

OPINION 6
GENERALSHIP
HEREAFTER**WORLD 8**
TERRORISTS STORM MATERNITY
CLINIC IN AFGHAN CAPITAL, KILL 14**AVENUES 10**
ONLINE LEARNING
IS WAY FORWARD

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

SEBASTIAN
VETTEL TO
LEAVE FERRARI
12 SPORTPublished From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 132
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

₹20-L cr for self-reliance India: PM

Fund to undo Covid effect, boost Make-In-India and supply chain; lockdown-4 from May 18

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Making “self-reliance” as the new “mantra” in the word “changed” by the unprecedented pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a ₹20 lakh crore economic package for what he called “Mission Self-Reliant India” to tide over the coronavirus crisis.

In his address to the nation, Modi said the lockdown-4 in the country post-May 17 would be rolled-out with “new rules and colour and inputs given by the States before May 18”.

“We will fight and move forward,” said Modi, adding that India should see the crisis as an opportunity to emerge taller from the situation presenting itself globally.

“Corona will be with us for a long time but our lives cannot revolve around corona. We will wear masks, we will follow *doh gai doori* (six-feet distance), but we won’t let our focus stray,” he stressed, indicating major relaxations after May 17.

Announcing special pack-

CAPSULE

DELHI RECORDS 13 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

New Delhi: The national Capital turned into coronavirus hotspot with 13 deaths in 24 hour till Tuesday 11 pm, the biggest single day spike in the number of deaths. It took the total toll in Delhi to 86.

THIS SUMMER IS UNUSUAL, SAYS METEOROLOGISTS

New Delhi: With no major heat waves recorded in the core zones so far and “excess rainfall” across the country, this summer is turning out to be unusual, say meteorologists.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT FALLS A RECORD 16.7%

New Delhi: India’s industrial production contracted by a record 16.7 per cent in March, on account of poor show by mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors mainly due to the nationwide lockdown, Government data showed.

THIRD COVID-19 DEATH IN GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR

Noida: A 60-year-old patient died due to cardiac arrest at a hospital in Greater Noida, becoming the third Covid-19 fatality in Uttar Pradesh’s Gautam Buddh Nagar.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

age of ₹20 lakh crore (which includes the earlier ones), Modi said it would have something for all sections and aim at strengthening infrastructure, modernisation of technology and reforms in laws.

He said the economic package would be detailed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman on

Wednesday. The special economic package would be the main component of “Atma-Nirbhar Bharat”, he said.

“This package is for migrants and farmers who work for the nation day and night, no matter the circumstances,” he said.

“The package will focus on land, labour, liquidity and law;

it will help small business, labourers and farmers. This will focus on the well-being of migrant workers too,” the PM said.

He said now onwards “swadeshi” would be given key importance saying “be vocal for local and buy local products and publicise it”, he said and give reference to the popular-

ity of ‘Khadi’.

He said “Make in India” need to be brought to the centre-stage and pointed as how coronavirus prompted large-scale production of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and N 95 Masks which India did not manufactured earlier.

“Today everyday we are producing two lakh PPEs and two lakh masks. We converted crisis into an opportunity,” Modi maintained.

He said, “A virus has ravaged the world, we have never seen or heard a crisis like this.”

The only way for India to triumph over the crisis was to “strengthen our resolve so that our resolve is even greater than this crisis”, he said.

The PM said India must realise its potential as the lead player in the 21st century by focusing on its self-reliance.

He listed what he called five pillars for self-reliance: “Economy with potential for quantum jump, infrastructure, technology-driven system, demography and an intelligence-driven supply system.”

The PM noted that sever-

al experts and scientists have said the virus is going to be part of our lives for a long time. But, it is also important to ensure that our life does-not revolve only around it. He exhorted people to work towards their targets while taking precautions like wearing masks and maintaining “do gaz doori”.

On the fourth stage of lockdown, he said its contours will be completely different from those seen yet.

LOCKDOWN 4.0

➤ I am announcing a special economic package today which will play an important role in the “Atma-nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan”. The announcements made by the government over Covid-19, decisions of RBI and today’s package totals to ₹20 lakh crore, which is 10% of India’s GDP

➤ We have the resolve to make ourselves self-reliant. India’s self-reliance will be based on five pillars — economy, infrastructure, technology driven system, vibrant demography and demand

➤ The world now believes that India can do very well and that we can contribute greatly towards the welfare of mankind

➤ When India speaks of self-reliance, it does not advocate for a self-centered system. In India’s self-reliance, there is a concern for the whole world’s happiness, cooperation and peace

Air India staffer +ve, HQ office sealed for 2 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air India sealed its headquarters in Delhi for two days after an employee tested positive for the novel coronavirus. This came a day after seven employees of Air India, including five pilots and two engineers, who had tested positive for coronavirus, tested negative in second rounds of tests.

Last month, the same protocol was seen at the Aviation Ministry HQ at Delhi’s Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan.

According to officials, the employee, posted at the Gurudwara Rakabganj Road building, had attended office on Budh Poornima holiday last Thursday. The employee was diagnosed with coronavirus infection through an RT-PCR test done at a private lab in New Delhi on May 10.

As per established protocol, the Airlines House was closed and sealed for two days-Tuesday and Wednesday.

In a statement, AI said, “One of the employees attending office at Airlines House has tested positive for Covid-19. As Air India accords top priority to safety and well-being of its employees, the building will be closed for sanitisation adhering to protocol. All support is being extended to the employee concerned.”

3,474 new cases, total 74K; recovery rate rises to 31%

Health Min says doubling time improves to 12.2 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fifty-one days into the nationwide lockdown, States across the country continue to report new Covid cases with Tuesday seeing the addition of 3,474 new cases and 120 deaths. The total count of cases stood at 74,243.

Maharashtra again came in with 1,000 plus cases for the seventh straight day while Tamil Nadu witnessed 716 cases after reporting over 800 cases a day ago. Maharashtra tally of confirmed cases stood at 24,024.

The number of Covid-19



Municipal workers sanitise the police colony at RK Puram amid ongoing Covid-19 lockdown in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

related deaths rose to 2,412 as 120 people passed away in last 24 hours till Tuesday 11 pm. Maharashtra confirmed 53 deaths on Tuesday, taking the total death toll to 921. Gujarat saw 24 deaths on Tuesday, taking total to 527 deaths.

On a brighter side, nearly

31 per cent coronavirus patients were recovered from the disease. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said that while the doubling time in the past 14 days was 10.9, it has improved to 12.2 in the last three days.

Continued on Page 2

1.5L book tickets, 8,000 travel in 8 trains on Day 1

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over 1.5 lakh passengers have booked tickets to travel on the 15 pairs of special trains to be operated over the next seven days, the railways said on Tuesday.

While three trains departed from the national capital on Tuesday, five started their journeys towards it. Around 8,000 passengers travelled on these eight trains that marked the resumption of passenger rail services since they were disrupted on March 25 due to the lockdown.

The bookings for these special trains began at 6 pm on

Monday. So far, 90,331 bookings (PNRs) have been generated for the next seven days, the railways said, adding that 1,69,039 passengers will travel against these bookings.

The railways issued guidelines on Monday for 15 special trains, which will be operated from Tuesday, asking the passengers to carry their own food and linen, and arrive at the stations at least 90 minutes before departure for a health screening.

On Tuesday, the national transporter said installing the Aarogya Setu mobile app was mandatory for the passengers.

Continued on Page 2



Passengers sit inside a coach of New Delhi-Dibrugarh special train at New Delhi Railway Station following the resumption of passenger train services connecting major cities in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Maha allows home delivery of liquor

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In a relief to tipplers in Mumbai, Pune and other cities in the State, the Maharashtra Government has permitted door delivery of types of Indian Made Foreign Liquors (IMFL) to consumers holding valid permits from Thursday beginning 10 am.

Having stopped sale of liquor in wine shops in Mumbai, Pune and other cities two days after it re-opened the

shops on May 4 in the wake of uncontrollable crowds outside the liquor shops, the State Government has now tweaked the liquor sale policy to permit delivery of types of liquor to “liquor permit holders” on their doorsteps.

