional man and must show courtesy to a woman," he had said. We wish his happy spirit could have propagated some of the goodness of that old order longer.

noida **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)

Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com and <http://tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sl.No.	Job No.	Name of work	Amount in Lac	
A	1	13/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-3/2020-21	Providing street light in Group Housing pocket in Group Housing plot for sector-43, Noida	₹ 45.06
B	2	23/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-4/2019-20	M/o street light in sector-94, 124, 125, 126, 127 & 128, Noida.	₹ 28.25
	3	24/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-4/2019-20	M/o street light from feeder no-10 to 14, Noida.	₹ 27.37
	4	25/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-4/2019-20	M/o street light from feeder no-15 to 18, Noida.	₹ 26.60
	5	27/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-4/2019-20	M/o street light in sector-130, 131, 132, 133 & 168, Noida.	₹ 25.21
C	6	36/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-1/2019-20	Annual Maintenance of S/L Main Road & Internal Road of Sec-91 & 92, Noida.	₹ 26.79
D	7	18/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-4/2019-20	Supply & Installation of fountain at sector-150	₹ 67.52

Which can be uploaded by Date: **14-05-2020 upto 5.00 PM.**

Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: **15-05-2020 at 11.00 AM**

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General Manager (R), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Gurugram seals Delhi border to block virus

Essential services will function normally: DM

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

With a surge in Covid-19 cases in Gurugram, the district administration has sealed the borders connecting Delhi and has issued a notification to prohibit cross-movement across all borders of the district from 10 am on May 1. Gurugram District Magistrate Amit Khatri has said that movement of only those vehicles involved in the supply of essential services will be allowed after the border is sealed. Those with curfew passes issued by the Government are also allowed to move.

"There will be no restriction on the movement of ambulances. Moreover, vehicles engaged in the movement of essential goods and banking services will remain exempted from restriction, read the order.

"To prevent further spread of the virus, such measures are

necessary for the public interest to reduce the flow of people across the border. We won't allow any unregulated movement through the border. We will restrict cross-border movement to contain the spread of coronavirus.

"We are making efforts to screen those crossing the border. Arrangement of stay for employees coming to Gurugram from neighbouring district and state should be made here to minimise the cross-border movement. This will help contain the virus spread," Khatri said.

The order further stated that those who have already been allowed under the exemption given as per the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs will be able to cross the border. Apart from this, permission is to be obtained from the District Collector office to go across the border if it is very mandatory, which will be given based on the nature of the requirement, read the orders.

"Thermal scanning and disease screening will also be done at the border at the time of admission. During this period, the rapid testing facility will also be available for those who show signs of infection to

prevent the spread of coronavirus. Also, criminal action will be taken against those who disobey orders under various provisions of the Disaster Management Act and Indian Penal Code (IPC)," Khatri said.

"All vehicles are being stopped at the Delhi-Gurugram border and are only being allowed to cross the border after showing their movement pass, vehicle document and identity card. Also, sufficient police personnel were deployed across Gurugram to ensure the orders were complied with," said Mohammad Akil, Gurugram police commissioner.

On Tuesday, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij had said, "after Sonapat, the state is considering sealing borders in Gurugram and Faridabad districts with the national capital. The state is considering sealing all borders with Delhi, including those in Gurugram and Faridabad."

Gurugram has so far reported 57 positive cases including three fresh cases on Thursday of which 38 have been cured and discharged. Gurugram has 27 containment zones.

Jobless man hangs self after wife tests corona +ve: Police

Gurugram: A 54-year-old man, whose wife was suspected to have tested positive for Covid-19 last evening, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at their home in Acharya Puri area in old Gurugram on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

His son woke up to find his body hanging from the ceiling fan of his bedroom. No suicide note was found from the spot, police said.

According to police, they received information about the matter at 8 am this morning.

"The deceased's wife had been suffering due to a stomach related ailment and was admitted at a private hospital in the city. She tested positive for coronavirus last evening," said Subhash Boken, PRO of Gurugram Police.



The deceased has been identified as Satbir Saini. He was currently unemployed. His son, who works as a pharmacist at a private hospital in Gurugram, and his wife were at home when the incident took place.

"We didn't find any suicide note at the incident spot and further probe is underway to determine the cause of the suicide and there doesn't seem to be any sign of foul play. Also, the family has not made any allegations or filed any complaint," Boken said.

However, sources said the deceased's son told the police that his father was under depression soon after he knows about his mother Covid-19 report.

"No FIR has been registered in this regard. The body has been sent for an autopsy, and we are conducting investigations under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Crpc). The reason for the suicide is yet to be ascertained," the PRO said.

Another nurse at Hindu Rao Hospital positive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Among the 52 healthcare workers of Hindu Rao Hospital who were kept in isolation after a nurse was found Covid positive, another nurse at the hospital tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday, officials said.

"The nurse who tested positive today was among the first to be quarantined on April 27 and her sample was taken the same day. Her report came today," an official of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) said.

After the first nurse had tested positive, all her contacts were quarantined and their samples were taken, she said.

"Till now 34 reports have been received and only one nurse has tested positive," the official said. Services in emergency wards, including a flu



clinic, and three OPDs at the civic body-run hospital were resumed from Monday, days after the facility was closed down after a nurse there had tested positive for COVID-19.

The largest municipal hospital run by the NDMC was closed on Saturday.

Meanwhile, members of the Nurses Welfare Association of the hospital claimed that they

have not been given salaries for the past three months.

They have written a letter to the NDMC Nurses Union, urging it to look into the matter. The NDMC official said the civic body is working on the salary issue.

"Salaries will be disbursed as soon as we get from Delhi Government," the official added.

Lok Nayak Hospital to provide dialysis for Covid-19 people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government in its recent order has stated that in-house dialysis facility for Covid-19 patients will now remain operational at Lok Nayak Hospital. The order signed by Delhi health secretary Padmini Singla stated, "The Covid patients who need dialysis treatment in Delhi are finding it difficult to get their dialysis done, despite the fact that Lok Nayak Hospital was assigned to create enough in-house capacity and sufficient capacity through outsourced agency to serve all +ve patients who need dialysis."

147 cases registered under Excise Act

155 held in first 2 weeks of April

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the first two weeks of April amid the ongoing lockdown, the Delhi Police have registered over 140 cases under Excise Act and arrested 155 involved in boot legging and smuggling of liquor.

According to the data shared by police, they have registered 147 case and recovered 18,556 bottles of liquor. On an average, police recovered 1,237 bottles per day between April 1 to 15.



"The maximum cases were registered in outer district 27 and police arrested 27 people and recovered 1,243 bottles from there. The maximum bottles were recovered by Crime Branch 8,460. They registered only one case and

arrested one person," he said.

However, the New Delhi, Railways, Metro and Special Cell units of Delhi Police have not registered any case under Excise Act.

The Rohini district has arrested 17 people in 18 cases and recovered 3,130 liquor bottles, police said, adding that Dwarka district recovered 1,713 bottles in 16 cases and arrested 20 people.

In the North district, where some people broke open a liquor shop, eight cases were registered and 10 people were arrested along with 38 bottles of liquor.

Earlier in April, some unidentified persons broke into

a wine shop in north Delhi and decamped with liquor bottles.

During patrolling on April 4 morning, police found that the shutter of a wine shop at the Roshnara Road in north Delhi was broken.

The shutter of the wine shop had been forcibly pulled up and some liquor bottles and crates were stolen.

The Government last week allowed opening of neighbourhood and stand alone shops, including those located in residential complexes within municipal areas, but at a 50 per cent strength and after taking necessary precautions. However, the liquor shops were exempted from the list.

Ensure immediate monitoring, testing of Covid samples: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday issued orders and asked private and Government laboratories to ensure immediate monitoring and testing of Covid-19 samples.

In its order to the labs, Delhi Government also asked to share testing results via email without any delay.

The Government's response came as numbers of swab samples pending for test in Delhi has increased seven times in last one month.

The health officials say delay is causing problems in identifying positive cases and tracing their contact details.

Delhi has 20 labs while 8 are government run and 12 private labs approved for Covid-19 testing.

Govt declares two more hospitals Covid-dedicated



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Delhi Government on Thursday declared two hospitals — Maha Durga Charitable Trust Hospital and Sir Ganga Ram City Hospital — as Covid dedicated facilities offering paid services.

While Sir Ganga Ram City Hospital, with 120 isolation beds, has been made fully Covid-dedicated, Maha Durga Charitable Trust Hospital, with 100 beds, will be partially involved in the services.

This will be in addition to Sir Ganga Ram Kolmet Hospital (Pusa Road) which is 42 bedded fully operational Covid-19 facilities and was recognised by Delhi Government last week as Covid-19 facility, the hospital said in a statement.

"With this, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (Rajinder Nagar) will have 162 Covid-19 beds in its two nearby affiliated hospitals to cater to the rising demands of isolation beds for admitting confirmed or suspected cases of Coronavirus patients," it added.



A labourer works at Shardhanand Market during the nationwide lockdown near GB Road in New Delhi on Thursday

SDMC donates ₹1 cr to PM Covid fund

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to extend its contribution in the fight against coronavirus, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has donated ₹1 crore in the PM Care Fund.

A senior SDMC official said that the amount was contributed voluntarily among the 43,000 employees of the Corporation by contributing their one day basic pay and dearness allowance for funding measures taken to contain the spread of Coronavirus in the country.

SDMC Mayor Sunita kangra said that at this time of national crises it is our responsibility to contribute in the PM Care fund as much as we can and help our great nation to combat against this life-threatening virus.

Mayor also said that will continue to render humanitarian help to the corona affected persons in any other part of the country.

Following MHA guidelines on movement of migrants: Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday said it has been following the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the movement of migrant labourers and other stranded people after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued guidelines, officials said.

The MHA on Wednesday issued a fresh set of guidelines to let migrant workers, students, tourists and pilgrims stranded in different parts of the country to get back home.

According to Mandeep Singh Randhawa, the Public Relation Officer (PRO), Delhi Police, the MHA has issued guidelines regarding the movement of migrant labourers and other people stranded at different places, including students, tourists and pilgrims.

"The government and Delhi Police are finalising its modalities and are working on the SOP," said the PRO.



"Police is in regular touch with officials of other states and talking to them. In these guidelines, people will have to register themselves so that their movements till their homes can be regulated. Till the time your SOP being finalised, we request you to not pay attention towards any social media post. The Delhi Police is regulating social media and we will take strict actions against people for spreading rumours," said the PRO.

According to the home ministry guidelines, anyone willing to be transported back home will have to be medically screened at the source as well

Vardhaman apartment de-sealed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the operation SHIELD is underway, the Delhi Government on Thursday ordered to de-seal the Vardhaman Apartment after no new Covid case was reported in past four weeks.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: Operation SHIELD was implemented in Vardhaman Apartment to contain COVID-19 virus spread. No single case has been reported in past four weeks. Area is being de-sealed. Operation SHIELD successful, it was possible because of people's support there.

Meanwhile, with two areas de-sealed, Delhi has now 99 containment zones while Mansara Apartment also de-sealed after few days earlier.

Vardhaman Apartment was made a containment zone on April 2.

AIIMS INVITES ADVANCE BOOKING FOR TELE-CONSULTATIONS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Thursday invited advance appointments for tele-consultations from follow-up patients of the hospital by calling the number 9115444155.

The hospital in a statement said that the follow-up patients can now book advance appointments for tele-consultation, the hospital administration will fix an appoint-

ment after verification of the UHID (Unique Health Identification) numbers.

A message to this effect will be sent to the patient through an SMS after booking an appointment, it said.

According to the statement, the patients will be able to update their registered mobile numbers while booking the appointment. "This facility of booking appointments on phone will be available from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm on all work-

ing days i.e. from Monday to Saturday," it said.

On the day of their appointment, the patients will receive a phone call from the concerned department on their registered mobile numbers, during the regular OPD (Out Patient Service) or clinic times, it said, adding that this arrangement will be operational during the lockdown period due to COVID-19 and as long as the regular OPDs and Clinics remain closed.

Railways feeds 3 million

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways has distributed food to more than three million people through IRCTC base kitchens, Railway Protection Force (RPF) resources and the contribution of NGOs, in keeping with its social service commitment during the national lockdown announced due to Covid-19.

The Ministry said that railways reached two million marks on April 20 and in last 10 days; it has added one million beneficiaries. "The global pandemic has created unprecedented situations leaving a large number of people vulnerable to hunger. Those worst

of needy people in areas surrounding the railway stations," it said. With the active cooperation of IRCTC base kitchens in New Delhi, Bangalore, Hubli, Mumbai Central, Ahmedabad, Bhusaval, Howrah, Patna, Gaya, Ranchi, Katihar, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar, Balasore, Vijaywada, Khurda, Katpadi, Tiruchirapalli, Dhanbad, Guwahati, Samastipur, Prayagraj, Itarsi, Vishakhapatnam, Raigalpatu, Pune, Hajipur, Raipur and Tatanagar spread over various zones such as Northern, Western, Eastern, Southern and South Central, more than 30 lakh cooked meals have been distributed till 30th April, it added.

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Rishi Kapoor's daughter allowed to travel to Mumbai amid lockdown

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the death of veteran Bollywood actor Rishi Kapoor on Thursday, the Delhi Police granted permission to Riddhima Sahni, his daughter, to travel to Mumbai for his last rites amid the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown.

According to RP Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCap), Southeast district, along with Riddhima, four other people -- Bharat Sahni, Samara Sahni, Akshay Sahni and Drigalakhmi Rai -- got permission to travel to Mumbai.

The 67-year-old actor, who was suffering from cancer, died in a Mumbai hospital. His death comes a day after his "D-Day" co-star Irrfan Khan passed away due to cancer.

Meanwhile, on Thursday the Delhi Police also paid tribute to Rishi Kapoor and Irrfan Khan.

"Two of the finest personalities of the film world, who made us laugh and cry with their performances, are not among us today. Delhi Police pays them an emotional tribute," Delhi Police tweeted.

Rishi Kapoor, a third generation actor of the famous Kapoor dynasty, was taken to the H N Reliance Hospital by his family on Wednesday.

His family said the actor remained "joyful and determined to live to the fullest right through two years of treatment across two continents".

"Family, friends, food and films remained his focus and everyone who met him during this time was amazed at how he did not let his illness get the better of him," the family said in a statement, adding the actor would like to be "remembered with a smile and not with tears".

Delhi Police, AYUSH Min join hands to protect cops from virus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to keep Delhi Police personnel safe during the Covid-19 fight, the Delhi Police Commissioner, SN Shrivastava, on Thursday launched Ayuraksha - "Corona se jung - Delhi Police ke sang," a joint initiative by Delhi Police and Ministry of AYUSH, in the national Capital.

According to police, Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Delhi Police has come forward with a proposal for maintaining the health of front line Covid-19 warriors like Delhi Police personnel through Ayurveda Immunity boosting measures.

"The proposal would be implemented in a phase wise manner. The distribution will take place for nearly 80,000 personnel of Delhi Police



Narendra Modi has stressed the importance of using tested immunity boosters of Ayurveda and Yoga.

The CP expressed his gratitude to Ministry of AYUSH, and specially Dr Tanuja, Secretary for this unique initiative which will help our policemen i.e. Corona warriors at the forefront to keep themselves safe & secure from this deadly virus.

Immune Boosters kits were distributed to Delhi Police Personnel on this occasion. Senior officers of Delhi Police also attended the program.

Around 50 police personnel have been hit by this deadly virus as their duties require their presence in the general public, including vulnerable places like hospitals, containment zones and quarantine centres.

States want to say cheers, miss liquor revenue

Karnataka to lose ₹2,400-crore in terms of revenue in 40-day lockdown

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

If States like Karnataka are clamouring to ease the restrictions on sale of liquor after May 3, it isn't without reason. Karnataka is losing almost ₹55-60 crore daily on revenues collected through taxes on alcoholic beverages. In other words, the 40-day lockdown would deal it a ₹2,400-crore blow in terms of revenue losses. For neighbouring Tamil Nadu, which collects the highest excise revenues in India, the losses by the end of the second lockdown would be even bigger at ₹3,500-3,600 crore.

Karnataka ranks fourth among the 12 big States where earnings through tax on alcohol make for 20-40 percent of

State's revenues. While Karnataka clocked ₹19,950 crore in 2018-19 in excise revenue earnings, Tamil Nadu with ₹31,150 crore, Maharashtra with ₹25,300 crore and Uttar Pradesh with ₹23,900 crore occupied the top three positions during the same fiscal.

They are part of the 12 big excise revenue generating States. Put together, they generate revenues worth ₹2-2.50-lakh crore from excise duty from the sale of liquor every year.

Telangana, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi are the other States depending heavily on excise revenue. Together, the dozen



States earned nearly ₹1.80 lakh crore in 2018-19 through revenue of alcoholic beverages.

Recently, Karnataka's Excise Minister H Nagesh said

he has advised Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa to relax the coronavirus lockdown after May 3 as "we need money to give salaries and meet other

expenses".

If States are itching to open the excise sector, the ₹4.25-lakh-crore alcoholic beverages industry too has been pursuing the issue of easing of restrictions for the sector with the Chief Ministers and the Centre.

The sector is losing Rs 700 crore daily, meaning which the industry would incur losses of about ₹28,000 crore by May 3.

Incidentally, the 12 States combined account for over 25,000 of the 33,000 coronavirus positive cases and about 800 deaths of over 1000 fatalities, as on April 30.

"The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverages Companies (CIABC) has written to the Chief Ministers to

take up with the Centre the matter of permitting production, distribution and sales of alcoholic beverages only outside containment zones and that too, in conformity with COVID-19 guidelines," Vinod Giri, Director General, CIABC, told The Pioneer.

"We are hopeful of easing of restrictions after May 3. There haven't been job cuts in the sector so far but an extension could compound problems," he cautioned adding the sector has also contributed its bit to the nation's fight against Covid-19 by making 5 lakh litres of hand sanitisers for use.

Pointing out the importance of India's alcoholic beverages industry, he said it contributes ₹2-2.50 lakh crore

annually by way of taxes to the State exchequer, provides direct or indirect employment to 20 lakh persons and sustains livelihood of 40 lakh farmers.

The CIABC has already suggested to the Chief Ministers to go for a phase-wise opening of the sector besides introducing an online sale-cum-home delivery mechanism.

The CIABC has in its letters to the Chief Ministers also requested for an extension of current excise year to June 30, 2020 without penalty to carry out stock clearances and statutory processes mandated within March 31 normally.

Besides, while it has sought converting the excise processes like approval, licensing, registration, permits etc into an

online mechanism, it has also for granting permission to home deliveries of alcoholic beverages through an online process.

The CIABC has also suggested phase wise opening of distilleries/bottling plants, indenting/transit/stock movement, wholesaling/distribution/warehousing, retail shops with fixed timings.

The CIABC includes most major Indian companies that manufacture and market their product range in India and abroad like Allied Blenders & Distillers Private Limited, Amrut Distilleries, Alcobrew Distilleries, Devans Modern Breweries, Jagatjit Industries Limited (JIL), Mohan Meakin and Radico Khaitan.

31 BATTALION AT MAYUR VIHAR

National kabaddi player among six more CRPF jawans test corona +ve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Six more CRPF jawans, including a national kabaddi player, from the same 31 Battalion here at Mayur Vihar, tested positive on Thursday as the paramilitary force subjected the personnel of the entire Battalion to massive testing for the Covid-19 infection.

Earlier, a Sub-Inspector from the same Battalion died to Covid-19.

Officials said swabs of over 350 personnel have already been collected and test reports are awaited. The swabs of about 150 others are also in the process to be taken and tested for the viral disease.

Sub Inspector Mohammad Kram Hussain had died on Tuesday due to Covid-19. He was tested positive on Friday for the disease and was undergoing treatment at the Safdarjung Hospital here.



Seventeen personnel traced to be in direct contact with Hussain besides a Chief Medical Officer and a nursing assistant were quarantined.

As many as 46 personnel of the 31 Battalion had earlier tested positive during their quarantine period at the quarantine facility of the CRPF at Narela here.

Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) AP Maheshwari has been on record saying the paramilitary has been on the forefront of the war against Covid-19. "Deployed across the country, our warriors have

been instrumental in stalling the virus," he had in a message said after the death of Hussain.

The paramilitary has launched a detailed survey of personnel deployed in Covid-19 related duties in the hotspots and other operational areas and if positive cases have been reported from such locations in order to take preventive steps.

According to a circular sent across all the formations last week, a proforma for seeking information of the personnel regarding regular and additional deployment of troops in hotspots areas during the last 20 days has been sought.

Through the circular, the paramilitary has also sought details of personnel and also civilians who worked with the troops during deployment in hotspots in the last 20 days and if anyone had tested positive for Covid-19.

HRD Minister's online talks with students on Saturday to dispel fears on academics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Given the confusion prevailing amongst the students over their academics due to the corona pandemic, HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has scheduled an online interaction with the students on Saturday.

He is likely to address and redress grievances of students on many aspects including confusion over annual and semester examinations and the syllabus. Pokhriyal announced this on his Twitter handle.

The HRD Ministry meanwhile also revised certain important dates of the entrance tests to be conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA).

The HRD minister said on twitter that given the queries and restlessness within the student community across the country due to corona pandemic lockdown, he will be doing a webinar on May 2 afternoon. Pokhriyal has already conducted the same with parents followed by the State



Pokhriyal has already conducted the same with parents followed by the State Education Ministers and officials early this week

Education Ministers and officials early this week where he addressed issues like academic session, syllabus and class tests and semester exams. Issues pertaining to the confusion over the remaining and pending board examinations were also discussed and is again likely to be the main agenda when the Minister interacts with students from across the country.

On the other hand, in view

of the hardships faced by the parents and the students due to COVID-19 epidemic, the HRD Minister advised National Testing Agency (NTA) to extend / revise the dates for submission of online application forms for various examinations like IGNOU, ICAR, Hotel Management etc.

"NTA understands the importance of academic calendar and schedule, but it is equally concerned about the wellbeing of every citizen, including students," said a HRD Ministry official.

NTA would expect students and parents to not worry about the Examination. Moreover, parents are requested to help young students utilise this time for preparing for the Examination and focus on critical concepts in order to close learning gaps if any.

NTA would keep students updated about the latest developments and would inform about changes with ample time, said a statement by HRD Ministry.

Nadda interacts with ex-diplomats to assess coronavirus situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP President J P Nadda has interacted with former diplomats of the country on the Coronavirus situation who he said "appreciated" quick-footed efforts of Modi-Government to rope in companies "disillusioned" with China following the pandemic.

Nadda, who interacted with former Indian diplomats through videoconferencing on the measures to battle out the pandemic on Wednesday, asked them to contribute with their experience to strengthen the anti-Coronavirus measures in the country.

He said country need their support to lead new policies needed in post-Coronavirus phase.

Nadda said former diplomats "appreciated" fast paced efforts of the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rope-in business companies which are "disillusioned" with

China in the aftermath of pandemic. BJP President told former diplomats that government is working to make an environment in which these companies could shift to India.

Ex-diplomats appreciated government efforts to bring companies to Indian side and complimented Modi-government in making Indian diplomacy effective and leading the anti-Covid-19 during the global pandemic, according to a BJP statement.

Nadda apprised them of "#FeedtheNeedy" and "#WearFaceCoverStaySafe" of the BJP which he said have helped needy during the ongoing lockdown in the country.

BJP President also held videoconferencing with the MPs from the North-East states and reviewed their work in the current situation.

BJP General Secretary (Organisation) B L Santosh was also present during the videoconferencing.

China cancels border meet with India for Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, China will not host the customary border personnel meeting (BPM) with India on May one, International Labour Day, on designated places on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Instead, the armies of both the nations will greet each other on the local hotlines this year.

This border personnel meeting between the troops of both the countries is part of confidence building measures (CBM) with India also hosting similar ceremonial events on the occasion of the Republic Day and Independence Day.

There are five mutually agreed points or meeting centres on the 4,000 km long LAC where apart from such ceremonial meets local com-

Microwave 'ATULYA' can denature COVID-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, a deemed university supported by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a microwave steriliser named as 'ATULYA' to disintegrate

(COVID-19). The virus gets disintegrated by differential heating in the range of 560 to 600 Celsius temperatures.

The product is cost effective solution, which can be operated in portable or fixed installations. This system was tested for human/operator safety and has been found to be safe.

Depending upon size and shape of various objects, time of sterilisation is from 30 seconds to one minute. Approximate weight of the system is three kilograms and it can be used for non-metallic objects only, according to an official statement by the defence ministry here on Thursday.

manders on both sides also meet to sort out differences during incidents of transgressions and stand-offs between the troops of two countries.

Confirming that the Chinese army has, so far, not extended event for the May One event, sources said here on Thursday, the Indian Army will wish their Chinese counterparts on three loca-

tions including two in Ladakh and one in Arunachal Pradesh. The five designated points for BPMs are Moldo and Spangur gap (Chusul) in Ladakh, Natu La (Sikkim) and Bum La and Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh.

The ceremonial functions include cultural events and lunch and the meetings commence with saluting the national flag by members of

the delegations. This is followed by the ceremonial address by delegation leaders and exchange of greetings and gifts.

These meetings form part of the CBMs to maintain peace and tranquility on the LAC. The disputed border has not seen a single shot fired in anger in the last 45 years or so. The two nations fought a war in 1962.

India to test antiviral Remdesivir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after US-based Gilead Sciences said that antiviral Remdesivir, in a trial, has been found to have a positive effect in diminishing the time for recovery of the Covid-19 patients, India on Thursday said that it is also examining the drug as one of the protocols for the contagion.

Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary at the Union Health Ministry said that as of now, there is no confirmed treatment protocol for Covid-19. "Remdesivir is one protocol which is being examined. Even the study on Remdesivir by National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has not conclusively proved its effectiveness. Waiting for larger evidence, to take meaningful action," he added.

Remdesivir has positive effect in diminishing the time for recovery of the Covid-19 patients: US body

Remdesivir was originally developed as an Ebola treatment. It is an antiviral and works by attacking an enzyme that a virus needs in order to replicate inside our cells.

The trial was run by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and 1,063 people took part. Some patients were given the drug while others received a placebo (dummy) treatment.

The US company had said it is aware of positive data emerging from the NIAID

study of the investigational antiviral remdesivir for the treatment of Covid-19.

NIAID is part of National Institutes of Health, an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Gilead Sciences Inc. in a statement had said, "We understand that the trial has met its primary endpoint and that NIAID will provide detailed information at an upcoming briefing." It also shared additional Remdesivir data from the company's open-label Phase 3 SIMPLE trial in patients with severe Covid-19 disease.

The Phase 3 trial evaluated 5-day and 10-day dosing durations of Remdesivir in hospitalised patients with severe manifestations of Covid-19.

The study demonstrated

that patients receiving a 10-day treatment course of remdesivir achieved similar improvement in clinical status compared with those taking a 5-day treatment course.

Meanwhile, Agarwal, responding to a query on human trials in the process of vaccine development, said that multiple stages have to be passed, to conclude safe and efficacious use of a vaccine by human beings. "As far as India is concerned, we have identified Hydroxychloroquine to begin with as a prophylaxis treatment," he added.

Agarwal pointed out that multiple organisations in the government are engaged in multiple vaccine trials for Covid-19. "We are also part of WHO's Solidarity Trial. Some candidate vaccines have been identified. Nothing conclusive has come up," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the secured creditor and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Rajender Kumar, Ashish Singhal, Manoj Kumar, B-8/79, FF, Block-B, Pkt-B, Sec-11, Rohini, Delhi, A/C:- NHDEL00000798789	Plot No-103, Entire Ground Floor, Pkt-32, Block-H, Sec-3, Rohini, Delhi, 110085	29-Feb-2020, Rs. 1,00,62,040.18/-	10-07-2014
2.	Satyendra- Kumari Shipra Dey, B 184, Second Floor, Front Side Flat, Delhi, Sangam Vihar A/C:- NHNOD00001260014	Flat No 1801, 18th & 19th Floor, Plot No. Hra-12/A, Upsidc, Oasis Venetia Heights, Tower-A, Surajpur Site-C (Extension), Greater Noida	29-Feb-2020, Rs. 61,67,792/-	08-08-2019
3.	Ashutosh Kumar Verma, Alok Kumar Verma, H. No. 18 Fatehpur, Chandila Near, Government School, Faridabad, A/C:- NHNOD00001260426	Flat No 906, 9th Floor, Ninex City, Tower F, Sector 76, Village Kherki Daula, Gurgaon	29-Feb-2020, Rs. 93,56,190/-	06-12-2019
4.	Avshesh Kumar Dwivedi, Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi, Kh No. 1204/1 Gali No.16 Rangpuri, Mahipalpur, South, West Delhi, Delhi, A/C:- NHGHZ00001273758	Block No 1, Flat No 1401, Avalon Royal Park, Floor No 14, Tower B5, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan	04-March-2020, Rs. 34,18,623/-	06/12/2019
5.	Ashkrit Singh, Anila Devi, H No 242 Gali No 28 C 1, Block Nagli Vihar Extn, New Delhi, Delhi, A/C:- NHDEL00001267147	Flat No C1/1402, Avalon Regal Court, Tower C1, Floor 14, Sec-57, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan	04-March-2020, Rs. 38,97,986/-	06/12/2019
6.	Roshan Lal, Kavita, House No 395 First Floor, Gali No 18 Sangam Vihar, Hamdard Nagar South Delhi, Delhi, A/C:- NHDEL00001282287	Flat No. D-1504, 15th Floor, Terra Elegance-Tower D, Alwar Express Highway No.25, Bhiwadi Rajasthan	07-March-2020, Rs. 28,27,914/-	06/01/2020

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : 01-May-2020 Place: Delhi/NCR Authorized Officer For ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.

Hizbul Mujahideen's overground worker arrested by NIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested an overground worker of Hizbul Mujahideen Tariq Ahmed Mir in connection with the case relating to Jammu and Kashmir Deputy SP Davinder Singh's alleged facilitation of safe passage to terrorists out of the Valley.

Mir hails from Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir and said to be the lifeline for logistic support for terror groups in the Valley. Mir was in touch with Singh before his arrest and the former's questioning could lead further unravel the nexus between the police officer and the jihadi tanzems.

Arrest of Mir is the seventh in the Davinder Singh case and more arrests are likely in the

Mir hails from Shopian district of Jammu & Kashmir

case soon, official said. Singh was arrested last year along with three terrorists who were being facilitated movement out of the Valley to the national capital before being nabbed by the local police.

Unhindered activities of Singh and his deep-seated nexus with the terror groups have been a major failure and concern for the Intelligence agencies.

However, grilling of Mir is expected to uncover the logistic chain of the terror groups which in turn could help the security forces in the operations against the ultras.

States, UTs told to ensure uninterrupted blood donation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of reports that Non-Covid patients including persons with blood disorders like haemophilia and thalassemia were facing difficulties in availing medical facilities, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday directed all States and Union Territories to ensure uninterrupted blood donation and transfusion services for people with blood disorders and advised all health facilities to remain functional for the benefit of the people.

In a letter to his counterparts in States and Union Territories, Dr Harsh Vardhan asked them to ensure that non-COVID health services were available. "denial of critical services like dialysis, blood transfusion, chemotherapy and institutional deliveries to regular patients will not be acceptable," he said.

States and Union Territories are advised that as

per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, all health services should remain functional during the lockdown period.

The movement of service providers may be facilitated, especially for those working in the private sector.

The Health Ministers are also advised to ensure quick resolution of grievances on denial of critical services especially on account of insistence on testing, said the Minister.

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary, Health, Lav Agarwal said at a routine presser here that the concept of social distancing will stay even after lockdown is lifted.

"From the Health Ministry side, we are very clear that we have to ensure that the concept of physical distancing is adapted as behavioural change in our day to day life so that we can break the chain of transmission. It is equally important to focus on containment measures," he said.

Mahvir International feeds 3.5L lockdown affected people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahvir International (MI), a non-religious social service organisation, has provided ready-to-eat food packets to over 3,50,000 people and 98,000 packs of dry ration kits of 10 KG each consisting of rice, wheat flour (atta), daal and other food ingredients totalling to about 980 tonnes during the nationwide lockdown amid coronavirus pandemic.

According to a statement issued by its international president, Vir Shanti Kumar Jain, MI has also provided 2,50,000 face masks across the country as well as 65,000 hand sanitizer bottles to the people and Covid warriors.

This apart, members and centres of MI contributed Rs. 71,81,000 to PM CARES fund and ₹17,99,100 to Chief Minister and District Administration Funds till date. r every day from the day lockdown started," Jain added.

161 test Covid positive, TN's tally jumps to 2,323

Chennai: Tamil Nadu on Thursday reported 161 persons testing positive for Coronavirus taking the State's tally to 2,323.

Out the 161 cases from 11 districts, 138 were from Chennai taking the city's tally to 906. In a statement issued here, the Health Department also said that the total number children in the age group 0-12 who are Covid-19 patients stands at 142.



A total of 48 Covid-19 patients were discharged from various hospitals in the State taking the total number Covid-19 cured to 1,258.

The number of active cases is at 1,035.

According to the statement, the total number of samples tested on Thursday was 9,787, taking the tally till date to 119,748.

With the Covid-19 patients increasing in the State capital, the Greater Chennai Corporation has threatened to seal business units for three months if they didn't follow social distancing norms and other regulations to curb spread of coronavirus.

According to Commissioner G Prakash, special teams would be formed to ensure following of social distancing norms to curb coronavirus infection.

The corporation will deploy resources in a focussed manner and a separate team for containment zone management has been set up. The essentials for people in the containment zone will be provided. Wherever water supply was an issue, water tanks would be installed, he said.

According to him, around 1,250 samples are being tested a day and the number will be raised to 2,000 a day. There are 22,000 beds quarantine facility in the state.

For admitting the mild cases, another 22,000-bed quarantine facility will be readied in 15 days.

Corona +ve man drinks sanitiser to kill self, critical

Kanpur Dehat (UP): A coronavirus positive patient on Thursday attempted suicide by drinking sanitiser in Sarsaul isolation centre in Kanpur Dehat in Uttar Pradesh.

The youth has been admitted to the Hallett hospital in Kanpur in a critical condition.

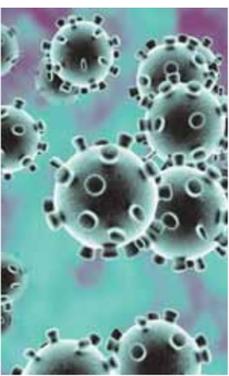
According to reports, the youth is a resident of Jharkhand and had been intercepted by the police two days ago. He was made to undergo medical screening and tested positive for corona after which he was put in the isolation ward on Thursday morning.

Hours later, the youth drank the sanitiser and his condition started deteriorating.

Meanwhile, Hallett hospital chief medical superintendent Prof R K Maurya said that the condition of the youth was critical.

Sarsaul community health

centre superintendent S L Varma said that it was still not known how the youth came to Kanpur Dehat though he had said that he was working in Maharashtra and was going to his home state.



Bengal death audit panel issues guidelines

STATE SEES 37 NEW CASES, TOTAL 572

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



The controversial death audit committee formed by the Bengal Government has come out with specific guidelines for issuing death certificates in suspected corona related cases.

According to the new guideline the certificate must contain the "immediate," "antecedent," and "underlying causes" of the death, State Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha said on Thursday claiming 77 out of the 105 deaths were triggered by other serious ailments. Co-morbidity hastened their deaths, he said implying there by that Bengal had so far witnessed 33 deaths where corona virus was the sole factor of the death.

Bengal witnessed 37 new corona cases in the past 24 hours, Sinha said adding 50 people were discharged from hospitals in the past one day "leaving 572 active cases in the state." The State had witnessed 33 deaths with 11 people succumbing to the disease in the past one day, he said. The State which currently had 13 functional laboratories had tested 14,620 people out of which 1,397 people were tested in the past 24 hours, he maintained adding 10,773 people were in home quarantine and 5288 had been kept in government quarantine facilities.

Under attack from the

opposition parties for subjecting certificates of death for corona patients to a final decision from the designated death audit committee, Bengal Government also proffered justification behind the formation of the said committee saying the death audit panel had helped not only understand the trends of the disease but also facilitated line of treatment. In days to come the studies conducted by the committee could prove helpful in a systematic analysis of the disease.

Deliberating on the repatriation of migrant labours struck up in various states the Chief Secretary said that things would have to be done in a phased and planned manner so that there was no chaos created at the borders.

"The Government is clear on its stand that no one will be allowed into the 444 containment zones inside the state in which case those who may be allowed to return in hordes could land in trouble as they will not be able to reach their home if that falls in the containment zones," he said adding "a planning will have to be done for such a big exercise."

The Government will also

Kerala tycoon commits suicide in Dubai

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Joy Arakkal, the Dubai-based 54-year-old oil tycoon from Kerala's Wynadu district committed suicide on April 23 in the Business Bay of the oil kingdom. Joy, a philanthropist shot into fame following his decision to build houses for those who lost everything in the 2018 floods in Waynadu district. Matters India, a Church sponsored news portal had reported that Hoy had

died of a massive heart attack far away from home in Dubai. But the Dubai Police announced on Thursday that the business baron committed suicide by jumping from his 14th floor office building in Business Bay.

Joy had hogged the limelight when he built a 40,000 sq ft palace in Waynadu, described as Kerala's biggest house. Joy was the managing director of petrochemical trading giant Innova Refining and Trading FZE.

Dubai-based media attribute the suicide to financial crisis faced by Joy over the last couple of months.

According to an auditor based in Dubai, Joy's company is engaged in trading and reprocessing of petroleum and petrochemical products. With refineries in Sharjah and Ras al Khaimah in the UAE and Dammam in Saudi Arabia, the firm has been supplying lubricants to automobiles, industries

and ships. It also got terminal operations - storage and handling of bulk cargo to be transported by road tanks and ships - with four storage facilities Sharjah, Dubai and Dammam.

Joy was in the news in 2019 when the UAE Government conferred him with a ten-year Gold Card Visa. Arakkal Palace, the 45,000 sq ft house he built in Waynadu is a visual wonder which had been featured by national and international TV

channels.

Father Joshy Valiplackal, an associate of Joy Arakkal, said he had taken 40 percent shares and served as a director of Wam Tea, a company promoted by the Congregation of St Theresa priests to help 500 small tea growers of Waynadu. "He also had plans to set up a large poultry farming project for the needy people of the area," the priest said. The tycoon is survived by wife and two sons.

Maharashtra starts process of migrants' return to home States

Releases SOP, appoints 3 officers to coordinate efforts to ensure migrants' movement to various States

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday set into motion the process of movement of 6.5 lakh migrant workers staying at various labour camps, to their respective states, by releasing the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and appointing three senior officers to coordinate the efforts.

A day after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued order to State/UTs to facilitate Inter-State movement of stranded people including migrants in the country, the chief minister tweeted: "Due to the lockdown, migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons are stranded at different places. They would be allowed to move as per the conditions in the attached Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)"

"The Nodal Authority shall register the stranded persons within their district and submit a detailed list to collector of the district to which those persons desire to travel, with a copy to the respective state nodal officer," the SOP stated

"For Inter-state movement, the sending and receiving States/UTs shall consult each other and mutually agree to the movement by road as also the schedule," the SOP pointed out.

The SOP made it clear that no movement shall be permitted into the state of Maharashtra unless the group of persons has obtained the letter from the appropriate district collector or the director, State Disaster Management. "Similarly no group shall be allowed to leave unless they have an appropriate from the receiving State/District Authority," the SOP added.

The Centre's decision to permit the Maharashtra government to send back the migrant workers staying in various parts of the state, to their respective home states followed the Uddhav Thackeray's efforts to mount pressure on the Union government to give a go-ahead to state to send back the migrants to their states. Uddhav had raised the migrant workers' movement issue with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the two previous meetings that the latter had with various chief ministers in the country to review the continued lockdown across the country.