Among other things, the order issued by State Principal Secretary (Excise) Valsa Nair-Singh, allows licensed wine shops to deliver IMFL on the doorsteps.

Continued on Page 2

Railways, Postal dept to pick up, deliver parcels at home in Kerala

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a first of its kind initiative in the country, the Railways and Postal department in Kerala have entered into a tie-up for door delivery and pick up of parcels to help people during the lockdown from Tuesday.

The Thiruvananthapuram division of Southern Railways and Department of Posts, Kerala circle, came together for the initiative.

Continued on Page 2

Guj HC declares Guj Minister’s election as void

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday declared State Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama’s election in 2017 as void.

The returning officer was “hand in gloves” with the BJP leader and postal ballots were rejected illegally, it said.

Congress candidate Ashwin Rathod had challenged his BJP rival’s victory from Dholka constituency by a margin of mere 327 votes.

Justice Paresh Upadhyay rejected Chudasama’s request for a stay so that he could file an appeal.

Detailed report on P2

Maha to release half of prisoners to unclog jails, to prevent Covid spread

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Nearly 50 per cent prisoners incarcerated in jails across Maharashtra will be released. A high-powered committee appointed by the Maharashtra Government has decided to temporarily release them to decongest jails across the state in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The committee, comprising Bombay High Court Justice AA Sayed, Additional Chief Secretary of State Home department Sanjay Chahande and Maharashtra Director General Prisons SN Pandey, was set up after the Supreme Court in March called for decongestion of prisons across the country due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The committee took a decision on Monday to release around 50 per cent of the prisoners from jails across the State on temporary bail or



parole. It has, however, not specified any time frame for the prison authorities to release these prisoners.

“This would substantially decongest the prisons and about 50 per cent of prisoners out of the prison population of 35,239 are now expected to be released, the committee said. The committee’s decision comes after over 100 inmates and staff members of the Arthur Road Jail in central Mumbai tested corona positive.

Continued on Page 2

149 flights to bring home Indians from 31 nations from May 16

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Tuesday released the details of the second phase of the “Vande Bharat Mission” from May 16 to May 22 to repatriate Indians stranded abroad across 31 countries. Around 149 flights, including feeder flights, will be deployed in the operation. The second phase of the repatriation exercise is much bigger in scale with flights being deployed to Ukraine, Russia, Europe and several other South East Asian countries as well. The highest number of repatriation flights would be flying to the USA.

The data released by the Ministry says 31 flights of Air India and Air India Express under Vande Bharat Mission have brought back 6,037 Indians from 12 countries since May 7.

Meanwhile, the decision to resumption of domestic flights is not yet taken but the



Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar interacts onboard AI 1375 with the passengers from Delhi, Haryana, UP, HP and Uttarakhand travelling to New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Ministry has come out with a detailed draft of SOP (standard operating procedure) for resuming the flight services and handed over to all stakeholders in the aviation business, including airlines and airport operators and sought their feedback by the weekend.

Continued on Page 2

Modi's speech just to grab headlines: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reacting to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of a mega economic package, Congress said Modi's speech is just to give the country and media a headline without having any concrete vision of post lockdown.

"What you said today gives the country and the media a headline.

When the "blank page" is filled with "Heartfelt Help of People", the Nation & Congress Party will respond," Congress said in a statement.

Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala sought clarifications from PM on the mammoth heart breaking human tragedy of migrant workers walking back home needed compassion, care & safe return.

"India is deeply disappointed by your utter lack of empathy, sensitivity & failure to address the woes of millions of migrant workers," Surjewala said in a tweet message soon after the Modi's

speech was over.

Congress has been attacking the Centre alleging that it has failed to meet and tackle the corona related pandemic issues and the lockdown that has put the country into a complete halt.

Before the PMs speech, former Union Minister Kapil Sibal had questioned the silence of Modi on the apathy of migrants and labourers facing hardships during the lockdown period.

"The government has no concrete plan and people of all walks of life have been suffering and the government remains mute spectator," Sibal said addressing a video Press conference.

He also sought to know whether the Centre has a National Plan on Covid-19.

Sibal also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expel Gujarat minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama from the BJP after his 2017 election was declared void by the High Court on grounds of malpractice and manipulation.

Maha reports 53 deaths, 1,026 new Covid cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra registered a record 53 Covid-19 deaths and 1,026 new infected cases on Tuesday, even as an undeterred Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) started to administer successfully a new injection "Tocilizumab" to coronavirus patients in four leading hospitals in Mumbai.

The State health officials were in shock as staggering 53 persons succumbed to Covid-19 in various parts of Maharashtra, which incidentally the high-ever day's tally of fatalities in the state.

Of the deaths, Mumbai accounted for 28 deaths, while there were six deaths each in Panvel town and Pune. Five deaths were reported from Jalgaon, while there were three deaths in Solapur, two in Thane and one in Raigad district.

With the new 53 deaths and 1026 infected cases , the total number of deaths mounted to 921 and infected cases to 24,427. Similarly, the total number of

deaths in Mumbai rose to 556 and infected cases to 14947.

Of 2,21,645 laboratory samples, 1,95,804 tested negative while 24,427 samples tested positive for coronavirus until Tuesday. There are 1289 active containment zones in the state currently. Total 12,923 surveillance squads worked on Tuesday across the state and surveillance of 54.92 lakh population was done.

As many as 5125 patients have been discharged till date after full recovery. Currently, 2,81,655 people are in home quarantine and 15,627 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, the BMC has started using new medicine for severe Covid patients successfully. "To improve the condition of the patients with severe COVID disease, BMC-run medical college hospitals like Sion, Nair KEM and Seven Hills have started using the new drug "Injection Tocilizumab", the BMC bulletin said.

HC declares Gujarat Minister Chudasama's election as void

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday declared State Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama's election in 2017 as void on the grounds of malpractices and manipulation.

The returning officer was "hand in gloves" with the BJP leader and postal ballots were rejected illegally, it said.

Congress candidate Ashwin Rathod had challenged his BJP rival's victory from Dholka constituency by a margin of mere 327 votes in the 2017 Gujarat Assembly polls.

Justice Paresh Upadhyay also rejected Chudasama's request for a stay so that he could file an appeal.

The High Court held that Returning Officer Dhaval Jani "illegally rejected" 429 postal ballots during the counting of votes, while the victory margin was only 327.

The procedure adopted

for counting of votes was "against the orders of the Election Commission of India (EC)" and illegal, Justice Upadhyay said.

Further, Chudasama indulged in "corrupt practice" under section 123 (7) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and was "hand-in-gloves with the then returning officer Dhaval Jani", the judge said.

All three facts materially affected the outcome of the election, it said, declaring it as void.

At the same time, the court also rejected petitioner Rathod's prayer that he be declared as elected from the constituency.

Rejecting Chudasama's request for a stay to the order, the court said an election "cannot be permitted to hold the field any further" where 429 postal ballots were excluded

from counting "behind every-body's back, including the Observer nominated by the Election Commission," and election record "systematically manipulated" to conceal this fact.

The RO defied relevant orders and instructions of the EC, including mandatory instructions regarding the procedure of counting of votes, announcement of result and preparation of Final Result Sheet 'Form 20' to conceal this, the court said.

Chudasama is currently the minister for education, law and justice, legislative and parliamentary affairs and some other departments in the Vijay Rupani government.

Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said the decision will be challenged in the Supreme Court.

"The order of the Gujarat High Court is shocking for all

of us. The order to cancel election of Bhupendrasinhji is sad news. Naturally, Bhupendrasinhji is getting legal advice regarding the order and steps are being taken to appeal against it in the Supreme Court.

"We are confident of getting justice and stay on this order," he said.

State Congress president Amit Chavda said Chudasama won by misuse of power and manipulation of government officials, but the court's order showed that that such interference in the election process will not be tolerated.

"This is a victory of truth and defeat of the manner in which the BJP misuses power and government officers for its gains. Congress candidate had opposed this election saying votes were rejected because they were in his favour.