On April 23, two days after Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray reiterated his demand for the Centre running special trains "to ensure that migrant labour from other States can return home", deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar upped the ante by urging Railway Minister Piyush Goyal to make necessary arrangements in advance to run special trains to accommodate "all such restless labourers" so that "there is no law and order problem at railway stations in Maharashtra".

In his letter to Goyal, Pawar wrote: "As Maharashtra is a leading industrial state and having highest construction activities, a large number of informal labourers particularly migrated from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other northern states are working in these sectors."

"Due COVID-19 lockdown, about 6.5 lakh migrants are staying in respective labour camps in Maharashtra and the state government is providing daily food and health services to them. In addition to this, almost equal number of labourers are being provided with food by various NGOs and social organisations," Pawar said.

Earlier on the night of April 21, the chief minister's office (CMO) Maharashtra had tweeted: "CM Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray has reiterated his demand for special trains to ensure that migrant labour from other States can return home. He has demanded to the Hon'ble Prime Minister & the Railway Ministry that guidelines about this to be issued by April-end".

"Approximately 6 lakh migrant labours are being provided with food, shelter & medical assistance in relief camps setup across Maharashtra by the Government. However, in such times staying away from their homes & families is taking a toll on them," the CMO tweeted.

"If the Central Government is anticipating a rise in the transmission of the virus between April 30 and May 15, then it must consider if it can utilise the time at hand to arrange for special trains to send them back home and issue guidelines about this by April-end," the CMO added. It may be recalled that on April 18, the chief minister had assured the migrant labourers settled in the state that he was in touch with the Centre and he was confident that "in the next few days, some solution would be found for their problems".

India's soccer legend Chuni Goswami no more

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Subimal (Chuni) Goswami the football legend and one of India's greatest sportsmen - who not only led the country in soccer, winning gold medals in Asian Games but also played first-class cricket scoring centuries against the likes of West Indian fast bowler Roy Gilchrist - passed away on Thursday evening.

The iconic sportsman who was suffering from diabetes, prostrate and kidney ailments suffered two successive cardiac attacks that caused his death, his doctors said. He was 82 and is survived by his wife Basanti and son Sudipto.

His death comes within a month of another soccer legend and his team mate PK Goswami who too was a magical footballer in his own right. Arguably the most successful Indian football captain under whom India won Gold in 1962 Asian Games and finished runner-up in 1964 Asian Cup and narrowly lost Merdeka football cup played 50 matches for India scoring 7 goals.

His sheer class bought him

an invite to play for the Tottenham Hotspur Football Club which played in London Premier League. Hew however declined the offer and remained associated throughout his life with Mohun Bagan Football Club. He was also proficient player of hockey and tennis.

The iconic sportsman, who also played first-class cricket for Bengal, was 82 and breathed his last at a hospital here. He is survived by his wife Basanti and son Sudipto.

As a cricketer he played 46 first-class matches taking 47 wickets and hitting a number of centuries. He missed the Indian cap by a whisker in the 1960s when he led Bengal to the Ranji Trophy finals.

"I consider him among the three biggest footballers India had ever produced alongside PK Banerjee, and Balam," said Bidesh Bose another India footballer of the 1970s. Shyam Thapa another football legend said "Chuni da was the best allround sportsman who played all the four big games but also an actor to have acted in films."

He was born on January 15 1938 in Kishoreganj district .

'Decide fast on lockdown extension or relaxation'

IANS ■ CHENNAI

DMK President MK Stalin on Thursday urged the Government to announce its decision on relaxing or extending the lockdown in advance rather than waiting for the last minute.

In a statement issued here, he said the second lockdown period is coming to an end on May 3 and people are anxious to know whether it would be extended/lifted or lifted gradually.

Stalin said it is the duty of the people to abide by the Central/state Government's decision to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.

He said people are confined to their homes for 35 days and the Central and state governments should announce their decision fast taking into consideration their livelihood.

J&K tally mounts to 614 with 33 fresh Covid cases

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jammu on Thursday scored a 'big zero' in the long list of positive cases while Kashmir valley reported 33 fresh cases of Coronavirus taking the final tally to 614 cases in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Instead of declaring Jammu COVID free, twitter handle of the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu sounded a word of caution to all the Covid warriors to continue working on the ground zero. The message clearly stated, "All the reported 26 positive cases from the district have recovered. It's indicative of being on the right course, nevertheless declaring the district COVID free, will be premature. Need to carry this forward proactively, with caution".

Meanwhile, spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir government, Rohit Kansal in a separate press briefing in Jammu said, "a total number of 33 persons tested Positive in Kashmir

Valley while 24 patients recovered and discharged from different hospitals.

He said, though Jammu and Kashmir was performing reasonably well but there was no room for complacency at this stage. He said, "at present we are testing around 1800 samples per day and in the next couple of days we will cross the barrier of 2000 tests to implement our strategy of adopting aggressive testing across red-zone areas of various hot spot districts".

According to daily media bulletin, out of 614 positive cases, 390 are active positive, 384 are from Kashmir and 6 from different districts of Jammu region. At present, two cases are active in Udhampur, one each in Kathua, Ramban, Reasi and Rajouri districts. In Kashmir valley, 12 cases were reported from Anantnag, 11 from Baramulla, 04 from Kulgam, 02 from Srinagar, 02 from Pulwama, 01 from Budgam 01, from Shopian.

30 new Covid positive cases take K'taka tally to 565

Bengaluru:

Thirty new Covid positive cases surfaced in Karnataka, raising the State's tally to 565, an official said on Thursday.

"As of 5 p.m. Thursday, cumulatively 565 Covid positive cases have been confirmed in the state, this includes 21 deaths and 229 discharges," said a health official.

Thirteen Covid patients have been discharged, taking the total to 229.

Among the new cases, 14 are men and 16 are women, and include six children below 16.

Of the 30 new cases, 27 are contacts of earlier cases while two more are suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) and another woman with Influenza Like Illness (ILI).

Belagavi contributed 14 cases, followed by Bengaluru with 10, Vijayapura, two, Dakshina Kannada, Tumakuru, Kalaburagi and Davanagere, with one each.

Earlier on the night of April 21, the chief minister's office (CMO) Maharashtra had tweeted: "CM Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray has reiterated his demand for special trains to ensure that migrant labour from other States can return home. He has demanded to the Hon'ble Prime Minister & the Railway Ministry that guidelines about this to be issued by April-end".

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101 accused's police custody extended till May 14

Palghar lynching

Dahanu court on Thursday extended the police custody of 101 accused in the much-discussed Palghar incident in which two Sadhus and one driver were killed by a mob of villagers on April 16, till May 14.

After their custody ended on Friday, the accused were produced before judicial magistrate O B Kulkarni, who remanded them in custody for two more weeks.

Of the total 110 accused who had been booked under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder) and 353 (detering government servant from performing his duty) for assaulting cops and damaging their vehicle, there were nine minors.

The nine minors in the case will continue remain in the Bhiwandi Children Remand Home.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16, three persons were lynched by a

Pak mortar kills Poonch boy during iftaar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of breaking fast on the sixth day of holy month of Ramzan, a class 12th student of Tain Monkote tensil in Poonch district was killed in heavy shelling from across of the line of control by Pakistan Army on Thursday.

According to ground reports, "the family members were preparing for Iftaar when their son, standing near the gate of the house was hit by splinters of mortar shell, which exploded in the near vicinity". "One of the splinters punctured his chest and he died on the spot", official sources said. The dead body of the deceased youth could not be shifted to a nearby hospital due to continuous shelling in the area till late evening.

Jammu based Defence Spokesman, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "at about 7.00 p.m Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along Loc in Mankote setcor of Poonch district". He said, Indian army retaliated befittingly.

Confirming the death of a civilian in the fresh incident of firing, Deputy Commissioner, Poonch Rahul Yadav said, "a class 12th student was killed after he was hit by splinters of a mortar shell during cross LOC firing in Mankote setcor on Thursday evening". The deceased boy has been identified as Gulfaraz (16) son of Mohd Rashid of Tain Mankote.

Since the beginning of holy month of Ramzan, there has been no let up from the Pakistani side in violating ceasefire agreement along the LOC.

200-strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district on suspicion that they were thieves.

The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle. Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadchinchale village on Dabhadi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

The deceased ---identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70), Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and driver Nilesh Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivli in north Mumbai. The place where the incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

After the incident, these Kasa police had registered three FIRs in connection with the lynching and assault on police-

men. All the accused had been arrested a day after the ghastly crime.

In the first FIR, the police had charged 110 accused with murder under IPC Section 302. The court sent them to judicial custody in this case. In the second FIR, the 110 accused were booked under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder) and 353 (detering government servant from performing his duty) for assaulting cops and damaging their vehicle.

Meanwhile, three police officials of the Kasa Police Station in Palghar, have been suspended in connection with the incident. These comprised: two Head Constables and one Assistant Sub Inspector.

In a related development, the Bombay High Court has - while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the Palghar lynching case --issued a notice to the CBI and Maharashtra government seeking a response within two weeks.



PAPER WITH PASSION

What of critical care?

Hospitals are turning away serious patients with other conditions because they don't have a COVID-free certificate



With a death rate ranging between 2.3 and five per cent in the worst case scenario, the Coronavirus pandemic has us all hunkering down in our homes with the medical fraternity primed in battle mode. To the extent that all other patients are being told to stay away from hospitals and use telemedicine facilities instead. But now an extended lockdown and the fear of contamination mean that emergency rooms at most hospitals are turning critical care patients away unless they have a COVID-free certificate,

which can take days to come. However, before the Coronavirus reared its ugly head in China and subsequently in India, a whopping 5.8 million people in this country were dying each year due to Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), as indicated by a 2015 World Health Organisation (WHO) report. So now, we also have to think of the millions of patients who till now made up the disease burden of the nation. Cancer, heart, respiratory diseases, diabetes, malaria, TB, dengue, stroke, renal diseases, endocrine and infectious diseases to name a few have not disappeared overnight. They are still very much in the country, people are suffering and yes, they are dying from them. But are they being treated? For instance, last month, private hospitals in Vizianagaram stopped new admissions of non-Corona patients and discharged many in-hospital ones. Out Patient Departments (OPDs), too, were non-functional as many doctors and staff showed little or no interest in extending their services. The Government itself has asked hospitals to stop OPDs and elective or non-emergency surgeries. As a result, private hospitals around India are reporting a sharp drop in footfall — as high as 70 per cent to 80 per cent, says a FICCI study. Many patients, who were ailing from diseases other than the virus, were evicted from their rooms at some hospitals as well. So what of the plight of non-COVID patients? What of the people who have been diagnosed with cancer and have travelled to metropolitan cities to seek treatment? Are they to be left to die and their relatives who accompanied them left if the lurch, forced to fend for themselves amid a nationwide lockdown? Or even if they belong to the city where the hospital is located, what of their trauma? Are they being looked after, their treatment continuing?

2018 saw 2.15 million new cases of tuberculosis diagnosed in India. The predicament of these patients, countless of whom would be on treatment at DOTS (directly observed treatment short-course) centres and additionally at hospital OPDs, which are currently either closed down or difficult to reach because of the rigid time limitation, is unimaginable. The resurgence of TB — multiple drug-resistant TB — because of not following treatment conventions is notable. It is significant that the wellbeing of TB patients during the lockdown is monitored. The dread of Coronavirus and the requirement for isolation must not stop individuals from getting treatment for non-COVID medical emergencies. Both the Government and the hospital administrators must understand that people are rushing to hospitals only when the scenario is beyond redemption. Also, since all the hospitals and numerous smaller clinics are shut, a significantly high number of patients with cardiac, neuro, stroke, gastro, diabetic and orthopaedic complications are getting zero or delayed intervention that will prolong the recovery process. While the PM's idea of clapping and clanging of utensils to recognise the efforts of those fighting the battle against COVID-19 was a noble one, the on-ground reality still appears to be grim and disappointing. Doctors have been assaulted by citizens as well as police forces for 'breaking the rules of the lockdown' while trying to reach their respective workplaces to continue serving patients. At this moment, the noise created by the clanging utensils is the last thing medical professionals want. Instead, demands are being made for better hardware and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Social distancing is a basic step to check the spread of the infection. Yet, the lockdown could have been executed with more thought for people already suffering from various ailments. The health-care machinery of a country ought not to be decided by its reaction to a pestilence but by its promise to save lives in the long haul. A fully functional health-care system framework would have been helpful in crises such as these. So we have to take stock of what we are doing. Are we exchanging one disease burden for another and ignoring the chronic, pre-existing one, thereby making India a sicker nation than it was before? It is time we got a bit real.

Dad Boris

COVID-19 isn't the only challenge for Johnson. The British PM needs to resolve trade talks with the European Union



Barely three weeks ago, when the cruel Coronavirus had infected British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, threatening his life and putting the entire country, its people and the Government on tenterhooks, none had expected that he would bounce back. But he did. And now he is proud father of a boy with his partner, Carrie Symonds. All this must have surely made him forget the rollercoaster ride he had to go through last month in hospital, only three months after he secured a resounding personal mandate from a Brexit-weary electorate. Johnson, though, is not the first PM to have a child while in office; his predecessors David Cameron and Tony Blair, too, experienced fatherhood while being in the chair. May be Johnson will need to borrow paternity drills from their book. Like them, he, too, would find it difficult to achieve a balance between work and family life, especially in these tough times when the world, as also his country, is facing the darkest moment in history. It's another matter that both Cameron and Blair were able to compartmentalise their familial and official duties. But the same cannot be said of Johnson. What do we do with his undeniable vigour and energy which define most of his political identity and appeal? Though he has made it clear that he would be postponing the paternity leave until the end of the year, for that to happen, the rules need to be bent for the Prime Minister as official codes call for the leave to end within 56 days of childbirth.

Officials commitments aside, though Johnson has been around the fatherhood course many times — maybe five, six or even more — to expect that any aspect of his life will be normal, even fatherhood, in these times, is irrational. Over 26,000 Britons have died due to the COVID pandemic, thanks to the Government's early dilly-dallying approach and "herd immunity" experiments. Even now, it is feared that Britain may face the second wave of the disease and account for the worst fatality rate in Europe. COVID-19 isn't the only challenge for Johnson. Even as the Government is currently fighting the most pressing crisis, there are the faltering trade talks with the European Union that need resolution. The Brexit ghost will come to haunt him once again. Father and Prime Minister Johnson has a tough job ahead.

The Tablighi tangle

One wonders whether the Government did or didn't possess any advance information on the Nizamuddin gathering. The event has exposed another kind of intelligence failure



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

It was an adage about Hindi films in the 1970s and 1980s that the police always arrived in the end. There seemed to be a re-run of it in real life when Delhi Police personnel reached the Nizamuddin Markaz mosque on Sunday, March 29, as part of the COVID evacuation exercise, several days after the Tablighi Jamaat event (March 13-15) had concluded and many of the participants had departed to various parts of the country. Attendees took home not only the message of reverting to true Islam but many also carried the strain of the Novel Coronavirus. The rest stayed back in the enormous six-floor dormitory of the Markaz mosque before being caught up in the lockdown.

The evacuation lasted for 72-odd hours involving police personnel, medical and administrative officials and staff members from the Delhi Transport Corporation. But it was the National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, who stole the media thunder with his presence. Why does the NSA need to visit the spot like a superintendent of police is not clear. One does not expect any bonhomie between the nationalist "superhero" of intelligence and the Tablighis, who fell to disrepute. It might be his signature style. Had he not visited the scene during the Nepal earthquake, the Kashmir lockdown or even the riots in Delhi? However, one wonders whether the Government did not possess any advance information on the Nizamuddin gathering? Why was the event, which drew participation from COVID-affected nations like Malaysia and Indonesia, allowed to take place in the first place? It appears that international participants were permitted to enter India without proper screening, let alone sending them into quarantine. This failure led to a flare-up in COVID infection.

Though the conduct of the event antedated the beginning of the lockdown period, there were hardly any prohibitory orders (from the Delhi Government) on any political, cultural, social or religious gathering, comprising more than 200 people. It was later hardened to a gathering of more than 50 people, before being completely prohibited. Were the intelligence and law enforcing agencies completely clueless about what was going on? It is difficult to believe that his large congregation of more than 3,000 people was organised without seeking any permission. Neither the Central or the Delhi Government has accused the gathering as patently illegal. In non-COVID times, the event would have passed off peacefully without raising eyebrows.

The event has actually exposed another kind of intelligence failure. Our security apparatus is more obsessed with Islamic terrorist organisations like the Lashkar-e-Taiyabba, the Jaish-e-Mohammed, the Harkat ul Mujahideen, the Islamic State and Al Qaeda, among others because of their offensive and disruptive activities. These organisations recruit full-time activists



(Mujahideen), who indulge in terrorist activities with the use of explosives and weapons.

By doing no such thing, the Tablighi Jamaat escaped the security radar. It is a huge global missionary network that does not recruit fighters but works peacefully. It does not target the non-Muslims in any manner. Its focus is only on nominal or lapsed Muslims, whom it seeks to enliven with true faith of Islam. The Tablighis insist that preaching must be done face to face and that intellectualism and arguments are irrelevant when it comes to influencing lives. For them, what counts more is a meeting of hearts. No wonder, the Tablighi Jamaat has no digital presence like the Darul-Uloom of Deoband or the Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama of Lucknow.

Its agenda is actually more penetrative. More than a decade ago, the Tablighi Jamaat was in the news for Islamisation of Pakistan's cricket team. Cricketers like Inzamam-ul-Haq, Saeed Anwar and Shahid Afridi became devout Muslims by visibly growing beards. While Pakistan is an Islamic republic, its cricketers, recruited from urban nurseries, were mostly urbane and suave sportsmen till then. In the 1980s and early 90s, before ODIs became a year-long activity, many Pakistani cricketers played in British county cricket. Even the Islamisation of Pakistan under Zia-ul-Haq had

left them unimpressed.

What Zia could not do with his policies and laws in the 1980s, the Tablighi Jamaat achieved with its proselytising activities in the first decade of the millennium. Yousuf Youhana, Pakistan's former vice-captain, thanks to the Tablighi's activities inside Pakistani cricket squad, became convinced that "Islam is the best religion." He adopted Islam, accompanied by a change of name to Mohammed Yusuf, whereas his wife Tania became Fatima. As a Muslim, he grew a long beard and piously hoped that if every non-Muslim accepted Islam in Pakistan, the country could become the land of the pure, literally. That is the power of the Tablighi Jamaat.

The "Islamisation" of the Pakistani cricket team is illustrative of what Muhammad Ilyas Kandhlawi (1885-1944), founder of the Tablighi Jamaat, envisaged to achieve almost a century ago. His goal was to turn a born Muslim (*mumin*) into a true Muslim (*Ihsaan/Muhsin*). He sought to purge a Muslim of non-Islamic parts, whether inherited or adopted, into a one-dimensional individual inspired by the lives of the Prophet Mohammed and his companions as the basis of model Muslim society.

This was against the spirit of syncretism that liberals often wax eloquent about. Mewat, the historical region spanning Haryana and Rajasthan, became

the nursery of Maulana Ilyas' work in the 1920s. Islam had extended its sway in this region during the time of the Delhi Sultanate. However, Islam sat only lightly upon most converts for ages. The Meos (Mewati Muslims) celebrated Hindu festivals like Holi, Janmashtami, Dussehra and Diwali alongside Muharram, Eid and Shabi-e-Barat. Very few knew the Kalima and fewer still observe Namaz regularly. The beginning of the Shuddhi and Sangathan movement in 1923 by Swami Shradhdhanand of the Arya Samaj threatened many Muslims lapsing to their original faith *viz*, Hinduism.