"But the BJP candidate

was somehow declared victorious illegally. After more than two years, the High Court finally rejected Bhupendrasinhji's election,

and this clearly showed that the BJP government has always misused power and government officials for its own gains," Chavda said. **PTI**

EC sets up committee to examine Gujarat HC order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has set up three-member Committee to examine details of judgement of High Court in election petition concerning Dholka Assembly Constituency in Gujarat.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora has directed that a three member committee will be headed by Umesh Sinha, Secretary General & consisting of two

officers, Mr Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Depty Election Commissionr & Director Law as members will examine the details and present before the Commission. According to EC, in this matter, on behest of the Commission, direction had already been conveyed to the State Government of Gujarat to initiate disciplinary action against the then Returning Officer Mr Dhaval Jani, Deputy Collector. The proceedings are underway.

3,472 new...

From Page 1

He added that the fatality rate is 3.2 per cent and recovery rate is pegged at 31.74 per cent. He also added that (as of yesterday) there are 2.37 per cent active Covid-19 patients in ICU, 0.41 per cent on ventilators and 1.82 per cent on oxygen support. He also pointed out that testing capacity has increased to 1,00,000 tests per day with 347 Government laboratories and 137 private laboratories. Cumulatively, 17, 62,840 tests have been done so far for COVID-19.

In Tamil Nadu, the coronavirus tally stood at 8,002 as the State Government attributed "aggressive testing" behind this sudden spike in cases.

Delhi with 7619 confirmed cases was at fourth position among the worst-hit States while Rajasthan surged to 4056 total cases as 68 new cases were reported on Tuesday itself. 115 people have died in the State.

Madhya Pradesh too is witnessing high number of deaths at 225 while new cases have added to tally of 3968. Similarly, for Uttar Pradesh, the situation was grim with 3573 total cases and 83 fatalities. West Bengal too presented grim picture with 110 new Covid cases pushing the tally to 2173 cases. Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Karnataka also reported increase in number taking the total cases to 2051, 1914, 934, 830 and 925 respectively. More than 4.1 million cases of Covid-19 were recorded worldwide, including at least 285,000 deaths.

Ladakh still tense, India...

From Page 1

There was altercation between troops in both the incidents. Both the incidents were resolved locally, the army said.

On Indian SU-30s flying sorties near the site in Ladakh, sources said the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) helicopters came close to the border during the face off but there was no air space violation on either side. While reports said the SU-30s also responded and flew towards the site, sources said the jets were on routine flying exercise in the area that day and were not scrambled in response to the Chinese helicopters.

As per existing agreements between India and China, operation of fighter aircraft and armed helicopters is restricted to a distance from the LAC. According to the 'Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC in India-China Border Area' of 1996, "combat aircraft (to include fighter, bomber, reconnaissance, military trainer, armed helicopter and other armed aircraft) shall not fly within 10km of the LAC."

1.5L book tickets, 8,000 travel in 3...

From Page 1

The railways operated eight trains on Tuesday — three from New Delhi terminating at Dibrugarh, Bengaluru and Bilaspur, and one each

from Howrah, Rajendra Nagar (Patna), Bengaluru, Mumbai Central and Ahmedabad which will terminate at Delhi.

All special trains will only have air-conditioned coaches.

Since the trains will be operated amidst the ongoing nationwide lockdown, only the passengers with confirmed e-tickets will be allowed to enter the stations.

The fares of these trains will be equivalent to that of the Rajdhani trains and passengers can book tickets up to seven days in advance.

However, no RAC, wait-list ticket or on-board booking by the ticket-checking staff will be permitted, the railways said.

The national transporter had suspended its passenger services over 50 days back in view of the lockdown imposed to check the spread of coronavirus.

Railways, Postal dept to pick up...

From Page 1

The service has been started to mitigate the difficulties being faced by customers in sending and receiving parcels through the railway network during the lockdown period, a railway release said.

It would cater to the growing number of customers using the daily parcel trains between Thiruvananthapuram Central Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram Central Chennai Egmore.

Under this initiative, the first of its kind in the country, postal personnel will collect the parcel from the consigners premises and get them booked, the release said.

The transshipment will be through Railways from the nearest railway station to the destination railway station.

From there, the parcel will again be collected and delivered to the consignee at his doorstep by the Department of Posts.

A minimum charge will be collected from the customer under Logistics Post levied by Postal Department in addition to the charges levied by Indian Railways, the release said.

The service will be initially available at Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Ernakulam Town, Aluva and Thrissur.

The Consigner may call the Rail-Post dedicated phone numbers land line 0471 2464425, Mobile 94479 57388; 96339 73640 in advance to

book the parcel or call 24/7 Railway Parcel Helpline Number 91 95678 69381 for assistance.

This door-to-door transshipment facility would be available till the lockdown is over or for the next one month, whichever is later.

Customers may avail of the facility to transport their items upto 3.5 tonnes as a single shipment, the release said.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the service was signed by Dr Rajesh Chandran, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Thiruvananthapuram Division and Sayeed Rasheed, Director of Postal Services, Kerala Circle in the presence of Shirish Kumar Sinha, Divisional Railway Manager, Thiruvananthapuram Division.

17% of Covid fatalities in suicides, migrants' death

From Page 1

Tens of thousands of migrant workers, who turned jobless by the lockdown since late March, have been walking, cycling or hitching rides, desperate to reach home despite a ban on public transport or interstate movement. Many migrants continue to do so despite special trains arranged for them, finding the tickets too expensive and the paperwork too arduous.

In another incident, a migrant worker from Bihar was killed and another injured after being hit by a speeding car in Haryana. A fourth migrant, cycling home, was killed on Monday night in Rae Bareilly.

Two more migrants were killed on Monday on their way home to Uttar Pradesh from Telangana after a truck they had taken a ride in for a break from walking overturned in Gorakhpur district. In another tragedy, six workers on their way to UP were killed in Madhya Pradesh when a truck overturned.

On May 9, 11 migrant workers died and 14 others

injured in separate incidents like fatigue due to walking a long distance and a road accident in four districts in Madhya Pradesh. The deaths were reported from Narsinghpur, Barwani, Sagar and Shajapur districts.

Almost all the deceased were travelling to Uttar Pradesh either from Maharashtra, Hyderabad or Karnataka amid the lockdown.

Before that, 16 migrants walking along railway tracks to avoid the highway were run over by a goods train in Aurangabad. Exhausted, they had fallen asleep on the tracks thinking no trains were running. The migrant workers, rendered jobless due to the coronavirus lockdown, were walking along the rail tracks apparently to escape police attention.

The plight of migrant workers, who have been walking thousands of kilometres to reach their hometowns amid the coronavirus lockdown, is heart-wrenching.

The Pioneer has talked to several migrants who said if

death were the only option, they would rather die in their homes.

According to a research report prepared DataMeet Trust, as many as 418 people died till May 11 in such cases. According to this compilation, 18 people died on March 25 across India. This figure reached to 186 on April 8. The number of people died, has touched 281 on April 22 while on May 1, 340 people reported to died.

On May 1, four migrants died in road accidents in Bhagalpur. On April 16, two people committed suicide due to harassment of coronavirus outbreak in Dehradun. On April 13, three people committed suicide due to lockdown.

According to their compilation, on March 28, a few days after the lockdown, eight migrants returning home were killed in a road accident in Karnataka's Raichur. On March, 17 migrant labourers and their family members - including five children - have lost their lives in the course of their desperate efforts to return home.

Maha to...

From Page 1

Meanwhile, n an effort to arrest the unabated spread of Coronavirus in the metropolis, Mumbai's new Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal on Tuesday decentralised the work among eight IAS officers working in the Covid-19 Task Force, including five Additional Municipal Commissioners, to monitor and execute the pandemic-related activities more effectively.

Departing from the style of functioning of his predecessor Praveen Pardeshi whom he replaced last week, Chahal appeared to be making optimum use of all the eight IAS officers who are part of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's Covid-19 Task Force, when he disturbed the various specific works among them. Significantly enough, the BMC's new Municipal Commissioner came out with the move to distribute work among eight IAS officers on a day when Mumbai recorded 28 more deaths and 426 new infected cases, which took the total number of deaths to 556 and positive cases to a staggering 14,781.

ing for a flight duration of under two hours and passengers aged above 80 years not allowed on flights when air passengers services. No cabin baggage will be allowed while some snacks, however, could still be offered. Downloading the Aarogya Setu app will be mandatory for all the passengers. Passenger ID checks will also be not required so as to minimise the crowd at terminal gates.