Maulana Ilyas began his campaign to turn Meos into true Muslims. He had grown up as a beloved student of Maulana Rashid Ahmad Gangohi (1826-1905), co-founder of the Darul Uloom, Deoband. The Deobandi movement, in contrast to the contemporaneous Aligarh movement started by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, had kept itself away from Western education and turned its back to developments in the modern world. Maulana Ilyas' work had the same imprint of Deobandi orthodoxy. He wished to bring the expertise in Islam available in western Uttar Pradesh — Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur (which he considered "well-spring of faith and godly men") — to the service of Mewat. His innovation was in the

terms of method that made its impact widespread. Perhaps realising the truism of the axiom (made famous of Francis Bacon), "If the mountain does not come to Muhammad, he must go to the mountain", he began taking the teaching of Islam to homes, fields and workplaces of those who could not go to *maktabs* and madrasas. The Tablighi Jamaat was born in that open air preaching of missionaries going from village to village in Mewat and group retreats centred on religion. Publicity was shunned from day one by Maulana Ilyas, a code which remains in force even in this day of social media.

Emanating from the Nizamuddin Markaz, this missionary movement has spread to various parts of the world. The Tablighi Jamaat organises the world's largest Islamic congregation next to Hajj in Mecca, at Tongi near Dhaka in Bangladesh every January. It is called *Bishwa Itimna* (global congregation). The Tablighi Jamaat has contributed to "re-Islamisation" of Bangladesh that gained independence from Pakistan on the plank of Bengali nationalism. How little does India know about its most globalised conservative Islamic movement?

(The writer is an independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed here are his personal)

SOUNDBITE

I am sorry to say, it's a retreat. A lot of progress made in the Panchayati Raj has been lost, we are now moving to a sort of bureaucratic, DM-based structure.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

Both of them (Rishi Kapoor and Irrfan Khan) were talented and brilliant actors and wonderful human beings. They both fought cancer and were on the way to getting better.



Actor —Dharmendra

We're working with our friends in Australia, India and Japan to share information and best practices as we begin to move the global economy forward.



US Secretary of State —Mike Pompeo

There will have to be a rethinking of everything in the global economy once we are out of this. If there is an opportunity for India, it is in shaping that dialogue.



RBI Governor —Raghuram Rajan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reform the economy

Sir — If the Indian political leadership and entrepreneurs play their cards well, the nation is sure to witness a revolution post the COVID-19 crisis. This is because hundreds of multinational companies, in sectors like automobiles, mobile phones, electronics and textiles among others, are considering moving their manufacturing bases from China to India and other business-friendly Asian nations. They have decided to relocate due to the failure of China to contain the COVID crisis and also its lack of transparency.

The US has been openly criticising China for the same; various European nations, too, have raised fingers at it. The need is for the Indian Government to introduce more reforms to attract investors. Foreign companies are bound to get attracted by the big market that India represents. The availability of skilled manpower, labour and raw material will be of immense help to these companies and their entry will boost our economy.

M Pradyu
Kannur

The callousness of COVID response

Seen as nothing less than a war, the nation's struggle to contain the spread of COVID-19 has evolved into an emergency of sorts with the Government resorting to drastic measures to secure the country against the scourge of the novel virus. The lockdown thus came as a completely unexpected but desirable "event" for those capable of turning such situations to their advantage. Even otherwise, it is observed that ingenuity is a natural corollary to the strict enforcement whenever they are implemented. However, a "price" had to be paid for this inventiveness. The exorbitant prices at which provisions and various other commodities are being made available to the public have been a shameful testimony of the administration's apathy towards the hardships faced by the residents.

In fact, at times, it did appear that the Government was hopelessly helpless about streamlining the process to supply provisions to people. Maybe it was due to the lack of coordination between various departments that led to the confusion. The plan to rope in municipalities and panchayats to assist in the task was commendable. But somehow, these plans did not translate into meaningful actions and the populace had to bear the brunt. Panic buy-

May day in COVID times

Sir — As we mourn the death of Bollywood stars Irrfan Khan and Rishi Kapoor, we must also spare a thought for the daily wage earners and migrant workers

who are left without jobs and money, struggling to find food. Many have even died as they undertook a long march back home.

Let class-conscious India display a bit of humane attitude at least in this moment of crisis and

express gratitude towards the poor, who toil hard to keep the wheels of our economy running. Let this be the spirit of May Day. Let us celebrate the achievements of workers.

Kajal Chatterjee
Kolkata

Weigh the risks

Sir — It is worrying that a corporate hospital in Delhi used plasma therapy to treat a critical COVID-19 patient. Hospital authorities claimed that the patient had been cured of the disease. But there's no evidence that plasma therapy can be used as treatment as it's still in the experimental stage. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has itself not approved its use.

If not used under proper guidelines, it can cause life-threatening complications, too. The risks associated with it are many. First, as the blood transfusion takes place, other kinds of infections may get transferred to the patient. Second, the therapy may not essentially be successful for all patients. And third, the antibody administration may suppress the body's natural immune response. Given the risks involved, medical professionals must desist from using this form of treatment.

Venu GS
Kollam

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Kickstart fiscal growth

While India has somewhat managed to 'flatten the growth curve of the virus', the biggest casualty has been the economy



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The last time I sat down to pen this column, I still had to think twice before ordering a barrel of crude oil. However, things have changed dramatically and crude is now nearly at a 160-year-low. To quote *The Economist* "... it stood in real terms at the very same level as it did at the start of January 1860 — its first regular reading."

Just a month into the global caging of humans at home, the unimaginable has happened. Oil futures dipped to negative, which basically means sellers would actually pay buyers to lift barrels of crude. If you were to take an aerial snapshot of offshore oil tankers, it is oceans full of plenty, coast to coast. Yet, the rock-bottom oil prices do not offer a significant upside to a fossil fuel importing country like ours at this stage. Like everyone else or perhaps many shades higher, India has been under the world's harshest lockdown, shuttering more than 70 per cent of enterprises and economic activity. While India has somewhat managed to "flatten the growth curve of the virus", the biggest casualty has been the nearly \$3 trillion economy. Estimates suggest nearly \$30 billion weekly losses, which translate to a whopping \$180 billion losses since the first day of the lockdown. This number, even by conservative estimates, is three times the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of \$49 billion that India managed in 2019. A near-complete closure of all services and manufacturing activities has led to India (along with the rest of the globe), staring at a "great economic depression" rerun.

In such a scenario any bet on building a huge reserve of crude might be seen as a risky option, particularly by a cautious bureaucracy. To be fair, no one can predict for sure if demand for crude-based energy, riding on airlines and power-hungry factories, is going to make a comeback soon, even when the lockdown is lifted. Many are worried about the uniformity of the lifting of the lockdown across the country.

This brings us to the issue of policy flip-flops. E-commerce, together with home delivery of all kind of goods, is clearly emerging as the consensus winner for the "most-apt solution" to the new, post-Covid world order. The Government did allow delivery of all essential and non-essential (fridge/mobile phones/ACs/clothing/perfumes and so on) via an order, only to reverse it a day before its implementation under pressure from protectionist groups. There is no direct scientific or medical research to prove that delivery of a kilogram of apples (currently approved under the e-commerce route) is safer than that of a mobile phone or AC remote control.

Similarly, there is no evidence to prove that delivery of "sin" taxed items such as alcoholic beverages and cigarettes poses a greater risk to human health at this stage, than the visible crumbling of a tall, promising economy. Yes, opening up both of these requires bold decisions at the top and quick amendments to regulatory requirements along with changes to tax laws. The time for the Government to take a bold policy decision could not have been better, with a 130 billion-strong captive audience staring at it.

As of now, e-commerce restrictions continue to be in place and even after things open up for the sector, post May 3, in many districts of the country, State interpretation of Central laws will continue to create roadblocks to recovery.

Lakhs of trucks stuck across State borders are another issue which calls for urgent attention and close Centre-State coordination. With the motto of "protecting lives over livelihoods" multiple key business districts across the country have sealed their borders, in some cases by erecting physical walls. This act, even if temporary in occurrence, is sending wrong signals to an already-eroded business sentiment across the country. Remember, these high on optics clampdowns will not leave entrepreneurs' memories for a long time and will make them more risk-averse. A potential solution at this stage could be re-designating each District Magistrate as "CEO" of the area. The "Board Chairman", the State Chief Secretary in this case, could give the task of restoring each district economic activity to its pre-Covid level to each regional "CEO."

Corporate solutions like this have great potential to quickly refuel the dried-up economy engine of the country. This could start a new chapter of constructive federalism, with true devolution of power to the district level, with each District Magistrate running a small portion of the national Gross Domestic Product and adding to the bigger picture.

This brings us to 'Make in India' and the country's high hopes of getting investments from corporations exiting China. The Centre has to start aggressive virtual roadshows with all hands-on deck presentations to win over global investors. A key fact to remember here is, while attracting China-fleeing investment is a key task, a blanket ban on money coming from China could have downsides. In private, most will acknowledge that China is more integrated into the global economy than many would have thought. Therefore, keeping a sharp eye on aggressive overtures from China to fish in troubled waters by taking over companies at low prices has to be balanced with attracting good quality long-term investments from factories willing to relocate out of China. Japan has already announced a \$2 billion package for assisting industries moving from China into its territory. India will also have to start talking these kinds of numbers. It will also have to remove or possibly temporarily lock down tonnes of regulatory compliances existing and future businesses face in India. The sharp focus has to be on 'Make in India' and to quote the Prime Minister, "protecting livelihoods along with lives."

(The writer is Country Manager, India, IIT Council)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I ASKED PARLIAMENT TO NAME 50 BANK SCAMMERS. THE FM REFUSED TO REPLY. NOW THE RBI HAS NAMED BJP'S FRIENDS NIRAV AND CHOKSI.

—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



THIS IS TYPICAL TO THE CONGRESS. THEY RESORT TO SENSATIONALISING FACTS BY TAKING THEM OUT OF CONTEXT.

—FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

Keep health front and centre

The Coronavirus has posed several challenges for expectant mothers and parents due to the closure of health clinics, OPDs and Anganwadi Centres providing vital healthcare services



SIMI MEHTA

RITIKA GUPTA

ANSHULA MEHTA

Human health is a prerequisite for the economic health of a country. Unless the population is healthy, the economy of a nation cannot perform. This hypothesis has been validated by the outbreak of the Coronavirus which has led the world into an economic recession. In the light of this, the importance of mother and child health (MCH) cannot be overemphasised as pregnant women, infants and children are very susceptible to infections and diseases. The Coronavirus has posed several legitimate concerns and challenges for expectant mothers and parents due to the closure of doctors' clinics, outpatient departments (OPDs) of hospitals and the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) providing vital healthcare services.

So the question that arises is, how can beneficiaries access healthcare/welfare services during the pandemic? Pregnant and lactating mothers and children in both rural and urban areas have already begun to suffer. For instance, the Government order to the Anganwadi workers (AWWs), to home-deliver dry rations for children and mothers, has had problems in execution. The AWWs have complained about having to travel long distances on foot because of lack of personal/public vehicles and villagers threatening and in some cases even beating the women AWWs for violating the lockdown. Plus they have to bear an added financial burden as they have not been paid money to purchase rations for the last one year and have not been provided with protective gear to save themselves from the virus.

Another challenge that has emerged is the inability of the auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs) and accredited social health activists (ASHA) to help pregnant mothers and infants get their vaccination as well as arrange transportation to the nearest health facility for delivery, while adhering to the service level benchmarking to combat the pandemic.

While we don't know what the future will be once the lockdown ends, here are some solutions that the Government/States can consider to address MCH-related concerns during the times of Covid. Harness the advantage of mobile phone and internet penetration to the remotest areas of the country for geo-tagging beneficiaries and for the provision of telemedicine, using location data, call data, and Health Management Information System (HMIS) database. In this situation, the health practitioner will only advise high-risk pregnancy cases like ante-partum hemorrhage (APH), gestational hypertension (PIH/GH), eclampsia and severe anaemia. To distinguish between severe and normal cases, the programme can be administered by machine learning and Artificial Intelligence.

With all the recent beneficiaries of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) having been assigned Unique IDs, these should be used for direct benefit transfers (DBT) and nutritional assessment, screening of COVID-19 cases, triage referrals and referral to secondary-care hospitals.

As an emergency measure, pregnant women (especially migrant workers) travelling or in transit in the next few months and seeking institutional delivery can be imparted with the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PM-JAY) or Ayushman Bharat (AB) with the participation of the private sector.

Create a MCH dashboard in line with the Ayushman Bharat and PMMVY dashboard, to synchronise data, harness HMIS and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) database to show the facility closest to the pregnant mother for rapid welfare delivery and integration of immunisation services for home-based new-born care, so that all the essential immunisation vaccines can be given to the children below two years of age without any delay.

“ WITH THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND PEAK IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, IT IS IMPERATIVE TO URGENTLY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS WHICH ENSURE INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERIES, FACILITATE TREATMENT TO THE PREGNANT MOTHERS AND THEIR NEWBORNS AND ADDRESS MCH NEEDS IN A TIMELY AND STRUCTURED MANNER, SIMULTANEOUSLY ADHERING TO SOCIAL DISTANCING AND ISOLATION NORMS ”



The dashboard can also track the whereabouts of pregnant women (of the region in focus) and put reminders on their cell phones and on that of their family members, which would provide regular information on the precautions they need to maintain and the ways to respond if they develop Coronavirus-like symptoms and so on. These can be integrated with the existing applications of the Government and must be triaged after primary screening.

Most women have monthly to weekly interactions with doctors/health practitioners during pregnancy for prenatal check-ups. But in the times of the pandemic this may go missing, so it is imperative to keep them informed via digital medium. For instance, the Kilkari application of the Haryana Government can be scaled up to include video messages for women that are specific to their stage of pregnancy. Frequent live conversations with doctors/health practitioners need to be arranged to reduce anxieties and negative psychological impacts due to the spread of COVID-19 and the lockdown in effect.

WhatsApp accounts must be set up where pregnant and lactating women are able to share their concerns and through audio and video messages. Volunteers can be roped in with the support of civil society and community networks.

Coordinators of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the villages must be identified to assist ASHA workers and ANMs in-home delivery of required medicines. While this would help in reducing the burden on the latter two, it would also help expand community cohesion. For this, the SHGs can be awarded certificates of appreciation that would strengthen their credit scores for availing any further loans from banks.

The Government has identified both private and public hospitals to take in Coronavirus patients in each district. The contact numbers of these hospitals should be publicised through every avail-

able medium so that the people use these when they develop COVID-19 symptoms.

Pregnant women, who become infected, should be treated with World Health Organisation-recommended supportive therapies in consultation with their obstetrician/gynaecologist. Pregnant women and health practitioners must be informed about these therapies without any delay.

It is also important to record all new cases of pregnancies due to the COVID-19 lockdown, so that Government prepares for an impending "Coronial generation" after nine months and also has a ready benchmark for future shutdowns based on the lessons learnt. The existing HMIS and ICDS data, though not very reliable, can still be low hanging fruits in this regard to utilise the Digital India architecture.

In the lockdown scenario, the Government must ensure that the duties of AWWs are notified as essential services if it does not want the health and nutrition security of women and children to be compromised. All pending payments due to the AWWs must be transferred to the relevant bank accounts without any further delays. It must be noted that the Budget 2020-21 has allocated ₹28,600 crore for programmes that were specific to women. It is indeed a matter of concern that the reimbursement for the purchases made for preparing Mid-Day Meals for children at AWCs has not been released for over seven months in States like Jharkhand. With the present Budget outlay, there should be no financial excuse to withhold the payments due to the AWWs, and in fact, they must be paid a three-month advance honorarium to facilitate their work and ensure their safety.

Expanding health insurance coverage to women and children will increase their access to necessary health services more than other groups. Along with the maternal and child health programmes, this must be added with the existing public health and community services such as

prenatal care, well-child care and enabling services such as case management, transportation and home visits.

The maternal healthcare services must include mental healthcare, contraceptive services and supplies; diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care; regular breast and pelvic exams (including Pap tests), in accordance with well-recognised periodicity schedules; risk assessment; adequate education and counselling to support these interventions.

For infants and children up to five years, emphasis must be on preventive services, such as immunisation and the monitoring of physical and psychosocial growth and development, with attention to critical periods in which appropriate care is essential for sound development and progress.

A separate, more comprehensive midwifery training programme with service level benchmarking in India must be introduced on an urgent basis. Having well-trained and capable midwives would provide a better birthing experience for the mother and would reduce the burden on obstetricians.

Women's SHGs should be roped in for better outcomes in ensuring the provision of take home rations. There should also be certain modifications and expansion in the type of food provided, varying regionally, to meet nutritional requirements. Planning of resources is a must to avoid misallocation and panic.

With the Coronavirus crisis expected to continue and peak in the next few months, it is imperative to urgently design and implement alternate solutions which ensure institutional deliveries, facilitate treatment to the pregnant mothers and their new-borns and address MCH needs in a timely and structured manner, simultaneously adhering to social distancing and isolation norms of the Government.

(Simi is CEO and Editorial Director while Ritika and Anshula are Research Assistants at IMPRI)

Is this crisis really a turning point?

There is no magical deliverance on the way and on balance the current health emergency is setting back the cause of climate sanity, not advancing it



GWYNNE DYER

of-control global heating?

Just in time we are being taught humility and perspective, the optimists say. Even better, some of the things we urgently needed to do are now happening without our help. People are learning to work from home, air travel has been closed down, the oil industry is collapsing.

By contrast, the pessimists (who often refer to themselves as realists) believe that crises don't make people behave better. The "Great Depression" led to World War-II and 9/11 led to wars all over the Middle East, the "Crash of 2008" led to austerity, slow growth, mounting popular anger and the rise of populist regimes across the world. Don't expect any better from this crisis.

Moreover, they say, most people can only process one problem at a

time, and that has the unfortunate ring of truth. Last year saw an unprecedented upsurge in public concern about climate change — Australian wildfires, record floods all over the place, "Extinction Rebellion", Greta Thunberg — but all that has now been pushed aside by the Coronavirus.

Global heating and its associated disasters will kill far more people in the long run but COVID-19 is killing them now. There's no time for climate this year and last year's climate momentum will not automatically return when the virus is under control.

Momentum takes time to build and we are running out of time. There is no magical deliverance on the way and on balance the current health emergency is setting back the cause

of climate sanity, not advancing it.

Nevertheless, we can take some comfort from the fact that behavioural moulds are being broken all over the place and several generations are learning together that disruptive changes, even very big ones, can be accepted by most people if they understand the need.

A small example from my own trade: This column has appeared in newspapers all over the world for decades but the relentless retreat of the print media before the online onslaught has eaten deeply into the revenue base of the Press everywhere.

Many papers have died, almost all have downsized, and that hit my own income hard. My solution was to do more speaking engagements, which involved more time away from my real job and a lot more trav-

el. No show, no dough, so I did it — but then came Coronavirus, social distancing and a temporary halt to air travel. End of that solution. What to do next?

So I put my talks on video and offered them to the usual suspects — universities, schools, libraries, conference organisers — saying I could do a live Q&A session afterwards on some web-hosting site for the widely distributed audience. They would never have accepted that arrangement two months ago. Now there is no alternative, so we're back in business. Some of this business will go back to the old model when normal service is restored but I suspect quite a lot of it will not.

This is happening all across the business world and will mean permanent, significant change: More work-

ing from home, less commuting, more teleconferencing, less travel. And lower greenhouse gas emissions. Another positive change coming out of this emergency is that we are finally beginning to take a chunk out of our biggest problem: our heavy dependence on oil. Coal, the dirtiest of the fossil fuels, has been declining fast as an energy source for years in most places but oil, the second-worst fossil fuel, just kept going up.

In January the world was pumping and burning 100 million oil barrels per day (BPD). That is about two litres a day for every man, woman and child on the planet.

Demand this month has fallen to 70 million BPD and while some of it will return when the Coronavirus is contained, it will probably never see 100 million again. The inexorable

decline of oil has begun.

But those are about the only bright spots. This year is forecast to be the hottest-ever and the major climate summit that was scheduled for November has been postponed until next year. Total annual emissions may be down by a few percentage points this year but most of the decline is only temporary.

Do not despair. The planet is now hot enough to produce several major local calamities every year, so we'll quickly get re-motivated to worry about global heating once the current emergency is past. Although probably not fast enough to save us from having to resort to geo-engineering by the 2030s.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work')

US Intel: Coronavirus not manmade, still studying lab theory

AP ■ WASHINGTON
US Intelligence agencies have concluded that the new coronavirus was "not manmade or genetically modified" but say they are still examining whether the origins of the pandemic trace to contact with infected animals or an accident at a Chinese lab.