The rules make it compulsory for all passengers to arrive at the airport only after completing their web check-in at home. The reporting time for travellers at the airport is proposed to be increased by two hours. Only passengers whose flights are scheduled to depart in the next six hours will be allowed inside the airports.

Cabin luggage will be disallowed, and only one piece of check-in baggage weighing less than 20kg will be allowed per passenger in the first phase of resumed airline operations.

According to the draft SOPs, only those with a "green status" will be allowed to enter the airport. Airlines have been asked to open check-in counters three hours prior to departure time and close them 60 to 75 minutes prior to departure. Boarding will commence an hour prior to departure time and the gates will close 20 minutes before.

As per the draft, no cater-

Post Covid: Civil aviation Min suggests no cabin baggage for passengers in initial phase

Mumbai: Filling up of a detailed questionnaire related to Covid-19, carrying no cabin baggage, using Aarogya Setu app and reaching airport at least two hours before a flight departure are among the suggested requirements for air passengers during the initial phase after resumption of commercial flights.

The civil aviation ministry has come out with a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for restarting commercial air passenger services in the country, which remain suspended since March 25 in the wake of the lockdown to curb spreading of coronavirus infections. "It is clarified that suggestions were sought on a draft discussion paper from airlines and airports. The suggestions have now been received.

The final SOP is yet to be issued," the ministry said in a statement. **PTI**

Kind Attention: Rail Passengers

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

Special Train service has been commenced from **12.05.2020**. It is notified for information of the passengers that for trains terminating at New Delhi Railway Station from 13.05.2020 passengers will be permitted to exit only from Ajmeri Gate side, Bhavbhuti Marg, New Delhi. **Repeat exit from Ajmeri Gate Side only.**


THE PASSENGERS WILL *NOT* BE PERMITTED TO EXIT FROM PAHARGANJ SIDE, CHELMSFORD ROAD, NEW DELHI.

Security Helpline No. 182 | Integrated Helpline No. 139

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : nr.indianrailways.gov.in
Please join us on   

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Public Relations-Northern Railway

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (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 & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)	1.	(1) 23/Noida/GM(K)/SM-WC-9/ET/2020-21, Name of Work: D/o Village (M/o Drain, Road and Broken Jaal in Village Nagli Sakhpur) Noida, Cost.- Rs. 25.16 Lacs.
-----	----	---

Which can be uploaded by Date: 26.05.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 27.05.2020 at 11.00 AM

General Manager
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. : 02/Mech/Power/JUL/2020-21 Date : 11.05.2020
E-Tender is invited by the Sr. DME (EnHM & Power) N.W.Rly. Jodhpur for the under noted work of Mech (Power) N.W.Rly. Jodhpur (i) **Name of work with its location** : Loading/Unloading & transportation of Drivers/Guards line boxes at Jodhpur, Merla Road & Samdari Rly. Station for two years. (ii) **Approx. cost of the work** : Rs. 98.65,643/- (iii) **Earnest money** : Rs. 1.97,300/- (iv) **Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender** : 03.06.2020 at 15.00 Hrs. (same date at soon after) (v) **Website particular, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.** : <http://www.irps.gov.in> Divisional Railway Manager Office, Mechanical (Power) Branch N.W.Rly. Jodhpur. **470-DH/20**
Please join us on    /NWRRailways

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 02 TRACK 2020
On a behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer/Con. North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Procurement Tenders:-
S.No.-1, Open Tender No./Due on: NECON 0220 Due on 05-06-2020
Description of materials: Manufacture and supply of ELASTIC RAIL CLIP MK-V with flat toe as per RDSO drawing No. RDSO/T-5919 with IRS specification no. IRS T-31-2018 (Fourth Revision). Qty.: 600000 Nos., Consignee wise quantity, SSE/P.way/Con: Gonda 600000 Nos., Delivery period: 09 Months. Estimated tender value (Rs.): ₹ 5,59,32,000/-. Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 11,18,640/-
• Submission of Tender up to 14:59 hrs. on 05-06-2020. • Date of opening 15:00 hrs. on 05-06-2020. • Detailed tender notice, eligibility, criteria, terms & conditions are available on website <https://irps.gov.in>. In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version of tender notice, will hold good and will be followed.
XEN/Con/Track Gorakhpur
CPRO/W-09
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

WESTERN RAILWAY
ELECTRICAL REWIRING OF RAILWAY QUARTERS
Tender Notice No. and Date - EL 81/766/WA/2 Dated 12/05/2020 **Name of Work** - Mumbai Division - Improvement to railway quarters by electrical rewiring and strengthening of power supply system.
Approx cost - ₹2,27,51,810 Cost of EMD - ₹2,63,800 Date and Time of Submission till 12.06.2020 15.00 hrs. Date and Time of Opening - on 12.06.2020 till 15.30 hrs. please visit our website www.irps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum for further details.
Like us on  [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) 

CM seeks people’s suggestion on lifting lockdown curbs

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday sought suggestions from people on lockdown relaxations post May 17 and said his Government will send a proposal on the same lines to the Centre on Thursday.

"Received suggestions will also be discussed with doctors and experts. Suggestions can be sent by calling toll-free number 1,031, WhatsApp number 8800007722, or by sending emails to delhicm.suggestions@gmail.com by 5 pm on May 13, Wednesday," said Kejriwal.

Kejriwal's interaction on 'lockdown ease' came a day

after meetings of all states' CMs with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While the third phase of the lockdown is ending on May 17, Kejriwal said,"Yesterday (May 11), the Prime Minister discussed the situation with all the chief ministers of the country. After the discussion, the PM asked the states on the level of relaxations and restrictions that each state wants. He said that all states should send their suggestions by 15th May and the central government will decide on the activities post May 17 based on those suggestions."

"The PM has directed that all states should submit their



proposal about the lockdown post-May 17 by May 15. I want to reach out to the people of Delhi and I want your suggestions regarding the removal of lockdown," said Kejriwal,"The COVID-19 infection is indeed spreading

and full removal of lockdown would not be a good idea. But I want your suggestions on the relaxation of lockdown, about the tenure and gravity of the relaxation, on the sectors that should get the relaxation, and whether the public transport system should begin or whether buses, autos, metros ply. I also want your suggestions on whether markets and industrial areas should reopen. If the relaxations come into play, we have to maintain social distancing, wear masks, and follow all the other norms. This is time to stop the spread of COVID-19 but there is also a need for starting the economic activities."

Sharing communication

numbers and email address mentioned above, he said ,"There is no voting on which suggestion has been received. They are the ideas of the people on what they feel about how easy the relaxations should be or what should be relaxed up to what extent. He said that he will also talk to doctors and experts about the relaxations. Based on the suggestions received from the people and experts' opinions, the Delhi government will prepare a recommendation and send it to the Center by May 15.

Addressing an online media, Kejriwal paid condolences to the family of MCD contractual teacher Baikali who lost her life due to Corona,

Kejriwal said, "She served her food distribution duty for the needy on 10th, 17th, and 18th April. But, on April 24 she could not come to the duty as she was unwell. First, she was admitted to the Ambedkar Hospital, Rohini, and then to RML hospital where she passed away on May 4. May God give strength to her family to face this irreparable loss. We all are proud of COVID warriors like her. The Delhi government will give an honorary compensation amount of Rs 1 crore to her family."

Kejriwal also announced that the Delhi government has also decided to provide Rs 5,000 as financial assistance to the construction laborers this

Capital turns into coronavirus hotspot with 13 deaths in a day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital turned into corona hotspot with 13 deaths in 24hr- the biggest single day spike in the number of deaths on Tuesday.