National Intelligence, the clearinghouse for the web of U.S. spy agencies, comes as President Donald Trump and his allies have touted the as-yet-unproven theory that an infectious disease lab in Wuhan, the epicenter of the Chinese outbreak, was the source of the global pandemic that has killed more than 220,000 worldwide. In recent days the Trump administration has sharpened its

rhetoric on China, accusing the geopolitical foe and vital trading partner of failing to act swiftly enough to sound the alarm to the world about the outbreak or to stop the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. The new statement says, "The Intelligence Community also concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not man-made or genetically modified."

"The IC will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan." Trump addressed the theory earlier this month, saying, "More and more, we're hearing the story," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo added, "The

mere fact that we don't know the answers — that China hasn't shared the answers — I think is very, very telling." Pompeo also pressed China to let outside experts into the lab "so that we can determine precisely where this virus began." While Trump and Pompeo have made public statements speculating about the lab, a U.S. intelligence official disputed the notion that there was any

pressure on agencies to bolster a particular theory. The intelligence official was not authorized to publicly discuss the issue and spoke only on condition of anonymity. Scientists say the virus arose naturally in bats. Even so, Pompeo and others have pointed fingers at an institute that is run by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It has done groundbreaking research tracing the

likely origins of the SARS virus, finding new bat viruses and discovering how they could jump to people. "We know that there is the Wuhan Institute of Virology just a handful of miles away from where the wet market was," Pompeo said two weeks ago. The institute has an address 8 miles, or 13 kilometers, from the market that is considered a possible source.

US officials said the American Embassy in Beijing flagged concerns about potential safety issues at the lab in Wuhan in 2018, but they have yet to find any evidence the virus originated there nearly two years later. The Chinese government said Thursday that any claims that the coronavirus was released from a laboratory are "unfounded and purely fabricated out of nothing."

Around the Globe

- Police were called to a Brooklyn neighborhood on Wednesday after a funeral home overwhelmed by the coronavirus resorted to storing dozens of bodies on ice in rented trucks, and a passerby complained about the smell, officials said. Investigators who responded to a 911 call found that the home had rented four trucks to hold about 50 corpses, according to a law enforcement official. No criminal charges were brought and the official, who was not authorised to speak publicly about the investigation, spoke to *The Associated Press* on condition of anonymity
- Zoom video conferencing app does not have 300 million daily active users, the company admitted on Thursday to the Verge, saying it "unintentionally" referred to daily meeting participants as users in a blog post. The Zoom blog from April 22, in which the video conferencing app announced a 50% jump in users over three weeks, has now been edited to say that the company had surpassed "300 million daily Zoom meeting participants" instead of "more than 300 million daily users"
- Germany's health minister has warned against significantly relaxing restrictions imposed to curb coronavirus infections, saying this could "recklessly" endanger the country's achievements in fighting the pandemic. In an op-ed on Thursday for daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Jens Spahn welcomed the public debate over loosening the lockdown. But he said that "especially because Germany has so far come through this crisis better than others it would be reckless to endanger this hard-won joint achievement"
- Clutching bags from designer boutiques in their gloved hands, customers are back at Dubai Mall, one of the world's largest shopping havens that has reopened under strict safeguards against coronavirus. At a main entrance where customers hand over their sports cars and luxury SUVs for valet parking, employees greet them with black T-shirts reading "Welcome back"
- The British Government has acknowledged that it may miss its self-imposed goal of conducting 100,000 tests for coronavirus a day by the end of Thursday. But officials insisted that the UK is rapidly expanding the country's testing capacity as it prepares to gradually ease a nationwide lockdown. The government has been criticized for failing to catch most cases of COVID-19 and now says wide-scale testing will be key to controlling the virus and lifting restrictions on business and daily life that were imposed more than a month ago. The government vowed to perform 1,00,000 tests a day by April 30

US VIRUS TOLL PASSES 60,000 MARKER

More than 2.3L fatalities globally

AGENCIES ■ WASHINGTON
Around 3,261,936 cases have been registered and 2,30,401 people have died from Covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. More than 1,030,709 people have recovered to date.

ly used the outer band of any estimate - the potential that 2.2 million Americans could have died had there been no interventions — to try to make his case most powerfully. The US death toll from Covid-19 is certain to keep growing from here. And, like the unemployment rate, the numbers also will be revised- and likely upward, due to underreporting. The focus on death tallies also overlooks other important markers such as immunity levels and infection rates.

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	1,076,089	62,335
Spain	2,39,639	24,543
Italy	2,05,463	27,967
France	1,66,420	24,087
UK	1,71,253	26,771
Germany	1,62,123	6,518
Iran	94,640	6,028
Turkey	1,20,204	3,174



years old and people who need someone's assistance to walk have a separate time period for going out.

Italy: Scientists are defending a controversial report warning of a new wave of critical coronavirus cases that prompted the Italian Government to keep schools closed until September and take a gradual approach to reopening.

US: US President Donald Trump likes to talk about the most, the best, the thing that nobody has ever seen. Now he is trying to make a virtue of a lower number, arguing that the efforts of his administration have warded off a far greater death toll than otherwise would have been seen. But the reported US death toll on Wednesday crept past 60,000, a figure that Trump in recent weeks had suggested might be the total death count. He had cited the estimate as a sign of relative success after the White House previously warned the U.S. Could suffer 1,00,000 to 2,40,000 deaths. Trump also has repeated-

become a father again at age 55, several months earlier than expected, and just weeks after he was taken to hospital with Covid-19. Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the UK is "past the peak" and "on a downward slope" in its coronavirus outbreak. In his first news conference in more than a month following his hospitalisation with Covid-19 and his subsequent recuperation, Johnson said he would be presenting a "comprehensive plan" next week about how and when the UK will ease the lockdown restrictions, which are due to last at least until May 7. Though he said it would

provide a "roadmap," Johnson is widely expected to extend the current lockdown further. **France:** France reported 427 more deaths from Covid-19 to push the total above 24,000 but it also saw new declines in the numbers of patients in hospital and intensive care. The total number of deaths in hospitals and nursing homes from the virus in France is now 24,087, the health ministry said in a statement. The daily count was slightly higher than the 367 deaths announced on Tuesday. But the latest figures confirmed the recent more optimistic trends

seen over the last days with 650 fewer coronavirus patients in hospital and 180 less in intensive care. **Spain:** Spain's health minister has announced strict conditions for a relaxation of movement and isolation measures from next Saturday. Health Minister Salvador Illa said Thursday that people can practice sports or go for walks with one other person from their home between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Team sports are not allowed, and people cannot go further than 1 kilometer from their home. People over 70

Russia: Russia's coronavirus caseload surpassed 1,00,000 on Thursday, with the number of deaths exceeding 1,000. Russian health officials reported a record daily spike of 7,099 new confirmed cases on Thursday morning, which brought the country's total to 106,498. The number of infections is likely to be much higher, as not everyone is being tested and many carry the disease without exhibiting any symptoms. The vast majority of Russian regions have been on lockdown since late March, with people ordered to stay at home and only essential businesses, such as grocery shops, pharmacies and banks, operating. Meanwhile, on late Thursday **Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin has tested positive for coronavirus.**

Italy: Scientists are defending a controversial report warning of a new wave of critical coronavirus cases that prompted the Italian Government to keep schools closed until September and take a gradual approach to reopening. The statistical models in the report estimate that Italy could see as many as 151,000 people in intensive care by June 8 if everything reopened, given the large number of possible contacts where infections could spread. Industrial groups have assailed the report's methodology, but its authors appeared at the Superior Institute of Health on Thursday to defend the findings. At the height of Italy's outbreak, the deadliest in Europe, there were a fraction of people in ICUs, slightly more than 4,000 for four days running March 31-April 3. Even that number, however, overwhelmed the health system in hardest-hit Lombardy.

TRUMP REMARK

Hope US won't drag us into its election politics: China

AGENCIES ■ BEIJING
China has no interest in interfering in the US presidential election, it said on Thursday, after US President Donald Trump said he believed Beijing would try to make him lose his re-election bid in November. "The US presidential election is an internal affair, we have no interest in interfering in it," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told

reporters during a daily briefing. "We hope the people of the US will not drag China into its election politics." In an interview for Reuters on Wednesday Trump said "China will do anything they can to have me lose this race", adding that he believed Beijing wants his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, to win the election to ease the pressure Trump has placed on China over trade and other issues.

Trump also said during the interview he was looking at different options in terms of consequences for Beijing over the coronavirus pandemic. He and other top officials have blamed China for COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus. It has infected more than 1 million Americans and has thrown the U.S. economy into a deep recession. "There are many things I can do," Trump told Reuters.

"We're looking for what happened." Geng reiterated during Thursday's briefing that China was a victim of the epidemic and not its accomplice, adding that attempts by "certain politicians" to shift the blame away from their poor handling of the outbreak to Beijing would only "expose the problems of the US itself." "The US should know this: the enemy is the virus, not China," he said.

China's battle against coronavirus major strategic achievement: Xi

PTI ■ BEIJING
Chinese President Xi Jinping has termed China's battle against COVID-19 as a major strategic achievement, as the ruling Communist Party is all set to hold the postponed Parliament session on May 22 amid a steady decline in the coronavirus cases. China's National Health Commission (NHC) on Thursday said the country reported only four new confirmed COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, taking the total number to 82,862, while no death due to the disease was registered. The virus has claimed 4,633 lives in the country. China's arduous efforts to contain the coronavirus have brought a decisive outcome to the fight of defending Hubei and its capital city Wuhan, Xi told a high-powered Central Committee meeting of the ruling Communist Party of China

(CPC) on Wednesday. The nationwide battle against the epidemic has gained major strategic achievements, the state-run Xinhua news agency quoted Xi as saying. Xi said Hubei, including Wuhan, should continue strengthening community-level epidemic prevention and control. He asked officials to make efforts to contain the virus case at Heilongjiang Province bordering Russia, where a large number of Chinese returning from Russian cities were tested positive for coronavirus. The meeting emphasised the need to accelerate work resumption and business reopening, help companies especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises address difficulties, and promote the recovery of pillar industries such as auto manufacturing, electronic information, new materials and bio-medicine, the report said. The meeting stressed accel-

erating farm production and expanding sales channels for agricultural products to boost income for farmers. The Hubei province and its capital Wuhan — where the COVID-19 first emerged in December last year — were the epicentres of the deadly virus, which later turned into a pandemic, bringing the world to a standstill. The COVID-19 pandemic continues its explosive growth overseas, Xi said, noting the mounting pressure to prevent imported infections and the growing complexity of stemming domestic epidemic resurgence. Xi demanded no relaxation in epidemic control to safeguard the hard-earned achievements, the report said. According to the NHC, all the four COVID-19 patients reported on Wednesday were imported cases. The number of imported cases rose to 1,664, including 13 patients in severe condition, it said.



A member of the navy K-9 unit in protective gear leads his sniffer dog to check the belongings of crew members from the Carnival Splendor cruise ship after it arrived at Tanjung Priok Port in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday. Hundreds of Indonesians working on the cruise ship were tested for the coronavirus and will be quarantined for 14 days due to the global pandemic. AP

WHO leader: Europe still 'in grip' of virus

AP ■ GENEVA
The head of the World Health Organization's European office is warning the continent remains "in the grip" of the coronavirus pandemic even as about three-fourths of the region's countries are easing restrictive measures. Dr. Hans Kluge noted a reduction of cases in the region thanks to social distancing measures, adding: "We must monitor this positive development very closely." He said Italy, Britain, France, Germany and Spain still have high numbers of cases, and pointed to increases in cases in Belarus, Russia,

Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Of the 44 countries in WHO Europe's region that have enacted domestic restrictions, 21 have already started easing those measures and another 11 plan to do so in the coming days, Kluge said. "This virus is unforgiving. We must remain vigilant, persevere and be patient, ready to ramp up measures as and when needed," he said. "COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon." The European region accounts for 46 percent of cases and 63 percent of deaths globally," he added. "The region remains very much in the grip of this pandemic."

erating farm production and expanding sales channels for agricultural products to boost income for farmers. The Hubei province and its capital Wuhan — where the COVID-19 first emerged in December last year — were the epicentres of the deadly virus, which later turned into a pandemic, bringing the world to a standstill. The COVID-19 pandemic continues its explosive growth overseas, Xi said, noting the mounting pressure to prevent imported infections and the growing complexity of stemming domestic epidemic resurgence. Xi demanded no relaxation in epidemic control to safeguard the hard-earned achievements, the report said. According to the NHC, all the four COVID-19 patients reported on Wednesday were imported cases. The number of imported cases rose to 1,664, including 13 patients in severe condition, it said.

Philippines rejects China's territorial label on island

AP ■ MANILA
The Philippines protested on Thursday China's designation of a disputed South China Sea reef, which it has turned into a heavily fortified island base, as a Chinese "administrative centre." The Department of Foreign Affairs issued a statement objecting to what it called China's "illegal designation" of Fiery Cross Reef as a regional administrative center in the hotly-contested Spratly archipelago. It's the latest in a series of disagreements in the sea as Asian nations grapple with the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused China last week of taking advantage of widespread distraction over

the pandemic to advance its territorial claims. "The Philippines calls on China to adhere to international law," the department said, reminding Beijing of a 2002 agreement that urged governments with rival claims in the sea to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions that would escalate the disputes and undermine regional stability. The Philippine government has protested China's self-declared territorial zones in the waters starting in 2012, with what it said was Beijing's "unlawful establishment" of a Sansha City covering much of the South China Sea. It said it "does not recognise Sansha nor its constituent units nor any subsequent acts

emanating from them." The Department of Foreign Affairs cited a July 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea on historical grounds. China refused to participate in the arbitration case, which was initiated by the Philippines, and refused to recognize the ruling. Last week, the Philippines protested China's establishment of two districts to administer two disputed groups of islands and reefs in the South China Sea. One district reportedly covers the Paracel islands and the other has jurisdiction over the Spratlys, where China has turned seven reefs, including Fiery Cross, into missile-protected island bases, including three with runways.

Akbaruddin to UN chief: I bow out with a Namaste to you

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS
India's outgoing Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin bid adieu to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres with a 'Namaste' in a virtual meeting. Akbaruddin had a virtual meeting with Guterres as he prepares to return to India. "Before I leave Secretary General, I have one last small request and that is in the Indian tradition, when we leave or when we meet, we don't stay hello or shake hand but we say Namaste. So before I end I want

to say Namaste to you and I hope if you can reciprocate," Akbaruddin said during his video conversation with Guterres, adding that "I bow out with a Namaste to you." Guterres, smiling, also responds with a Namaste, saying it three times. Akbaruddin had assumed charge as India's envoy to the UN in November, 2015. Seasoned diplomat TS Tirumurti, currently serving as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, was on Wednesday appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Russia slams US arguments for low-yield nukes

AP ■ MOSCOW
The Russian Foreign Ministry rejected US arguments for fielding low-yield nuclear warheads, warning that an attempt to use such weapons against Russia would trigger an all-out nuclear retaliation. The US State Department argued in a paper released last week that fitting the low-yield nuclear warheads to submarine-launched ballistic missiles would help counter potential new threats from Russia and China. It charged that Moscow in particular was pondering the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons as a way of coercion in a limited conflict — an assertion that Russia has repeatedly denied.

Indian-origin girl gets honour of naming NASA's first Mars helicopter

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
NASA's first Mars helicopter has a name now and the credit goes to 17-year-old Indian-origin girl Vaneesa Rupani. Rupani, a high school junior from Northport, Alabama, earned the honour of naming the helicopter after she submitted her essay into NASA's "Name the Rover" contest. Destined to become the first aircraft to attempt powered flight on another planet, NASA's Mars Helicopter officially named: Ingenuity, as suggested by Rupani. While NASA announced in March that its next rover would be named Perseverance

based on seventh-grader Alexander Mather's essay, the agency decided to also choose a name for the helicopter that will accompany the rover to Mars. "Our Mars helicopter has a new name! Meet: Ingenuity. Student Vaneesa Rupani came up with the name during our "name the rover" contest. Ingenuity will ride to the Red Planet with @NASAPersevere to attempt the first powered flight on another world," NASA tweeted. Rupani's entry was among 28,000 essays submitted by K-12 students from every US state and territory, according to NASA, which made the announcement on Wednesday.

Sensex soars 997 pts; Nifty tops 9,850 mark

Markets extend winning run for 4th day on F&O expiry, Covid drug trials

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex surged 997 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 9,850-level on Thursday as short-covering on expiry of F&O contracts and encouraging results from a Covid-19 drug trial in the US turbocharged sentiment.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 997.46 points or 3.05 per cent higher at 33,717.62.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty soared 306.55 points, or 3.21 per cent, to 9,859.90.

Global markets shrugged off US GDP contraction data after American pharma firm Gilead's remdesivir drug showed promising results in treating Covid-19 patients.

Further, a strengthening rupee and rising buzz of another stimulus package by the Government, focussed on industries, kept domestic investor sentiment positive, traders said.



ONCG was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 13.40 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, Hero MotoCorp, TCS, Maruti and Infosys. Shares of Reliance Industries and Tech Mahindra climbed around 3 per cent ahead of their earnings announcements, while HUL settled in the red.

Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Asian Paints too closed with losses of up to 2.72 per cent. During the holiday-shortened week, Sensex rallied 2390.40 points or 7.63 per cent, while Nifty Surged 705.50 points or 7.70 per cent.

Domestic financial markets will remain closed on Friday for 'Maharashtra Day'.

"The NSE Nifty 50 has posted its best monthly gain since April 2009, registering

gains of over 14 per cent. Buying was seen among huge volumes on weekly F&O expiry day with old economy stocks (including auto, oil & gas, metals) advancing well accompanied by IT stocks.

"Asian markets rose on Thursday, carried by optimism overnight on Wall Street that a new drug could help to treat Covid-19," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Research, HDFC Securities.

BSE metal index zoomed 8.27 per cent, followed by auto, IT, tech, oil and gas, basic materials, telecom and energy.

On the other hand, health-care and FMCG indices ended in the red. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices advanced up to 1.46 per cent.

On the global front, US GDP shrank 4.8 per cent in Q1

amid the coronavirus crisis, while Chinese factory activity expanded for the second straight month in April as the country resumed work after the lockdown.

Top US epidemiologist Anthony Fauci said that Gilead Sciences' remdesivir "has a clear-cut, significant, positive effect in diminishing the time to recovery". Bourses in Shanghai and Tokyo ended with significant gains, while those in Hong Kong and Seoul were closed for a holiday.

However, stock indices in Europe were trading on a tepid note in early deals after data showed the euro zone economy contracted 3.8 per cent in the first quarter.

International oil benchmark Brent crude futures rallied 9 per cent to USD 26.40 per barrel.

₹ zooms 57 paise to end at 75.09 against US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened by 57 paise to finish at a one-month high of 75.09 per US dollar on Thursday, buoyed by foreign fund inflows and a robust trend in the equity market.

The greenback weakening overseas and optimism over a Covid-19 drug trial in the US further supported the local unit, forex traders said.

Moreover, investor risk appetite is improving as India could relax lockdown restrictions in many areas from May 4, they added.

This is the fourth consecutive day of gain for the rupee, during which it has appreciated by 137 paise.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 75.17. During the session, it touched a high of 74.94 and a low of 75.20.

RECORD 1.10 MT FOODGRAIN LOADING IN 401 RAKES BY FEROPUR DIVISION

New Delhi: In its continues endeavor to ensure availability of essential commodities like food grain across the country through its freight & parcel services during the nationwide lock down due to Covid-19, despite severe constraints, Feropur Division of Northern railway has started the financial year 2020-21 with record breaking loading of food grains in the month of April -2020.

In this month, total 1.10 MT in 401 rakes of food grain has been loaded which is the highest ever in a month. Previous best was 1.05 MT or 362 rakes loaded in August -2016 and 1.03 MT or 365 rakes loaded in March -2015.