While the total cases 7639, 406 have been added in past one day however corona death toll is 86 with 5041 active cases in corona specialised hospitals.

month as well. He said, "Labourers are working at several construction sites in Delhi. The poor are the most affected by Corona. Last month, the Delhi government had Rs. 5000 in the bank accounts of con-

struction workers as financial assistance. This month, we will be providing Rs. 5000 as financial assistance to them. Money has been sent to some people's accounts and those who are left will also get it soon."

Management graduate arrested for importing drug parcels from US

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested Delhi-based management graduate for allegedly receiving parcels of drugs from the US amid the ongoing lockdown imposed in the country to contain the spread of Covid-19.

According to The Narcotics Control Bureau officials, they have seized five parcels, containing 880 gms of marijuana, including 420 tablets with hemp extract, from the man identified by the central anti-narcotics agency as L Dhingra, a resident of Inder Puri area in Delhi.

"The man is engaged in construction material business and he used to illegally import drugs using the IDs of his tenants and other people,said Rajesh Nandan Srivastava, the Deputy Director General, The Narcotics Control Bureau

He alleged that the man had a "contact" in Russia who arranged the drug parcels from

the US to be sent to him in India.

The man, who has completed BBA, has been arrested under the NDPS Act. He had "access to various drug consumers who used to take drugs from him", Deputy DG.

"Due to the lockdown, drug traffickers are facing difficulty in sending across narcotics and psychotropic substances. To circumvent the logistic constrains due to lockdown, possible means are being explored by drug traffickers," he said.

Marijuana and hemp extract are categorised for control under the provision of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) but in many parts of world, cannabis(marijuana) or hemp products are legalised.

"The illegal users of this drug in India have a tendency to import these products from various parts of world," a senior The Narcotics Control Bureau official.

Telemedicine service for police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday said that its personnel are performing round the clock duty not just for the prevention and detection of crime but for the enforcement of lockdown measures in the wake of the pandemic.

Police said that to keep their personnel safe, the Delhi Police has also initiated a system of tele-advice for its personnel.

"In this system, Station House Officer (SHO) and unit heads will be maintaining a panel of names of doctors who can give their advice to a Delhi Police personnel through tele-conferencing. The personnel can also seek advice for themselves and for their family which often get ignored since they are too engrossed in their work," said a senior police official.

"The medical fraternity has assured their full support for this initiative. Several doctors who despite working so hard in the frontline have volunteered for the programme. This initiative, apart from providing round the clock tele-advice to police personnel, will also help



by reducing the need for avoidable Corona virus tests and hospital admission," he said.

"The initiative will reassure the police personnel that proper advice and guidance is available real time for them and their families," he added.

According to police, the Delhi Police personnel are also

assisting citizens of Delhi in various ways to cope with the lock-down.

"Despite taking precautions for their own personal safety the police personnel are at great risk of getting infected with the virus given the very physical nature of their work and frequent public interaction.

It should be realised that in these extraordinary times, there may be anxiety and stress more than the actual infection itself.

In order to reduce their anxiety level they need to be counselled and given proper medical advice in real time," said police.

16 new cases in G'gram, tally mounts to 161

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram district reported 16 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday. The situation is alarming here with 80 cases were reported 10 days ago and now the tally has zoomed up to 161 on Tuesday. The Gurugram district reported 103 Covid-19 cases in the past 13 days.

The total coronavirus cases in the district are 161, including 67

who were cured and discharged from hospitals. While 94 are undergoing treatment.

Health officials said there is no reason to panic because of the sudden surge since most cases that have emerged are related to Delhi with those testing positive either being people who visited the capital recently or their contacts.

The health bulletin reveals that at least 24 of the 103 cases recorded in the last 13 days have emerged

from Khandsa mandi. Officials said that after Delhi's Azadpur Mandi began emerging as a cluster of cases, they began screening people in Gurugram who worked at the mandi.

Gurugram Civil Surgeon JS Punia said that 24-30 of them are wholesale vegetable dealers in Khandsa Anaj Mandi, who have direct contacts with the Azadpur vegetables and fruits wholesale market, some case related to the

Nizamuddin Jamaat (gathering) and some other infected patients who have a travel history to Delhi, who, along with their contacts, are testing positive.

The affected areas were sealed by Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) and health officials have initiated the sanitation works.

After corona patients were found for the first time in Khandsa market on May 3, it was shut for the next five days. Due to this, the city is facing acute shortage of vegetables and fruits.

"All the patients are isolated at different government, ESI and private hospitals. Their family members are also put under home quarantine. The health officials are making efforts to identify other persons who were infected after coming in contact with them," Punia said.

Increased screening and testing, the CMO said, is another reason why the number of cases has seen a steep rise this month.

"The more we screen and test, the more cases will emerge, that is expected. In the case of Dundahera, for example, we screened the entire village. In Khandsa mandi too, 2,000 people were screened and more than 150 samples collected," he said.

IPS rank officer tests +ve for coronavirus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

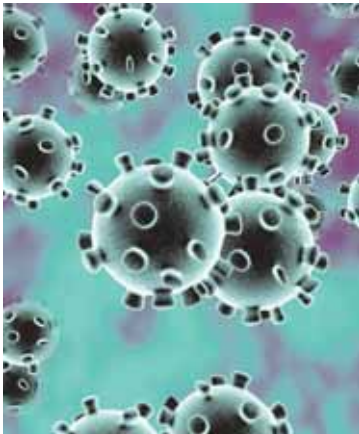
An Indian Police Service (IPS) rank officer of Delhi Police on Tuesday tested positive for COVID-19. Police police that after officer's test got positive, three to four officials of his office have been quarantined.

Police also said that officer's PA was earlier tested positive for the coronavirus. "The officer has mild symptoms and is currently under home quarantine," said police.

According to an order issued by Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava on Tuesday, a detailed SOP has already been issued for daily health monitoring and handling of emergency cases in respect of Delhi Police personnel due to prevailing COVID-19 infection.

Special Commissioner of Police Traffic has been nominated to coordinate admissions of COVID positive police personnel requiring admission in emergency. An order has also been issued by Special Commissioner of Police Traffic for providing treatment to COVID-19 positive police personnel, the order reads.

Special Commissioner of Police Traffic may be contacted for such hospital admissions if the government hos-



pital is unable to admit patients, it stated.

More than 100 Delhi police personnel have tested positive for COVID-19 so far.

On Sunday, a 38-year-old sub-inspector deployed at Mandir Marg police station in New Delhi district had tested positive for coronavirus following which at least six police personnel have been home quarantined.

The sub-inspector deployed in emergency duty tested positive for the respiratory infection on Sunday, but he is asymptomatic.

Govt: All train passengers coming to city to be screened

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's health department on Tuesday issued the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the screening of passengers arriving in the national Capital from outside in special trains arranged for migrants by central and state government both.

According to the SOP, issued by the Health department, only asymptomatic persons coming to the national Capital would be allowed to go home after ascertaining that they are asymptomatic.

"Passengers coming to Delhi by trains do not need to be quarantined if they are asymptomatic. The passengers will be allowed to go home and would be requested to download Arogya Setu app if possible," order read.

Meanwhile, The Indian Railways resumed its services (passenger) after 50 days amidst coronavirus lockdown.

Maruti Suzuki resumes production at Manesar plant

2K workers on single shift

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Tuesday resumed production at its Manesar plant, with around 2,000 workers working on a single shift basis.

This plant has been opened after around 40 days of closure in the wake of the nationwide coronavirus lockdown.

Operations at both Manesar and Gurugram, sector-18 plants facilities were suspended since March 22.

The company had received the approval of the local

administration on April 22 to start production at the unit with a limited number of employees.

"Production has been started at the Manesar plant and the first car was roll out on Tuesday," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Chairman R C Bhargava said in a statement.

The Gurugram district administration had allowed the auto major to run the facility on a single shift basis while fixing the total number of employees at the plant at 4,696.

MSI's Manesar plant is outside the limits of Gurugram Municipal Corporation, while its Gurugram plant falls within the city limits.

The number of employees coming to work on Tuesday was just around a fifth of the total workers in the Manesar plant, which has 10,000-12,000 workers in total.

"The production has already commenced at the

Manesar plant. We have not set any targets but will go depending on market conditions and following all the standard operating procedure set by the government," Bhargava said, adding that we would depend on government regulations like when two shifts would be allowed when manpower could be increased and when the supply chain would become fitter.

The company has also restarted production in its plant in Gurugram Sector 18, which largely manufactures Alto and the WagonR models. As the company has a larger non-production activities there such as R&D, etc., sources indicated that about 3,500 persons (work strength of 12,000 or more) reported for duty on Tuesday.

For social distancing, the company developed an app called Maruti Suzuki Wellness-Mitra and contacted all its workers. Through this app,

arrangements were made to collect data of the workers' location and their health-related information as well as their personal problems.

Through this app, Maruti Suzuki management has approached almost all their workers and they are also being asked to be sensitive to coronavirus infection.

The company has also installed a specially constructed sanitization tunnel at the company gate and employees are being sanitized at the time of entering and exiting the plant.

Apart from this workers body temperature is also being checked with thermoscanner at the time of arrival and departure of the workers. All workers have been made mandatory to wear gloves and masks.

Employees would be divided into shifts and alternate day rosters with staggered shift start and end timings.

For screening and monitoring, it has been recommended to use Aarogya Setu and social distancing markings are being laid out to ensure a distance of two metres at all crowded areas like entry gate, bus stops, water coolers, canteens.

Apart from this, since April 20, when the administration began granting permission to industries to resume work, a total of 1,330 establishments, with a cumulative staff of 1,06,751 workers, have been permitted to resume work in the Gurugram district.

Apart from industrial units, permission has also been granted to certain other entities to operate, including seven brick kilns which employ 568 workers. Permission has also been granted to resume construction activities at 96 sites across the district, cumulatively employing 20,228 workers.



POSSIBLE DRUG TRAFFICKING ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 SHIPMENTS

CBI alerts States, agencies over drug

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday alerted the States/Union Territories/Central Agencies relating to drug trafficking in the garb of shipments for Covid-19 protective equipment. “Based on inputs received from Interpol, CBI has issued an alert relating to international drug trafficking activities taking advantage of this global pandemic scenario and of possible drug shipments concealed in cargo relating to Covid-19 protective equipments,” the CBI said in a statement.

The Interpol has also warned that criminal organizations are using food delivery services to transport drugs and other illicit goods as countries are undergoing lock down during the global Covid-19 pandemic, according to the website of the global policing body.

The Interpol has received reports from police in Ireland, Malaysia, Spain and the United Kingdom identifying delivery drivers transporting drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, ketamine and ecstasy.

In early April, the Spanish National Police identified and arrested seven individuals dressed as food delivery drivers in Alicante and Valencia.

The suspects were caught in Spain delivering cocaine

- The Interpol has also warned that criminal organizations are using food delivery services to transport drugs and other illicit goods as countries are undergoing lock down during the global Covid-19 pandemic, according to the website of the global policing body
- The Interpol has received reports from police in Ireland, Malaysia, Spain and the United Kingdom identifying delivery drivers transporting drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, ketamine and ecstasy



and marijuana by bicycle, motorcycle and car. Some of the drugs were concealed inside a false bottom of home delivery backpacks.

In Ireland, officers recovered eight kilograms of cocaine as well as two handguns hidden in pizza boxes. Based on these arrests, as well as incidents in other countries, the Interpol issued a ‘purple notice’ alerting its 194 member countries of this new modus operandi.

Purple notices are aimed at providing information on objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals and such information can be accessed by law enforcement organisations through Interpol’s secure I-24/7 communications channel.

Country-wide lockdowns

have led to a spurt in demand for home delivered food in many countries and delivery drivers have been willingly acting as couriers for delivering drugs in lieu of financial gains, officials said.

While some drug couriers disguised themselves as food delivery drivers, legitimate home delivery personnel have also been used as drug mules.

In one case in Malaysia, a food delivery rider in the Gombak district of Kuala Lumpur contacted the police and requested for his food package to be inspected after he turned suspicious.

While the rider was tasked with delivering a single order of Indian flatbread yet the parcel weighed approximately 11 kilograms.

CISF staffer succumbs to Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A CISF personnel posted in Kolkata has succumbed to Covid-19, taking the death toll due to novel coronavirus in the paramilitary ranks to three even as the BSF on Tuesday reported nine cases of pandemic infections followed by seven in CRPF and two in ITBP.

The total number of infected personnel in the paramilitary ranks till Tuesday stood at 783.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has reported 66 cases Covid-19

- The death toll due to novel coronavirus in the paramilitary ranks to three even as the BSF on Tuesday reported nine cases of pandemic infections followed by seven in CRPF and two in ITBP

infections across the country minus the latest casualty due corona virus infection.

With the latest death in the CISF due to corona virus, the casualties in the Central paramilitary forces due to Covid-19 has touched six with two casualties in the Border Security Force (BSF) and one in the

- The total number of infected personnel in the paramilitary ranks till Tuesday stood at 783

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Officials said Assistant Sub Inspector Jharu Burman, 55, posted at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSEL) security unit in Kolkata succumbed to coronavirus infection on Monday. Burman was undergoing

- In the CRPF, seven new cases were reported on Tuesday taking the total number of infected persons to 247. Out of the 247, there are 243 active cases while three have recovered and a Sub Inspector had died due to the viral disease

treatment at a local hospital for some time.

Earlier, a CISF Assistant Sub Inspector posted at the Indian Museum in Kolkata and a Head Constable rank official posted at Mumbai International Airport had died of Covid-19.

The BSF on Tuesday

Telangana (Kamareddy, Jangoan and Nalgonda)

There are six districts each that have been selected from Bihar (Muzaffarpur, Purnia, Begusarai, Madhubani, Arwal and Buxar), Maharashtra (Beed, Nanded, Parbhani, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar and Sangli) and West Bengal (Alipurduar, Bankura, Jhargram, 24 Paraganas south, Medinipur east and Kolkata).

At least one district each from Haryana (Kurukshetra), Jammu and Kashmir (Pulwama), Uttarakhand (Pauri Garhwal), and Himachal Pradesh (Kullu) and two from Punjab (Gurdaspur and Jalandhar) have been selected.

In Uttar Pradesh a total of 9 districts have been shortlisted for the survey. These are Amroha, Saharanpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bareilly, Balrampur, Mau, Auraiya, Gonda and Unnao.

PM OK’s ₹2L each for kin of migrants run over by goods train in Aurangabad ₹50K FOR INJURED

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday approved ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of the 16 migrant labourers who were run over by a goods train in Maharashtra’s Aurangabad on May 8.

“The Prime Minister has sanctioned ex-gratia out of Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund (PMNRF) at Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the persons deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the persons who got seriously injured in the train accident in Aurangabad District, Maharashtra,” his office said.

It asked the Railways to furnish details of the total fund required, along with the names of the deceased, their next of the kin and the seriously injured persons with their complete postal addresses.

It also mentioned that persons who suffered minor/simple injury are not eligible for ex gratia from the PMNRF.

The amount will be disbursed to the beneficiaries through the Ministry of Railways. The 16 migrant workers were run over by a goods train after they fell asleep on the tracks near Aurangabad in Maharashtra. The incident, which took place at 5.15 am on May 8, woke the nation up to the perils migrants workers face while attempting to get back home during the nationwide lockdown.

Those killed and the four other migrant workers who survived were all male.

The workers were trying to walk from Jalna to Bhusawal in Maharashtra, hoping to catch a train from Aurangabad to get back to their homes in Madhya Pradesh.

Tejashwi returns to Bihar after 2 months, gets scoffed at by ruling NDA

PTI ■ PATNA

The ruling JD(U)-BJP alliance in Bihar on Tuesday heaped scorn on leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, who has returned to the State after spending two months in the national Capital where he was, apparently, ‘stuck’ because of the lockdown.

Leaders of both the parties advised the RJD leader to spend 21 days at a quarantine centre, spend some time with the migrant workers lodged there in whose cause he was professing to champion and “devote himself to the States fight against corona” thereafter. Yadav, the heir apparent of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad and the partys Chief Ministerial candidate for Assembly elections due in half a year, arrived here late Monday night by road and is putting up at the 10, Circular Road residence of his mother Rabri Devi.