In addition to above, Feropur Division has also formed and run 61 long hauls Annapurna trains in the month of April -2020 which is also the highest ever in a month, surpassing the earlier record of 16 long hauls run in March-2020.

Greater Noida authority employees will wear crown of employment of month

Greater Noida: The authority has decided to honor its employees for motivating them to fulfill their duties in the fight against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) epidemic. Authority officials believe that



these employees have served the public by standing in the front line. Every month such employees will be crowned the Employees of the Month.

A new beginning has been made by the Chief Executive Officer. Under which the Authority honored the employees by announcing the Employment of Month every month to increase the efficiency of their officers and employees, making the works competitive, encouraging positive environment and efficiency of the work of the working and efficient officers and employees.

Jio Q4 net profit zooms 177 pc to ₹2,331 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio on Thursday posted 177.5 per cent year-on-year rise in net profit to ₹2,331 crore for the three months ended March 31, fuelled by rising subscriber base and recent tariff hike.

The net profit of Jio stood at ₹840 crore in the year ago period. Seen sequentially, the net profit grew 72.7 per cent when compared to ₹1,350 crore in December quarter (Q3FY20).

Jio's standalone revenue from operations for the fourth quarter stood at ₹14,835 crore, which translates into year-on-year growth of 26.6 per cent. Commenting on the Q4 results, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Limited said, "Jio is embarking on the next leg of growth with a path-defining partnership with one of the world's largest digital companies, Facebook".

"We are together determined to make India a truly digital society with best-in-class connectivity network complemented with disruptive digital technology platforms for entertainment, commerce, communication, finance, education and health harnessing world's best tech capabilities. Our focus will be India's 60 million micro, small and medium

Reliance posts 37% drop in Q4 profit, announces ₹53,125 cr rights issue

New Delhi: Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries on Thursday posted its biggest drop in quarterly net profit, even as it announced India's largest rights issue and said the Saudi Aramco deal was on track and more strategic investors have evinced interest in buying a stake in its digital platform.

Net profit in January-March slipped 37 per cent to ₹6,546 crore, the lowest in three years, as a rise in consumer-facing business was not enough to shield the firm from fall in the petrochemical business. The profit was also down due to one-off spending. The company's board approved a rights issue of ₹53,125 crore, which it said was the biggest in India and the first by RIL in three decades. "The price of rights issue has been determined at ₹1,257 per share and the share ratio at 1:15," the company said in a statement. **PTI**

NIP pegs road sector capex at ₹20.33 lakh cr by 2025

New Delhi: The task force on NIP has stressed the need for more private investment in highways and projected the total capital expenditure in road sector at ₹20.33 lakh crore in fiscals 2020-25.

To augment infrastructure and create jobs in the country, the Government task force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), which in its report projected total investment of ₹111 lakh crore in infra projects over five years, said that 18 per cent of the targeted investment is expected to be made in road sector.

"Approximately 18 per cent of ₹111 lakh crore investment targeted over fiscals 2020-25 is expected to be made in roads sector — bulk of it in augmenting road length and safety features," the final report of the task force on NIP for 2019-2025 presented to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

"Given ambitious target, increased private sector participation is critical," it added. Crediting Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for introducing comparatively de-risked models for private sector, like engineering procurement and construction and hybrid annuity model, task force said this could result in doubling of rate of construction of national highways since 2015. **PTI**

RELIANCE CUTS EMPLOYEES' SALARY BY 10-50%; AMBANI TO FORGO ENTIRE SALARY

New Delhi: With coronavirus lockdown hitting businesses hard, India's largest company Reliance Industries has decided to cut the salary of most of its employees by 10 to 50 per cent with firm's chairman and richest Indian Mukesh Ambani agreeing to forgo all his remuneration.

Also, the oil-to-technology conglomerate has deferred annual cash bonus and performance-linked incentives that are normally paid in the first quarter, according to an employee communicate.

The nationwide lockdown that began on March 25 had led to evaporation of demand as

businesses, 120 million farmers, 30 million small merchants and millions of small and medium enterprises in the informal sector," he said.

The standalone net profit stood at ₹2,331 crore, the company in a statement said, adding that there was exceptional item (income) during the

factory shut down, offices closed, air flights suspended, trains stopped and restrictions on the movement of people and goods placed.

Reliance's hydrocarbon business was adversely impacted due to a reduction in demand for refined products and petrochemicals. **PTI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Amit Oberoi, Gudania Bhatia Oberoi, Pran Nath Oberoi, A-117 Sector- 41, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c:- LBNOD0001978189	Flat No- 117, Block-A, Sector 41 Noida	13-Mar-2020, Rs.24,23,920/-	30-11-2019
2.	Krishan Kumar, Manju Rana, Kaur & Singh Projects & Constructions Pvt Ltd, House No 17/52 Siraspur, Samaipur, North West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004160610	Plot No 61, Third Floor Block G, Pocket 1, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.14,05,774/-	31-12-2019
3.	Krishan Kumar, Manju Rana, Kaur & Singh Projects & Constructions Pvt Ltd, Harish Chhikara, House No 17/52 Siraspur, Samaipur, North West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004160608	Plot No 61, Third Floor Block G, Pocket 1, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.27,17,848/-	31-12-2019
4.	Krishan Kumar, Manju Rana, Kaur & Singh Projects & Constructions Pvt Ltd, House No 17/52 Siraspur, Samaipur, North West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004160609	Plot No 61, Third Floor Block G, Pocket 1, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.24,02,898/-	31-12-2019
5.	Babli Sulanyia, Hemlata., H No: E- 82, Block E, Shahabad Dairy, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002384674	Flat No- 57, Fourth Floor, Dda Lig Flat, Block- B20, Pocket- 5, Sector- 35, Rohini, Delhi	27-Feb-2020, Rs.10,75,113.9/-	31/10/2019
6.	Ruchika., Dharmendra Shakya, H. No: 797, Gali No 17, Phase- 6, Near M P V School, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004111497	Flat No: 3j-1007, 10th Floor, Nilaya Greens, Khasra No.1015, 1023/1, 1023/2 And 1023 Min, Village Morta, Nh- 58, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	03-Mar-2020, Rs.16,79,118/-	30/11/2019
7.	Madhusudan Kumar, Flat No: C-1404, Divyansh Flora, GC- 2, Noida Extn, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c:- LBNOD00004837948	Flat No: 2102, Floor No- 21, Tower H, Future Estate, Plot No Gh-16E, Sector- 01, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03-Mar-2020, Rs.30,84,316/-	31/12/2019
8.	Rgf Holidays & Resorts India Pvt Ltd, Gulvendra Singh, Shah Nawaz Faisal, Gijresh Kumar Jha, Unit No- 418A, 4th Floor, Ring Road, Sec- 3, Magalam Place, Delhi, A/c:-LBDEL00002039123	Penthouse No: Ph-1, 13th And 14th Floor, Block No: OC- 9, Orange County, Plot No: Gh- 4, Ahinsa Khand 1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	03-Mar-2020, Rs.64,37,707/-	31/12/2019
9.	Arjun Dixit, Sandhya Dixit, Rupesh Dixit, H No- C-13/F, Dda Flats, Munrika J.N.U, South West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00003260576	DDA Built UP Mig Flat No: C-13/F, 2nd Floor, Munirka, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.37,00,924/-	30/11/2019
10.	Arjun Dixit, Rupesh Dixit, H No- C-13/F, DDA Flats, Munrika J.N.U, South West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004350148	DDA Built UP Mig Flat No: C-13/F, 2nd Floor, Munirka, Delhi	29-Feb-2020, Rs.16,43,706/-	30/11/2019
11.	Arjun Dixit, Rupesh Dixit, H No- C-13/F, DDA Flats, Munrika J.N.U, South West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004857771	DDA Built UP Mig Flat No: C-13/F, 2nd Floor, Munirka, Delhi	29-Feb-2020, Rs.11,15,816/-	30/11/2019
12.	ABU Zafar, Mohd Abullais, Jia Interiors And Contractor, D-105, Basti Khawaja Meer, Tagore Road, Civic Centre, Delhi, A/c:- LBFDB00004302331	Plot No- 634, First Floor, Surya Nagar, Phase- 2, Sector 91, Faridabad, Haryana	29-Feb-2020, Rs.39,62,193/-	31/12/2019
13.	ABU Zafar, Mohd Abullais, Jia Interiors And Contractor, H No- 634, First Floor, Sector 91, Surya Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana A/c:-LBFDB00004309531	Plot No- 634, First Floor, Surya Nagar, Phase- 2, Sector 91, Faridabad, Haryana	29-Feb-2020, Rs.9,83,833/-	31/12/2019
14.	Deverakonda Srinivas Swarna, 004, Victoria, Tower- B, Grand Omaxe, Sector-93 B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c:- LBDEL00004071475	Flat No- 004, Ground Floor, Tower Victoria, Block- B, Grand Omaxe, Situated At Plot No- 01, 02, 03, Sector- 93B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	29-Feb-2020, Rs.42,44,799/-	31/12/2019
15.	Deverakonda Srinivas Swarna, 004, Victoria, Tower- B, Grand Omaxe, Sector- 93 B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c:- LBDEL00004123592	Flat No- 004, Ground Floor, Tower Victoria, Block- B, Grand Omaxe, Situated At Plot No- 01, 02, 03, Sector- 93B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	29-Feb-2020, Rs.14,78,465/-	31/12/2019
16.	Himanshu Aggarwal, Asha., A- 1/52, Sector 07, Near M2K Narela, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002855194	Flat No: P- 040403, 4th Floor, The Petioles, Crescent Parc Green Parc II, Situated At Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sec- 92, Gurgaon, Haryana	29-Feb-2020, Rs.1,02,02,099/-	31/12/2019
17.	Himanshu Aggarwal, Asha., A- 1/52, Sector 07, Near M2K Narela, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002882867	Flat No: P- 040403, 4th Floor, The Petioles, Crescent Parc Green Parc II, Situated At Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sec- 92, Gurgaon, Haryana	29-Feb-2020, Rs.93,497/-	31/12/2019
18.	Anil Goswami, Orosilver Joaillerie Pvt. Ltd., G- 305 Sai Baba Apartment, Sector 9 Rohini, Delhi, Rohini A/c:- LBDEL00001912672	Flat No A- 073, Tower A 7th Floor, Sec- 35, Village Jatheri, Sonepat, Max Heights Metro View Apartment, Sonepat	15-Feb-2020, Rs.43,01,038.3/-	31/10/2019
19.	Vinay Dhillon, Bhawna Dhillon, Neelam Goswami, Unit No- 0704, Blk-63, Tampines Avenue- 1, Pincode- 529777, Singapore, Singapore, A/c:- LBDEL00002114750	Flat No A- 084, 8th Floor, Raheja's Revanta, Village Shikhopur, Sector- 78, Gurgaon	15-Feb-2020, Rs.1,07,99,918/-	31/10/2019
20.	Deepak Wadhwa, Alka Wadhwa, C- 3A/76 B, Janak Puri Delhi, Delhi, New Delhi A/c:- LBDEL00002155176	Flat No 002, Ground Floor, Raheja Revanta, Tower A, Village Shikhopur, Sector 78, Gurgaon, Haryana	15-Feb-2020, Rs.1,27,68,450/-	31/10/2019
21.	Shailendra Kumar Agrawal, Sunita Agrawal, Gaurav Agrawal, D-1009 S/f New Friends Colony Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002853603	Flat No C- 1703, 17th Floor, Tower- T2, The Center Court, Sector- 88A, Dwarka Express Way, Gurgaon	15-Feb-2020, Rs.1,23,32,127/-	30/11/2019
22.	Nameeta Bansal, Arjun Bansal, 06 Ab CBD Pluit Apt Tower, Cemara Pluitpjenjaringan, Jakarta, Indonesia, Cilandak, A/c:-LBDEL00002927471	Flat No A-501, 5th Floor, Meghdutam Encore, Sports City, Plot No Gh 05, Sector- Adjoining Techzone IV, Greater Noida (West)	15-Feb-2020, Rs.51,99,343/-	31/10/2019
23.	Harish Manghwani, Rajani Harish Manghwani, Mudit Mansion 3rd Floor, 302 Pal Lank Road, Jodhpur, Rajasthan A/c:- LBDEL00003058498	Flat No- 801, 8th Floor, Tower 9, Sunworld Arista, Plot- Gh 01/C, Sector 168, Noida- 201301	15-Feb-2020, Rs.74,74,779/-	30/11/2019
24.	Vinod Kumar, Pankaj Kherajani, D 111 Shashtri Nagar Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Jodhpur, A/c:- LBDEL00003058500	Flat No 802, 8th Floor, Tower 9, Sunworld Arista, Plot- Gh 01/C, Sector 168, Noida- 201301	15-Feb-2020, Rs.74,74,779/-	30/11/2019
25.	Pankaj Kherajani, Khushboo R Vaghanni, D 111 Shashtri Nagar Jodhpur, Rajasthan A/c:- LBDEL00003059637	Flat No- 901, 9th Floor, Tower 9, Sunworld Arista, Plot- Gh 01/C, Sector 168, Noida- 201301	15-Feb-2020, Rs.74,77,671/-	30/11/2019
26.	Manish Rangwani, Vaneeta Rangwani, H- 95 Shastri Nagar, Rajasthan, Jodhpur, A/c:- LBDEL00003155093	Flat No 1001,10th Floor, Tower 9, Sunworld Arista, Plot- Gh 01/C, Sector 168, Noida- 201301	15-Feb-2020, Rs.74,80,917/-	30/11/2019
27.	Vaibhav Ramashankar Sharma, Puja Sharma, E-4- 1405 Rutu Towers, Patli Pada, Ghodbandur Road, Thane, Maharashtra A/c:- LBDEL00003271965	Flat No- 906, 9th Floor, Meghdutam Encore, Tower A, Sports City, Sector- A, Adjoining Techzone- IV, Plot No Gh- 05, Greater Noida (west)	15-Feb-2020, Rs.50,17,870/-	31/10/2019
28.	Anil Gupta, Bimla Gupta, Seema Gupta, A-2/3 1st Floor, Sector 3, Rohini Rajapur Kalan, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00003276741	Plot No A-2/3, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor, 3rd Floor, With Roof Right, Sec 3, Rajapur Kalan, Rohini	15-Feb-2020, Rs.1,62,00,827/-	30/09/2018
29.	Om Shankar Pandey, Niharika Pandey, B 18 F/F Kh No 14 Gali No 2, Kotla Village Mayor Vihar Ph 1, Delhi, A/c:- LBGUR00002120801	Flat No A- 8, B03, Tower A, Spring View Floors, Crescent Parc Township, Nh 24, Ghaziabad	15-Feb-2020, Rs.45,62,973/-	30/11/2019
30.	Amit Kumar Meena, Nisha Jharwal, H. No 315 Sec-23 Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon, A/c:- LBGUR00002145465	A- 3102, First Floor, Spring View Floors, New Indrapuram, Nh 24, Ghaziabad	15-Feb-2020, Rs.50,40,817/-	30/11/2019
31.	Satbir Singh, Renu Sharma, H No 176 Gali No 19, Ashok Vihar Gurgaon, Gali No 19, Ashok Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana A/c:- LBGUR00002878618	Plot No- E- 85, Raheja Aranya City, Sohna, Sec-11 And 14, Gurgaon	15-Feb-2020, Rs.96,92,963/-	30/11/2019
32.	Pankaj Kumar, Shilpi Verma, H No C1101 Castle Eldeco, Green Meadows Sector Pi, Greater Noida Surajpur, Noida, 201306, Greater Noida Surajpur, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh A/c:- LBGUR00002957235	Flat No E- P2, Tower E, Aakriti Shanti Niketan, Gh 01- B, Sec 143, Noida	15-Feb-2020, Rs.1,42,46,891/-	30/11/2019
33.	Yogendra Singh, Deepak Singh, C/o Abhay Chhedi Singh Gha 127 Gf. Jp City Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBGUR00003201640	Flat No 1303, 13th Floor, Block B, Sector- 3, JNC Greenwoods, Ghaziabad	15-Feb-2020, Rs.45,27,294/-	31/10/2019
34.	Yogesh Yadav, Anubhav Arya, M-13 Phase- 4, Prem Nagar Nagafgarh, New Delhi, Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBGUR00004269105	As Per Annexure	21-Feb-2020, Rs.3,16,24,212.97/-	30/11/2019
35.	Aman Yadav, Bhagyshri Yadav, H. No.- A- 3 301, Avalon Garden, Bhiwadi, Alwar Rajasthan, 301019, Bhiwadi, Alwar, Rajasthan A/c:-LBGUR00004309617	Flat No 0303, 3rd Floor Civi, Tech Stadia, Tower 10, CHD Vann, Sector- 71, Gurgaon And Or Flat No CVN- T- 10-03/04, 3rd Floor, CHD Vann, Sector- 71, Gurgaon	15-Feb-2020, Rs.88,68,249/-	30/11/2019
36.	Kamlesh Gupta, Anshul Gupta, A-167 Sanjay Nagar, Altic Sector-23, Matiala Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201002, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c:-LBGUR00004590041	Flat No- F- 101, 1st Floor, Tower F, Ninex City, Sector 76, Gurgaon	15-Feb-2020, Rs.1,04,59,995/-	30/11/2019
37.	Anant Srivastava, Suman Srivastava, 183 SFS Flats Sector-1 Pocket- 1 Dwarka New Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, Delhi, A/c:-LBNOD00002303052	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, Block- C, Antriksh Golf View- II, Plot Gh- 04 B, Sector 78, Noida	15-Feb-2020, Rs.67,08,364/-	30/11/2019
38.	Rohit Sharma, Vimla, D-13/1 East Arjun Nagar Lohri Colony Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBNOD00004221992	Flat No 2404, Floor No 24, Tower F, Supertech Hues, Revenue Estate, Village Badshahpur, Sector 68, Gurgaon- 122001	15-Feb-2020, Rs.62,08,384.99/-	31/10/2019

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: 01-05-2020
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

UJVN Limited (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "Ujjwal" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006.
Telephones:- 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

Tender Notice
The office of Executive Engineer (Gen.), Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested firms for following work/supply:
NIT No- 04/EE (Gen)/MB-II/2020-21: Electrification and Illumination work of surge shaft of Dharasu Power House.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 1549974/- (GST Extra)
Earnest Money : Rs. 46500/-
Tender Document Fee : Rs 1180/-

Last date of downloading the tender - 21.05.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs
Last date of submitting the tender - 21.05.2020 up to 15:30 Hrs.
Due date for opening the tender - 24.05.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.

For eligibility criteria and fuller & further details kindly visit our website www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com. Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for further details, subsequent addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation etc.

Executive Engineer (Generation)
पत्र सं. 254, दिनांक: 29.04.2020 "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th Floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008 invites E-tender as per following details

Sr. No.	Executive	Tender Notice No & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work ₹	EMD ₹
1	Sr.DEN (North)BCT	BCT/20-21/50 dt 29/04/2020	Virar-Surat Section- ADEN/Valsad (i) TRR(P)=7.274km TSR(P)=7.683. (ii) Thick Web Switch Renewal (iii) Casual renewal of rails for a section under ADEN-BL (iv) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN/Valsad Section.	3,27,38,108.47	3,13,700.00
2	Sr.DEN (North)BCT	BCT/20-21/51 dt 29/04/2020	Virar-Surat Section - ADEN/Valsad (i) Complete Track Renewal of existing 60kg rails on PRC sleepers at 1650 No.km including deep screening and recoument of ballast to 300mm on various location i.e Total CTR(P)= 5.854km. CTR(S)=3.110kms. (ii) Deep Screening of P&C (iii) TFR=56.04km & TBR=4.523km (iv) Rectification of bad layouts and TBR of P&C by use of T-28, JCB, Crane etc under ADEN/Valsad Section.	3,16,55,349.83	3,08,300.00

Date & Time of Submission : For Sr. No. - 1, 2 On 28.05.2020 till 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of Opening** : For Sr. No. 1, 2 On 28.05.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

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Trend Glazer

'Perseverance is natural in me'

Actor ANUSHKA SHARMA turns 32 today. She opens up about how she believed in herself right from when she started out as a model at a young age of 15.