“Welcome, o *bhrashtachar ke rajakumar* (the prince of corruption)” quipped Information and Public Relations Department minister Neeraj Kumar, a leader in the JD(U) headed by Nitish Kumar, in a dig at the numerous cases of graft against family members of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad

who is at Ranchi serving sentences in fodder scam cases.

“Now that you have made it convenient to end your vacation, it is time to follow the norms. You have come from outside Bihar. So you must get yourself medically screened at a quarantine centre and stay there for 21 days”, said the minister with trademark pungency. “At the quarantine centre, you will get a chance to meet migrant workers in person and learn about the sufferings they have undergone which you can only talk about. After the quarantine period, you must get your hands dirty and devote yourself to the states fight against corona”, he added.

BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand pointed out that the 30-year-old leader, who is an avid user of Twitter, returned just a day after a hashtag “*Tejashwi bhagoda hai*” (Tejashwi is a deserter) went viral on the social media. “While Bihar is busy battling the pandemic, Tejashwi was enjoying a vacation at an undisclosed place. So many times did our party plead with him to return and join the fight against corona, but he remained true to his reputation of running away whenever a crisis befell the State,” Anand said.

POST-LOCKDOWN-3 STRATEGY

Uddhav asks revenue div commissioners to prepare roadmaps

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Adopting a de-centralised Approach in dealing with Covid-19 situation post the lockdown-three, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday asked the revenue divisional commissioners and district collectors to chart out roadmaps to relax the lockdown norms after May 17 even while combating the coronavirus in the respective areas.

Interacting with the divisional commissioners and district collectors across the state through video conferencing, Uddhav said, “We will have to draw a delicate balance between the health emergency and the economic emergency. That’s why we will have to start the industrial activities in the state. We will have to extreme care in areas where we will resume industrial activities. In Green Zones, movement of vehicles can start within districts even while taking necessary precautions.”

“Come what may, the district collectors will have to enforce lockdown norms strictly in containment zones across the State so as to ensure that the

pandemic does not spread outside these zones,” the CM said.

“We have succeeded in containing the spread of pandemic during April. But, now in May, we have been told that the number of infected cases will increase in a big way. It is extremely essential that we break the chain of the spread of Covid-19. At the same, we will have to deal with monsoon-related epidemics and ailments,” he said.

“The advent of monsoon is round the corner. As a consequence, we can expect epidemics of different kinds and that too at a time when we are fighting the Coronavirus. Under the circumstances, we will have to see private doctors resume their practice as before”.

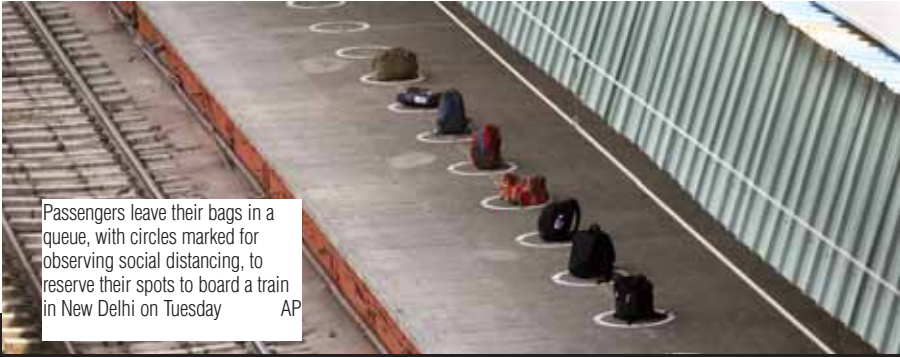
The Chief Minister advised the officers on ground that while relaxing lockdown, they would take care to see that they would not open the intra-district borders in the State. “This is essential because that a lot of migration is taking place and you have to take medical precautions to ensure against the spread of the pandemic,” Uddhav told the revenue heads across the State.



Scout guide members help animals in times of Covid and they have installed bird feeder and water jars to protect them from sever heat



Scout guide members also conducting awareness programme which includes signing up for Aarogya setu app, social distancing, steps of hand wash, importance of wearing mask



Passengers leave their bags in a queue, with circles marked for observing social distancing, to reserve their spots to board a train in New Delhi on Tuesday AP

African swine flu kills over 14K pigs in Assam

GUWAHATI: Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Minister Atul Bora on Tuesday informed that 14,465 pigs have died in 10 districts, which have been severely affected due to African swine flu.

He said the Government is taking all adequate steps to prevent spread of the disease.

The State Government has advised farmers to go for deep burial of dead pigs and to disinfect the pits with bleaching powder, salt and sodium chloride

“Till now,14,465 pigs have died in 10 districts, due to African swine flu. The Government is taking all possible

steps to stop the spread of the disease,” Bora said in a video conference.

“The Assam Government is concerned about farmers and discussing with officials all the ways to help farmers to overcome the crisis,” he said.

For prevention of the disease, the State Government

has advised farmers to go for deep burial of dead pigs and to disinfect the pits with bleaching powder, salt and sodium chloride.

The Minister informed that the State Government has written to the Central Government and waiting for its directions to tackle the situation. **Agency**

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (UP)

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 & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job no /Work name	Amount
1.	17/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-62 D-Type Park with two year Maintenance	Cost Rs. 63.39 Lacs
2.	33/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o RSP with two year Maintenance Sector-28, 29, 37	Cost Rs. 28.86 Lacs
3.	36/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o RSP Sector-100 with two year Maintenance	Cost Rs. 28.77 Lacs
4.	38/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park two year Maintenance of Back side Principal office prayer Ground and Play Ground along boundary balika Inter college sector-44.	Cost Rs.47.90 Lacs
5.	39/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o RSP with two year Maintenance of Sector-131 & Between Sector-131 & 133.	Cost Rs. 35.28 Lacs
6.	40/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-37, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 99, 105, 108, 128. Etc. (Submersible Boring)	Cost Rs. 26.90 Lacs
7.	43/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt with two year maintenance of Master Green Sector-96	Cost Rs. 39.58 Lacs
8.	44/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Car parking Sector-95 & ECO Park with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 37.99 Lacs
9.	54/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt Sector-50 Part-II Along Nala with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 45.86 Lacs
10.	55/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o RSP (Uprooting and Repairing of Tree Guard) Sector-34, 50, 51, 52, 53, 61 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 112, 115, 116, 117, 118.	Cost Rs. 28.03 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 26.05.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 27.05.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Director (Hort.), NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Under-5 mortality rate drops by 49% in India since 2000: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) has dropped by 49 per cent in India since 2000, there is a six-fold variation in the rate between the States and 11-fold variation between the districts in the country, according to two important scientific papers on child survival prepared by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative.

There were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. Neonatal deaths in India have gone down from 1.02 million deaths in 2000 to 0.57 million deaths in 2017, as per the report published in the Lancet.

The paper in *The Lancet* reports the first comprehensive estimates of district-level trends of child mortality in India from 2000, and the paper in EClinicalMedicine reports detailed district-level trends of child growth failure.

Prof Lalit Dandona, director of the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative said

that the findings show that although the child mortality and child growth failure indicators have improved substantially across India from 2000 to 2017, the inequality between districts has increased within many states, and there are wide variations between the districts of India.

The child mortality and child growth failure trends reported in these papers utilised all accessible georeferenced survey data from a variety of sources in India, which enabled more robust estimates than the estimates based on single sources that may have more biases, Prof Dandona said.

The reduction in NMR has been less than for U5MR, and this reduction has been quite variable across the states and districts.

A total of 68 per cent of under-5 deaths in India are attributed to child and maternal malnutrition; the largest contributors within this risk factor are low birth weight and short gestation (46 per cent) and child growth failure

(21 per cent) — 83 per cent of the neonatal deaths are attributed to low birth weight and shorter gestation. 11 per cent of the under-5 deaths in India are attributed to unsafe water and sanitation and 9 per cent to air pollution. The contribution of these risk factors is relatively higher in less developed states, as per the reports.