"Perseverance comes naturally to me. It's not something that you have to be hard on yourself for, it leads you. I can vouch for it," says Anushka.

She adds, "I think that's stuck with me as I was so young when I learn it from my father. He is a very wise man and has had a huge impression on my life."

Anushka says this advice helped her when she started out young as a model. "It was important for me to know all this because at 14-15, you are taking decisions for yourself."



'I am totally shellshocked. I don't think I am able to process my feelings and express them.'



This is a personal loss to me. He was such a happy person. Every time he was on sets, the entire studio would be buzzing. An artiste, an actor and a good human being like him is hard to find. The industry will be silent after Rishi Kapoor.

—Padmini Kolhapure

Veteran actors JEETENDRA and RISHI KAPOOR worked together in films such as Ghar ki Izzat, Badalte Rishitey and Khazana.



Hearing the news of Rishi's demise, Jeetendra said he had no words to talk about it.

"Don't have words right now to express the shock and intensity of emotion in my heart at this point. I've lost a friend, more a brother to me! Even though we met less frequently in the last few years, our friendship has always stood the test of time," he said.

Jeetendra's condolence message for Rishi has been posted by the former's son Tusshar Kapoor on social media.

John turns cook in quarantine

Musician JOHN LEGEND, who has belted out hits after hits like All of Me and Tonight, has turned to cooking amid lockdown due to the global outbreak of Coronavirus.

"(I'm) most responsible for cooking breakfast in my house, so I cook pancakes for my kids, I cook omelettes for me and Chrissy, waffles, French toast. Pretty much any kind of breakfast you can imagine - bacon, sausage, all that stuff I'm responsible for," he said on British singer-songwriter Jessie Ware's Table Manners podcast.



A QUIVER FULL OF ARROWS

RISHI KAPOOR was to the manner born. Coming from the first family of Bollywood, he was seen as a child in the iconic *Pyaar Hua Iqraar Hua* song and then as an adolescent in *Mera Naam Joker* before making his debut as the male lead in *Bobby*, which was quite the phenomenon in the 70s. Fast forward and the films came thick and fast, many opposite his favourite co-star and later wife, Neetu Singh nee Kapoor. One thing that was always marked in his films was his complete involvement with a musical instrument whenever he got the chance to play one on screen. Whether it was the *dafli* in *Sargam*, a medley of instruments in *Hum Kisise Kam Nahin* or the guitar in *Deewana* or drums in *Bol Radha Bol* or saxophone in *Karz* — his expression, of being totally engrossed in what seemed to be creating the perfect tune, was loved by the audience. One came to know much later that he was a part of a band called The Nuts as a youngster, a picture of which he had shared on Twitter. In his second innings, he was again paired with Neetu in the comic caper, *Do Dooni Char* but his most stellar work would be as the irrepensible granddad, Amarjeet Kapoor in *Kapoor & Sons* and patriarch Murad Ali Mohammad in *Mulk*. Both films ventured into uncharted territory, the first about a homosexual coming out to his family and the second about a Muslim family trying to reclaim its honour when one family member gets involved in terrorism.

His death coming a day after the stellar IRRFAN KHAN is certainly a blow to the lovers of Hindi films. Excerpts from an interview that was done at his residence at Krishna Raj on Mumbai's Pali Hill post *Agneepath* (2012) by RINKU GHOSH:

There's no doubt that you are a good actor but after *Agneepath*, which saw you transform into a villain for the first time, the buzz seems to have intensified. Does this belated spotlight bother you?

This has been the most intense week of my life, what with TV channels and newspapers lining up for interviews and the deluge of phone calls and greetings. And will you believe it when I tell you that I haven't watched the film as yet? It's not the attention, I have never sought it; it's the recognition from a diverse section of people beyond the fraternity, be it politicians, officials, rank outsiders and the common man. I was so moved when Indira Jaisingh, the former solicitor-general of India, called me up personally to tell me how much she enjoyed a TV interview of mine, so much so that she watched the film after it and had become a great fan. It was an interesting experience. (At this moment director Imtiaz Ali's father calls him up from Jamshedpur to compliment him for *Agneepath*). Such reactions make me feel great. And admittedly, I am on a high. I knew I had a meaty role but didn't know a catalyst character between the hero and anti-hero, played by two biggies like Hritik Roshan and Sanjay Dutt, would manage to leave a big impression.

Why do you think Rauf Lala has made such an impact because you role in a mixed bag of character-driven roles in your kitty recently?

People never expected Rishi Kapoor to turn a visceral villain on screen. I had done very little externally except the net vest, my hair, beard and the Kohl-rimmed eyes. The rest was my interpretation, my spontaneous emoting of what this character would do in real life. I never research, just rely on my instincts and my experiences. Rauf Lala doesn't depend on mannerisms, he is naturally evil. I do accept the fact that I am a reasonably good actor but this role has really worked wonders. If you ask me objectively, this has been a stand-out performance.

Over the years I have only been doing romantic films. Nobody gave me roles I could experiment with until now and I am thoroughly enjoying this phase of being challenged as an actor, as an artiste. Finally, I am reinventing myself and getting my due. There is growth of an actor, not a star. I am not saying all my roles are great but finally I am being able to do justice to them and it's fun to be on a rollercoaster ride. Be it a Rauf Lala or the patriotic sardar in *Patiala House*, the harried producer Romi Rolly in *Luck By Chance* or Everyman in *Do Dooni Char*, an unimaginable variety is surfacing for me. Did you know so many people thought that it would never be possible for Rishi Kapoor to become Mr Duggal? But it seemed Mr Duggal couldn't have been more real. I am just humbled that all this has happened because my producers and directors have kept the faith.

How did you decide on each of these characters?

I always tell my producers that I do not want to play stereotypes, definitely not the typical father. The project must be of some interest to me so that I can bring something on the table. It is not going to be the lead but it must have some meat for me to chew on.

Rauf Lala wasn't in the original ver-

sion of *Agneepath*. Did that make it easy for you to accept?

I liked the role but I refused it because I wasn't sure I could carry it off convincingly. But the producer and director were very persistent, so I asked for a look test, the first in my 40 years of being in the film industry. Fortunately, the guidance of the new director, Karan Malhotra, and my own abilities helped me get the character right. I must give total credit to the director and producer for their foresight and confidence to cast me in the film despite my lover boy image. They could have taken any established villain but they voted for me. That was a great responsibility on my shoulder. Thankfully, the dividends paid off for them and me.

People are now saying you are experimenting with your son Ranbir in terms of performance...

Thankfully, I am glad to be part of a phase of Hindi cinema where both of us have a chance to push the envelope with each project.

How difficult was it to adjust your vision as a seasoned actor with that of the young filmmakers?

They young blood has brought in fresh thinking with boldness and conviction. Who would have thought of putting a Rauf Lala in the middle of what is essentially a David versus Goliath battle? And he conceived him thinking of me. Karan took the skeleton of the old film and filled it up again beautifully. These youngsters are never tired, willing to experiment and keen to work with old actors too. They are a blend of tradition and modernity. Older directors are stagnating because they refuse to think out of the box, challenge the viewer. Rather they want to play it safe, repeating the formula of their once successful films.

Young men like Karan Malhotra have a great respect for seniors like us and at the same time are very straight forward and adamant about what they want. Even Habib Faisal debuted as a director with *Do Dooni Char*. It's great that both my acclaimed performances have been with first time directors.

But you had to be malleable too?

If you are an actor true to your craft, you can adjust with anybody. Besides, I choose to work with only those whom I can gauge. When they come to me with their scripts, I can sense if they know their job or not.

Though you are not a method actor, would you say you have to put more thought into your characters now than before?

Well before I just had to run around trees, sing songs and wear jerseys. (I am just joking) We did have some good ones too but playing characters these days is certainly more interesting. The concept of hero has changed, he has many

layers to himself. So as leading man, Ranbir can develop his range given the different protagonists he has to play.

How would you analyse the maturing of audience sensibilities?

Of course, a lot has to do with economic growth where people are ready to spend ₹200 a ticket at a multiplex, which again is a single window for both big and small films. The sensibility of the person spending ₹200 is not the same as the man driving an auto. You could say multiplexes have widened the bandwidth and made it possible for filmmakers to address a diverse range of viewers. So now you have films like *Agneepath* which strikes the perfect balance between the front benches and balcony, one that straddles the single theatre and the multiplex.

Would you agree that small budget films are nudging experiments in the industry?

It's not only about the budget, it's about the ability to make a good film that makes commercial sense. I believe art is universal and there is nothing parallel or mainstream about it. There is only good cinema and bad cinema, nothing crossover or in-between. Just because you throw in a few English dialogues, doesn't mean you have crossed over to another genre or grammar. For 40 years of my life, I have been a commercial actor and when the viewer pays an entertainment tax, he earns the right to be entertained. Then I can't serve him a film that goes over his head.

If you want to make an artistic film, then send it to Doordarshan for a free telecast, the tax burden is not on you. Anyway, I find most so-called arthouse films boring and pretentious. Otherwise you would not have had brilliant actors like Om Puri, Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi going mainstream. Would you say they are not doing good cinema now? It is an art to sing, dance, fight or become a Rauf Lala. I am an artiste, a genius of these virtues...

Let's go back to your younger years, when you were growing up as scion of the Kapoor legacy... were you ever confused about what you wanted to be, an actor, director, a script writer maybe?

You are right, the influences of a film tradition were not only strong but ingrained in our psyche. It was like a lifelong internship at the Kapoor Institute of film-making. By age 10, all of us knew how to make a film, we had been exposed to every aspect of filmmaking. Unconsciously, you become a product of your envi-

ronment and you feel you have to do something with films. Acting came naturally to me. Besides, Lady Luck favoured me because I was accepted as a romantic hero for 25 years and was a top star of my time. Acting has remained a joyride. I thank God I have been able to contribute to our family legacy and hope that Ranbir will take it forward.

You have produced *Heena*, directed *Aa Ab Laut Chalein*. Why haven't you considered making a film under the RK banner?

Filmmaking is a full time job and I don't have the time as I am enjoying this phase of my acting career, probably my best. I am not saying never, I will definitely try my hand if I get a good script. But right now I am not in that space. I don't even want Ranbir to take up direction now; he is young, should concentrate on his acting and not jump puddles. As a father, I must respect the fact that you let your son find his way among the bushes...

My father did not interfere with my career either and I am the better for it. I have not guided Ranbir and that's why he is standing on his own feet. He has got to take the bouquet along with the brickbats.

How did his entry to films happen? Did he discuss it with you?

Though his growing up in a film family taught him a lot, Ranbir went to film school, the Lee Strasbourg Institute and is trained in all aspects of filmmaking. He came back, worked as an assistant to Sanjay Leela Bhansali and got his break. As a product of today's society thriving on the information highway, he doesn't really need my advice. Besides, we don't bring back or discuss work home. He is very close to his mother, talks to her but in the end he exactly knows what he is doing and takes his creative decisions. There is an appreciable growth in him. Though he is young, he has not been a college boy sitting in a canteen, he has done a *Rajneeti*, *Rocket Singh* and now *Rockstar*.

These days, there is an entire image-building machinery around an actor, one that ensures his brand value and a media profile. How was it in your time?

Thankfully, my body of work has always spoken for me and I have never needed that kind of a media profile or projection. You have come to interview me, I never asked my PR to organise it. We Kapoors have never lobbied for awards and have been happy entertaining the *aam janta*. I have never lobbied for recognition and it has been 40 years. People who are not even 40 years old have been awarded by the government. The government never cared for the Kapoors and well, we also don't give a damn. We are here by the masses, of the masses and for the masses.

Of course, the platform has become so huge these days that stars are under constant pressure to sell themselves all the time. This has taken a toll on today's actors, they are working lesser, may be just two films a year. We worked in four films a year.

With easier revenue, visibility and endorsements, they are invading your consciousness every day. In our time, there were just

Doordarshan and hoardings. We did up to four films a year, generated employment in the industry, ensured revenue for everybody, endorsed the worker. Now all our technicians are looking for rehabilitation in the television industry.

Any roles that you might want to look back with satisfaction?

As an actor, I don't want to dwell in the past and bask in the glory of what I have done. I look forward, want to be encouraged and prodded to do much more than I am capable of. I don't want to stop. I have a quiver full of arrows, each different from the other and I'd like to hit the eye with each of them.

What kind of projects are you busy with now?

I have done my first slapstick role in Sajid Khan's *Housefull 2*, which will be releasing in April. I have done Karan Johar's *Student of the Year*, where I will be playing a gay Dean, who is very subtle. I will be appearing in a remake of *Chashme Buddoor* with Lilette Dubey. It is a modern version of the old film where I will be playing the character of Saeed Jaffery. I will be teaming up with Amitabh Bachchan after many years in Sudhir Mishra's *Mehrunissa*, a story about two friends who fall out over a girl and do not talk to each other for 39 years. Then there is a mature spin on a *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* type bonding with Naseeruddin Shah and Boman Irani.

So you have a hectic pace?

Not really, I am no longer the leading man who has to give 60 days. A character actor can work in short bursts. Of course, there is a lot of travelling.

In your time, every actor, be it a man or woman, had a personality. Today everybody looks factory made... your comments.

Actors today are very image-driven and have intelligently carved such constituencies for themselves that they have managed to last 15-20 years. Nobody is a complete package. More so among the leading ladies. From 16 to 35, they all look clones, the make-up, hairstyle and the look are the same. Sadly, we haven't had a good actor since Sridevi, who had terrific star value as well. Of course, there was Rekha. Today you define actresses by what they lack, somebody has sex appeal, somebody knows acting, somebody looks good... Nobody is everything.

So when do we see you with Neetu ji again?

She is very reluctant about coming back and it is my insistence that made her take up *Do Dooni Char*. I did that because the role was a custom fit for her.

So what do you do in your spare time?

I like to relax, watch TV, I am not a great reader but I follow newspapers and news television. I play Literati, a form of scrabble online; I have played over 15,000 games.

What about social media?

Well, I exist on Facebook but will be the last guy to sign up for Twitter. When I do not even open up to the Press, what am I going to talk about with the invisible world? (Well, he did join Twitter and owned it with his brand of wit and humour.)



CELEB CHEFS TO THE RESCUE

Culinary artistes across the globe are uniting to feed the hungry and help bleeding restaurants

When Jose Andres first came to New York City, the wide-eyed sailor in the Spanish navy docked on West 30th Street full of ambition. Decades later, the award-winning chef has an upscale food hall on that very street and will serve 40,000 meals this week across the city where he built his dreams, and which is now the US epicenter of the Coronavirus.

Andres, whose restaurants in the United States include The Bazaar, Jaleo and the two Michelin-starred Somni, founded World Central Kitchen in 2010. It has served over 15 million meals worldwide after hurricanes, wildfires and other disasters.

Since the pandemic, his organisation has served more than 7,50,000 meals from Miami and Los Angeles to Little Rock, Arkansas and Fairfax, Virginia. It works out of places like libraries, food trucks and shuttered restaurants, feeding 125 hospitals, students in school lunch programmes and even quarantined cruise ship passengers.

Andres has amassed an A-list network around the world, relying on celebrity chef pals including Rachael Ray, Guy Fieri and Marcus Samuelson to feed the hungry and buoy the humble restaurant kitchens across America where many started their careers.

"I'm in debt to America... That's the best I can give because America gave me a home. America gave me opportunity," Andres said.

In New York City, he set up a cafe to serve the Mount Sinai field hospital in Central Park. In Harlem, he's using *Chopped* TV judge Samuelsson's Red Rooster restaurant to feed families.

Samuelsson's Miami restaurant hasn't opened to the public yet, but instead of leaving it empty, he turned it over to World Central Kitchen. They are serving sandwiches and salads there to laid-off hospitality workers, homeless residents and Uber drivers.

Even in crisis, these top chefs aren't serving bland porridge.



Recent meals at senior centres in Washington DC, included creamy tomato pasta with spring vegetables, and cilantro rice bowls with spiced chickpeas and spinach topped with citrus vinaigrette and crispy tortillas.

Andres was among the first to close his restaurants, hoping to create a blueprint for chefs around the world on how to use their restaurants and employ workers while feeding the hungry. "This operation is growing every day," he said. "We want to put America to work in the process of feeding America."

In California, Fieri is on standby, ready with a 48-foot-long (15-meter-long) rescue kitchen and support team. "Guy is ready to go," Andres said. "This is like war. You need to have troops ready for action." Fieri compared his longtime



friendship with Andres and other famous chefs to "playing in a band."

"When you hang out with generous, philanthropist warriors like Jose Andres, all you

want to do is go bigger, go better," said Fieri, who cooked alongside Andres during last year's California wildfires.

In the early days of the outbreak, Fieri, the TV host of

Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives, also wanted to do more. He bought \$50,000 in gift cards to support local restaurants. He sent dozens of personalised videos to CEOs from big food companies seeking donations.

His Restaurant Employee Relief Fund quickly raised \$10 million, with a goal of raising \$100 million, to offer \$500 grants for laid-off workers. The first checks were handed out last week.

"As diners, we're always the ones asking restaurants for help. We ask the servers to take special care of our tables, the bartenders to listen to our stories and the bussers to clean up our messes," Fieri said. He described the programme as "a big warm blanket, as if to say, 'Hey, we got you. It's our turn to help you for once.'"

Ray announced a \$4 million donation from her two charities. Half will go to feeding and nutritional programmes, including World Central Kitchen. The other half will support animal rescue, feeding and veterinary programmes.

"We are not a disaster relief fund by origin or desire but that's what we've become quite frankly in the last couple of years," she said.

Andres' organisation is one of the largest recipients. "He's just there around the clock all over the planet and I love Jose. I'm so devoted to him," Ray said from her home in upstate New York.

In Minnesota, chef Andrew Zimmern was among the first there to shutter his restaurants, fearing for his workers' safety. Next, he cobbled together the Independent Restaurant Coalition, hiring lobbyists to be a voice in Washington for restaurants, especially mom-and-pop ones. He noted that such restaurants are many people's first jobs, as teens, and are top employers of single moms and those transitioning from prison.

"We can't fail. (Restaurants) have to be open and ready to welcome their workers back," said Zimmern. "If we can't do that, it will be an economic and humanitarian cultural catastrophe."

—AP

Keep a track

Don't drink excessively during lockdown as it hampers decision-making besides having long and short term effects

While it may be lucrative to leisurely consume alcohol in excess during the lockdown, your body and mind can feel the health impact of it more than you would like.

"Research studies have suggested that people in the age group of 18-40 years are buying more alcohol than usual during these crisis. People are generally spending more money on liquor as they are likely to drink more to alleviate the stress they are feeling," Dr Anuneet Sabharwal, MBBS, MD Psychiatrist said.

However, the increase in drinking might be fun pastime but is likely to have both short and long term impact on the health and safety of individuals. In the short term, it may help people to calm themselves down or release some tension and stress but in the long term, it may lead to alcohol addiction or might negatively impact our immune system.

Alcohol consumption gone out of hand also puts families and communities at risk because researchers warn that heavy drinkers or people with a hangover have less ability to plan or set goals and make decisions the following day.

When hangover, individuals have a reduced ability to retain information in their short-term memory. For example, retaining a telephone number whilst taking a message at the same time. They also highlight impairments when it comes to individuals' ability to switch attention between tasks and focus on a goal.

Published in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, the study highlights the true impact of heavy drinking and provides new evidence as to why hangovers cost the wider economy so much.

A recent report, which involved the same team, found that hangovers cost the UK economy 1.4 billion pound a year in wasted productivity, including people working while hungover. "We know that hangovers can have a big economic cost but we did not know how hangover affects our ability to switch attention from one task to another, update information in our mind, and maintain focus on setting goals," said study lead author Craig Gunn from the University of Bath in the UK.

"Our study asked participants to complete tasks measuring these processes when they had a hangover and again when they had not consumed alcohol. The results suggest that all of these processes are impaired by a hangover, which could have consequences for other aspects of our lives," Gunn explained. The latest study involved thirty-five



18 to 30-year-olds who had reported experiencing a hangover at least once in the past month. Individuals completed measures which assessed their ability to switch attention between tasks, to update and process information from multiple sources and to guide and plan behaviour, whilst experiencing a hangover.

Few studies have explored how hangover affects key cognitive processes, the so-called 'core executive functions', which we use in daily life to planning, set goals and make decisions. "Our data shows that this impairment is likely the result of reduced capability in several core executive functions, which are important for tasks such as workplace performance and driving," said study senior author Dr Sally Adams.

As per Dr Sabharwal, these measures can be used to ensure mindful moderate and responsible drinking.

Keep a control

It is always suggested keeping control of your drinks. There are many ways to do it. For instance, you can use an app to calculate your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and alcohol-related caloric intake.

Don't drink past your "off" switch
In other words, it is suggested to stop drinking before you stop thinking.

Understand your heavy drinking triggers and plan ahead

Make a list of the people, places, and situations that have led to heavy drinking in the past, and try to avoid them.

Don't drink to self-medicate
People who use alcohol to self-medicate themselves tend to over-drink most of the times.

—JANS

R E C I P E S



CARROT CORN PANCAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Carrot (peeled and grated): 1 cup
- Corn (blanched): ¾ cup
- Whole wheat flour: 1 cup
- Onions (finely chopped): 1/3 cup
- Sandwich spread: 5 tbsp
- Coriander (finely chopped): ¼ cup
- Yogurt (whisked): 1/3 cup
- Eggs: 3
- Baking powder: 1 tsp
- Baking soda: ¼ tsp
- Green chillies (finely chopped): ½ tsp
- Butter as required
- Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

- In a large bowl, add eggs, yogurt and sandwich spread. Mix well. Add carrots, onions, chillies, corn and season with salt and pepper. Mix it well again.
- In another bowl, add flour, baking soda and baking powder. Blend it.
- Then put the dry flour mixture to the veggie-spread mixture. Mix to form a thick pancake batter. The batter should be of thick creamy consistency. Add coriander leaves and mix well.
- Heat flat griddle or pan. Grease it with little butter.
- Pour a ladle full of pan cake batter and cook for a couple of minutes.
- Gently flip to cook on the other side for another two to three minutes. Take the pancake off the heat. Repeat the same for the rest of the batter.
- Serve hot with Del Monte mint mayonnaise along the side.

Courtesy: Del Monte.



SUPER SEED SALAD

WHAT YOU NEED

- Mixed salad leaves
- Tomatoes (chopped)
- Vinaigrette
- Roasted sweet potato
- Cranberries
- Nourish Organics omega seed mix
- Nourish Organics pumpkin seed mix
- Nourish Organics active sunflower seeds
- Salt and pepper to taste

- Evenly drizzle vinaigrette over them.
- Add salt and black pepper as per taste. Mix it well.
- Your dish is ready.

Courtesy: Seema Jindla Jojodia, founder of Nourish Organics.

APPAM WITH KERALA VEGETABLE STEW

WHAT YOU NEED

For Kerala vegetable stew:

- Cauliflower: 100 gm
- Green peas: 100 gm
- Carrots: 100 gm
- Beans: 100 gm
- Slices onion: 50 gm
- Chopped ginger: 1 tbsp
- Chopped garlic: 1 tsp
- Green chillies: 2
- Coconut oil: 50 ml
- Coconut milk (thin): 300 ml
- Coconut milk (thick): 100 ml
- Curry leaves: 10
- Cloves: 5 gm



- Cinnamon: 5 gm
- Green cardamom: 5 gm
- Salt and pepper to taste

For appam:

- Ponni rice: 2 cups
- Cooked rice: 1/2 cup
- Coconut milk: 200 ml
- Yeast sachet: 5 gm
- Sugar: 5 gm
- Salt to taste
- All purpose flour: 5 gm
- Warm water: 30 ml

METHOD

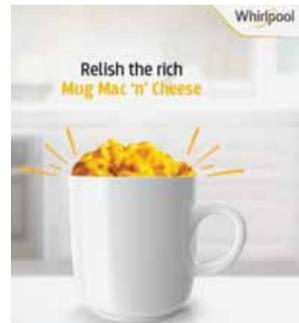
For Kerala vegetable stew:

- Heat coconut oil. Add whole spices — cinnamon, cloves, cardamom and black pepper.

METHOD

- Make batter using equal amount of corn flour, all-purpose flour, water, salt and white pepper.
- Now dip water chestnuts into the batter and fry them until crisp.
- Take some oil in a wok and once hot, put chopped ginger and garlic in it.
- Now add sweet chilli sauce, red chilli powder, salt, aromatic powder, pinch of sugar and white pepper powder.
- Then add the crispy fried chestnuts and toss them with the sauce.
- Garnish with spring onion and serve hot.

Courtesy: Chef Vinayak Gupta at BEEP, Agra.



MUG MAC 'N' CHEESE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pasta: ½ cup
- Water: ¾ cup
- Milk: 4 tbsp
- Corn starch: 1.4 tsp
- Grated cheddar: 4 tbsp
- Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

- Add pasta to a mug of water. Boil it for three minutes.
- Mix remaining ingredients in the mug.
- Microwave it for another 60 seconds. Serve it hot.

Courtesy: Whirlpool.

culture. Add to rice paste along with salt and coconut milk after the culture carbonates a bit. This is important for the texture of the appam.

● Blend the mixture together. Add water to the consistency.

● Pre heat a non-stick appam *chatti* and pour a ladle full of rice batter and rotate the pan around. The sides will be thin and center will have a bump.

● Cover the pan. Check after two minutes and remove. Sides should be crispy and center soft.

Courtesy: Chattynadu.

Labuschagne earns CA central contract

Burns, Agar, Wade too rewarded for their performances; Khawaja, Handscomb, Stoinis & Shaun Marsh out

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Senior batsmen Usman Khawaja and Shaun Marsh missed out but the fast-rising Marnus Labuschagne and Joe Burns were rewarded for their performances in Cricket Australia's annual player contracts announced on Thursday.

The list, which has come later than scheduled, features six new faces for the 2020-21 season — Mitchell Marsh, Ashton Agar, Burns, Labuschagne, Kane Richardson and Matthew Wade to the list.

"Marnus' rise has been meteoric and well-documented, Joe has been a good Test match player, Ashton Agar's form in T20 Internationals has been exceptional, while Kane Richardson has been outstanding in the 20-over and one-day games," Chief selector Trevor Hohns said in a statement.

Labuschagne has risen to No 3 in ICC rankings after making Test debut for Australia in 2018. In 14 Tests he has played, Labuschagne averages over 63 and has accumulated 1459 runs.

Burns averages over 50 in both Tests and ODIs. The 33-year-old Khawaja, who missed out for the first time in five years, didn't feature in any Test for Australia since losing his place after the third Test against England in August last year.

Besides Khawaja, Peter



(Left to right): Australian Test cricketers Marnus Labuschagne, Usman Khawaja and Joe Burns

Handscomb, Marcus Stoinis, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Marcus Harris, and Shaun Marsh were also not included as Cricket Australia named 20 players in its new centrally-contracted list.

"Matthew Wade's summer showed he is not only a tough but a good Test player for us. His form extended into white ball cricket late in the summer, earning him well deserved call-ups to the one-day and T20 Australian squads."

Talking about Mitchell

Marsh's inclusion, Hohns said: "After missing the list last year Mitch Marsh's recent form showed he has a lot of international cricket ahead of him as a batting all-rounder."

"Mitch proved this with his man of the match performance against New Zealand at the SCG in the last game Australia played and a five-wicket haul in the last Test match he played on the Ashes tour."

Players, who miss out on the

initial contract list, can be upgraded during the year by accruing 12 upgrade points with Tests worth five points, ODIs two points and T20s one point for men.

"...There are always plenty of opportunities for those who have missed out to be re-selected by performing consistently at domestic level; and importantly to make the most of any opportunity that comes their way at international level," Hohns said.

"As is always the case there are

Warner against saliva-ban for shining ball

MELBOURNE (PTI): Australian opener David Warner does not see the need to abolish the use of saliva to shine the ball when cricket resumes in the post Covid-19 world as he feels it is no more or no less risky than sharing the change room with fellow players.

"You're sharing change rooms and you're sharing everything else, I don't see why you have to change that," Warner told *cricket.Com.Au*.

"It's been going around for hundreds of years now, I can't recall anyone that's got sick by doing that. If you're going to contract a bug, I don't think it'd necessarily be just from that."

"I'm not too sure but it's not my place to comment on whether or not we should or shouldn't (use saliva to shine the ball). It's up to the ICC and the governing bodies to decide."

However, former fast bowler



David Warner during nets session

Shaun Tait believes it is important to be open about changes and the use of saliva could become a thing of the past.

"I've never been a huge fan of the saliva on the ball, it's not very nice really," Tait said.

"We have to open to some possible changes there." The subject of legalisation of ball tampering has led to divided opinions.

women's list having not played for the national side since 2017.

Fast-bowling all-rounder McGrath and young guns Tayla Vlaeminck and Annabel Sutherland are the new faces on the women's list, while Nicole Bolton, Elyse Villani and Erin Burns have missed out.

Every game I played for CSK gave me goosebumps: Tahir

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Veteran South Africa leg-spinner Imran Tahir said every time he turned up for Chennai Super Kings it gave him goosebumps and the family atmosphere in the IPL team is something which he has never got anywhere else.

"Every game I played for CSK gave me goosebumps, a really special feeling about it... We play so well as a team," he was quoted as saying on the CSK website.

"We just try to play as hard as we can and win as many games as possible for CSK, enjoy each other's success and that's what makes Chennai such a special team," he said about the three-time IPL winner.

Tahir, who joined the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led team in 2018, said the day he put on the CSK cap was one of the special moments of his life.

"The day I put on the Chennai Super Kings cap was one of the special moments of my life. I never knew I was going to be around special people and (be part) of a special squad," he added.

The 41-year-old South African, winner of the purple cap (prize for highest wicket-taker in IPL) in 2019 season, said the family atmosphere in the team makes it special.

"It's a family really, and I never really felt that in any other franchise anywhere. It's very special, not just to me but close to my family's heart as well. My son always sings the CSK song when he is at the ground and when I am playing for Chennai. He just loves it," Tahir added.

The veteran leggie also fondly remembered the open-top bus parade in the run-up to the 2018 season, when the franchise returned after a two-year ban from IPL.

"Unreal to see the support the fans gave us, it was amazing, something that I'd never witnessed before in my life. Grateful to everyone who supports CSK," he said.



Moeen eager for 'fresh start' after ending Test exile

AFP ■ LONDON

Moeen Ali is keen to make a "fresh start" and regain his place in England's Test side after ending his self-imposed exile from the five-day game.

The off-spinning all-rounder was dropped by England following a poor display in last year's Ashes opener and then lost his England central contract.

Moeen then decided to take a break from Test cricket that saw him miss series in New Zealand and South Africa.

He also made himself unavailable for this year's tour of Sri Lanka, cut short before the internationals by the coronavirus, even though he'd taken 18 wickets at an impressive average of 24.5 during England's last visit to the island 18 months ago. But now, with 181 wickets in 60 Tests behind him, Moeen is ready to fight for his place in Joe Root's XI once again despite the competition from the likes of fellow spinners Jack Leach and Dom Bess.

"For sure if I got the call tomorrow to play I would definitely put my hand up," Moeen told reporters via video link.

"I will be available to play any

Hundred postponed to 2021

LONDON: English cricket's controversial new Hundred competition has been delayed until 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic, cricket chiefs announced on Thursday.

The new 100-balls-per-side format, to be played by eight franchises rather than the established 18 first-class counties, had been due to start in July.

But with the English season delayed until at least July 1 and matches after that likely to be played behind closed doors, the England and Wales Cricket Board has decided to hold the Hundred

cricket now. I still back myself to get back into the side at some stage."

Moeen, 32, had previously spoken of how he felt he'd been made a scapegoat for England defeats but he stressed his mood was now far more positive after a break from Test duty.

"I absolutely love Test

over until next year. "The situation we find ourselves in as a country means that delivery of the Hundred will not be possible this summer," ECB chief executive Tom Harrison in a statement.

"Whilst we are naturally disappointed that we won't get to realise our ambitions this year, the Hundred will go ahead in 2021 when we are safely able to deliver everything we intended to help grow the game."

The ECB's statement said playing the Hundred behind closed doors was not an option because an event with no fans "directly contradicts the competition's goal to attract a broader audience."

cricket and I just almost had a fresh start and that's hopefully what has happened over the last year or so, it's probably made me a better bowler. It's put me in a better mindset.

"I don't want to keep going on about it now, I just want to move forward and try to enjoy my cricket again."

Moeen, a member of England's victorious 2019 World Cup squad, continued to play limited overs internationals during his Test absence.

No Olympic qualifiers in 2020: World Archery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The World Archery on Thursday decided not to hold any Olympic qualifying event this year in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and also froze the world rankings.

The world body also extended the suspension of all international competitions till the end of August. It, however, is hoping to start competitions (not Olympic qualifiers) before the end of the year.

Accordingly, a draft calendar for the last few months of the year has been prepared.

"No further Olympic qualification events will take place in 2020. They will be scheduled in 2021. The world rankings will remain frozen," the WA said in a statement.

The suspension of international competition was up to April 30 initially but it was extended to June 30 later,

before Thursday decision to implement it till August 31.

The world body

also said no new event will be announced with less than two months notice.

Legendary footballer Chuni Goswami no more

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Subimal Chuni Goswami, one of India's sporting giants who captained the 1962 Asian Games Gold-winning football team and also played first-class cricket, died here on Thursday after suffering a cardiac arrest.

The versatile sports veteran was 82 and is survived by his wife Basanti and son Sudipto. "He suffered a cardiac arrest and died at the nursing home at around 5pm. He was brought here for a routine check-up," Sudipto said.



Subimal Chuni Goswami

Goswami was also battling underlying ailments, including sugar, and prostate and nerve problems. Goswami needed insulin daily and due to the lockdown, his medical super-

visor was not able to attend to him regularly, forcing his wife Basanti to administer the medicine.

The former striker played 50 international matches, 36 of them official, between 1956 and 1964, including the 1960 Olympics in Rome. He netted 13 goals during his international career.

During his cricket stint, he represented Bengal in 46 first-class games between 1962 and 1973. A right-handed middle order batsman, Goswami could also bowl medium pace and was a very good fielder.

Football's return 'good for everyone': Mourinho



Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho

Spurs/Twitter

Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho believes bringing football back, even behind closed doors, would be a much-needed morale boost for fans starved of action during the coronavirus crisis.

No Premier League games have been played since March 9 due to the pandemic.

England's top-flight clubs are due to meet on Friday with *Project Restart* at the top of their agenda. They will discuss how they can complete the season despite the logistical difficulties.

"I miss football," Mourinho told *Sky Sports* from the Tottenham Hotspur stadium, which has been transformed to house a testing centre.

"But I prefer to say I miss our world, like I think we all do. Football is just part of my world. But we have to be patient, this is a fight that we all have to fight."

Even if matches can return, they will be played behind closed doors for the foreseeable future to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

Mourinho, though, believes players will still be putting on a show for millions watching around the world.

"If we play the remaining nine matches this season it will be good for every one of us," he said. "It will be good for football, for the Premier League."

"If we play football behind closed doors I'd like to think that football is never behind closed doors. With cameras, it means that millions and millions are watching. So if one day we walk into this empty stadium, it will not be empty, not at all."

Serie A will comply should Govt end season, says chief

AFP ■ ROME

Serie A "will comply" with the Italian government's decision should it choose to end the current season due to the coronavirus pandemic, the league's president said on Thursday.

Italy's top flight, a majority of its clubs and the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) have repeatedly insisted that they want to finish the 2019-20 campaign but on Wednesday Minister of Sport Vincenzo Spadafora said the chances of restarting were "increasingly narrow."

And Paolo Dal Pino in a statement said that Serie A would maintain a "constructive and collaborative" dialogue with the Government after weeks of hostility.

"If it's possible to do it (restart) while respecting health legislation, great," Dal

Pino said. "Otherwise we will rigorously comply, as we have always done, with the Government's decision. The (sports) ministry can be sure of our constructive and collaborative spirit."

Serie A, which has been suspended since March 9 due to a pandemic, will hold an emergency general assembly on Friday and the possibility of the season being ended is likely to be on the agenda following Spadafora's remarks.

That's despite FIGC president Gabriele Gravina saying a cancellation would be "the death of Italian football" and that he would "never sign for the end of the championships".

Gravina estimates that Italian football would suffer losses of up to 800 million euros (\$870 million) in the event of the season being cancelled.

PSG awarded Ligue 1 title



Paris Saint-Germain's Kylian Mbappe and Neymar Jr celebrate with Ligue 1 trophy

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain were named as Ligue 1 champions on Thursday after France's football league declared the coronavirus-hit season over.

PSG led the table by 12 points from Marseille when the season was suspended in mid-March.

The announcement by the LFP comes after Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said on Tuesday

that "professional sports leagues, notably football, cannot restart" because of the pandemic.

"There is no ambiguity about this declaration. We needed to make a final decision about this season. We acknowledge that the 2019-20 season is over," said LFP president Nathalie Boy de la Tour.

France becomes the biggest European league yet to end its sea-

son, just as its neighbours in Spain, England, Germany, Italy consider ways of resuming matches.

The LFP arranged a final table on the basis of average points per game.

Ten rounds of matches remained when the campaign was halted, although PSG and Strasbourg both had a game in hand.

As a result, PSG are champions with an average of 2.52 points per game, with Andre Villas-Boas' Marseille second with an average of 2 points and qualifying for the Champions League.

It is PSG's ninth French title, the seventh in eight seasons for the Qatar-owned club.

Rennes finish third and also qualify for the Champions League, while fourth-placed Lille will play in the Europa League.

Toulouse and Amiens, the bottom two, are condemned to relegation, with Lorient, as champions, and Lens coming up from Ligue 2.

AFP

Pochettino 'wants to manage Spurs' again

AFP ■ LONDON

Former Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino says he wants to return to the Premier League club one day to finish the job he started.

The Argentine left Spurs in November, six months after leading them to the Champions League final, and has been linked with Newcastle in recent days.

Reports claim he is the main target of the Magpies' prospective new Saudi Arabian owners

should they complete a takeover, but Pochettino could not disguise his desire to return to north London at some stage in his career.

The ex-Southampton boss, who spent more than five years at Spurs, told *BT Sport*: "It was an amazing journey that I finished the way no one wanted it to finish."

"But deep in my heart I am sure our paths will cross again. From the day I left the club, my dream is to be back one day and to try to finish the work we didn't finish. We were so close to winning the Premier League and

Champions League." Pochettino said he felt motivated for his next job but still felt the pull of Tottenham.

The 48-year-old transformed Spurs' fortunes after arriving from Southampton in 2014 but failed to win a trophy.

"Deep inside I want to go back because the fans are so special. Maybe in five years, maybe in 10 years, but before I die I want to manage Tottenham," he said.

"I want to feel what it means to win one title with Tottenham because the fans are amazing, all the love we received was amazing and that is a good opportunity to pay back all the love they showed us from day one."

Bundesliga starts testing players

AFP ■ BERLIN

The German league confirmed on Thursday that clubs have started testing players for the coronavirus as part of plans for the Bundesliga to resume next month.

Testing for the virus, which has so far claimed over 6,000 lives in Germany, is a key component in the plans to restart the Bundesliga in stadiums without spectators.

The DFL confirmed that regular testing has begun in the top two leagues amid hopes matches could be played from as early as May 9 or May 16.



Bayern Munich's Thomas Müller

FCB However, the league still needs the go-ahead from Angela Merkel's government to

resume.

The labour ministry, which has approved the plans, has demanded each player be tested twice before clubs resume team training, having so far trained mainly in smaller groups.

Players would be subject to strict hygiene measures, including testing for the virus every few days.

German Chancellor Merkel is chairing a video conference with the premiers of 16 states with the Bundesliga set to be discussed, but a final decision is only expected next week.