The highest increases in inequality between districts within states were in Assam and Odisha among the low SDI states, in the small north-eastern states of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, and in Haryana among the middle SDI states.

The leading causes of under-5 death in India are due to lower respiratory infections (17.9 per cent), pre-term birth (15.6 per cent), diarrhoeal diseases (9.9 per cent), and birth asphyxia and trauma (8.1 per cent). The death rate for all major causes decreased between 2000 and 2017, with the highest decline for infectious diseases, intermediate decline for neonatal disorders,

There were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. Neonatal deaths in India have gone down from 1.02 million deaths in 2000 to 0.57 million deaths in 2017, as per the report published in the Lancet

and the smallest decline for congenital birth defects. The current rates of the causes and the magnitude of their decline vary widely between the states.

“These research findings have shown that India has made positive strides in protecting the lives of new-borns over the last two decades. Introduction of contextually relevant multi-sectorial actions by the Government and the State Governments like maternal nutrition programmes during pregnancy, access to skilled health providers during childbirth, and family/community-based care through postnatal home visits have shown to have made a difference.

“The district level data from this study will help in the planning and implementation of local action plans and set the course for further improvements in child mortality and child growth failure in India,” said Vinod Paul, Member, NITI Aayog.

SC seeks CBI response on bail plea of DP Yadav

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought response from the CBI on a bail plea of controversial Uttar Pradesh politician DP Yadav, convicted and serving life sentence in a murder case of a lawmaker.

Yadav, currently lodged in Dehrudun jail, has sought bail on medical grounds. He was awarded life imprisonment by a CBI court in Dehradun in 2015 for his role in the murder of Mahendra Singh Bhati, an MLA from Ghaziabad’s Dadri area.

The lawmaker was shot dead at Dadri railway crossing in December 1992. A Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, S Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna issued notice to CBI and sought its response on the plea of Yadav by next week.

Advocate Vikram Chaudhary, appearing for Yadav said that his client was earlier granted interim bail to undergo a spinal surgery at the Yashoda Super speciality Hospital in Ghaziabad and later surrendered after the spinal operation as per the order of the top court. **PTI**

TN sees 716 new cases, total 8,718

Eight more deaths raise toll to 61 in State

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

With 716 persons testing positive for coronavirus on Tuesday, the number of patients afflicted with covid-19 reached 8,718 in Tamil Nadu. The release issued by the Tamil Nadu Government said eight persons succumbed to the pandemic on Tuesday making the total number of fatalities to 61 in the State.

Out of the 716 persons tested positive on Tuesday, 510 were from Chennai. The capital city has become the coronavirus epicentre of Tamil Nadu with a total active cases of 4,882.

Till Tuesday evening, 2,134 patients have been discharged

from hospitals all over the State and this has made the number of active coronavirus patients 6,520.

The government release said 2,66, 687 samples have been collected and sent for testing. There are 55 laboratories working round the clock testing these samples. According to Dr K Kulandaswamy, former director of preventive medicine and advisor to the Government of Tamil Nadu, there is no cause for any kind of panic. “The increased number of positive cases is because of the massive tests being done in the State. The hike in the number of patients will continue like this for some more time. Also, please understand that large

number of coronavirus patients are getting cured and discharged from the hospitals,” said Dr Kulandaswamy.

Physicians and epidemiologists working with the Government Health Service said on condition of anonymity that the Koyambedu market which has been shut down since last Friday has been the root cause of the hike in the pandemic.

“Koyambedu gave birth to many clusters in Chennai city and suburbs and this added more number of patients to the total list. In fact Koyambedu upset the rhythm of the metropolis and this will take time to subside,” said one of the doctors.

Kerala reports 5 new virus cases

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Five persons tested positive for coronavirus in Kerala on Tuesday, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Addressing the media as part of his daily briefing, Vijayan said there were 32 covid patients in the State. “It has been found that the State has 524 covid-19 patients as on Tuesday. There are 473 persons admitted to various hospitals,” said the Chief Minister.

He said that out of the 32 coronavirus patients in the State, 23 were the ones who came from outside. “There are six persons who had been to Chennai, four from Maharashtra and two from Nizamuddeen. 11 persons who returned from West Asia too tested positive,” said the chief minister.

The Chief Minister cautioned the people about the dangers and impact of community transmission. ‘We found that 22 persons were

infected by a single patient in Kasargod, while one patient infected nine persons in Kannur district. In Wynadu district, one covid patient was the cause for infecting six persons. I am issuing this message of caution to alert the people about the impact which could be caused by community transmission.” said Vijayan.

Vijayan said that out of the five persons who tested positive for covid on Tuesday, four were expatriates who reached the State over the last three days while the fifth person was from Chennai. “Out of the total coronavirus cases tested positive, 70 per cent of the persons were those who returned to the State from foreign countries and the remaining 30 per cent developed the infection because of contacts with the affected ones,” said Vijayan.

The Chief Minister warned the people not to be complacent about the success made by the State in neutralising the spread of the disease.



“Remember that we are entering another crucial phase of the pandemic as the State will see hundreds of expatriates from other countries have started arriving by the special flights. Persons from other parts of the country too are on their way and we have to be vigilant against the possibility of another wave of the pandemic,” said Vijayan.

He said since it was noted that persons reaching the State from West Asia were testing positive for the pandemic, the Centre has been asked to initiate steps to subject the expatriates to anti-body tests in the country where they are sta-

tioned. “Now that we have come across passengers who tested positive after the returned to Kerala, we are in the process of getting the co-passengers in that aircraft tested to ensure that they are not infected,” he said.

With the number of coronavirus patients in Kerala coming down, the State Government has relaxed some of the restrictions which were introduced the spread of the pandemic. “ We have asked the Centre to resume domestic air services and train services. Bus services will be allowed in the districts though inter-district services would not be allowed. Restaurants will be allowed to function though the social distancing norms will be in force. Auto rickshaws will be allowed with conditions,” said the chief minister.

Till Tuesday 1,406 persons have reached the State from overseas countries while the Indian Naval Ships brought 833 passengers from Male.

Surge in domestic violence in Bihar amid lockdown

Patna: The enforcement of lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus has put one vulnerable group more at risk in Bihar. Domestic violence has escalated in the State as women confined to their homes during the lockdown have no escape from their abusers.

Former Bihar Youth Congress leader Lalan Kumar on Tuesday said, “The cases of domestic violence against women have seen a dramatic rise in all the police stations records in the state since the imposition of lockdown. This shows police inaction while the state has a shortage of women staff in all the stations.”

“Recently the National Commission for Women (NCW) released a figure which says that in March alone, the commission registered 587 complaints in connection with domestic violence”, Kumar said. **IANS**

Bengal to sub-divide Red zones into A, B, C categories

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a bid to organise micro-surveillance of areas and at the same time allow partial economic activities during the lockdown period the Bengal Government has decided to sub-divide the Red Zones into A, B and C categories, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said.

While in the ‘A’ category areas the State will “enforce complete and strict lockdown and no movement of people will be allowed,” in ‘B’ category there will be partial relaxation and the local police will decide the extent of such relaxation “provided the people follow the lockdown norms in the right manner,” the Chief Minister said.

In the ‘C’ Red zones there will be substantial relaxation particularly for the smaller business. Banerjee said jewellery shops, electrical and electronic outlets and food stalls etc will be allowed to open from 12 in the noon to 6 pm.

“... But no restaurant will

open. The people will only be allowed to take away food from the food stalls,” she said adding how “it seems that the corona virus will continue for quite some time.” As “it is not going away immediately we will have to revive the economy to some extent,” the Chief Minister said once again attacking the Central Government for not clearing its dues.

Dwelling on her interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his video conference with Chief Ministers on Monday, Banerjee said Bengal gained nothing from the meeting and it returned “empty-handed.”

She alleged that the Centre had “not cleared our legitimate financial dues” adding “I have raised several issues during the meeting with PM. But I must say we always return empty-handed after our meetings with PM. We are not beggars. We only want our dues from them. We have to serve a debt of ₹55,000 crore besides bearing the huge expenses to fight the pandemic.”

On the ongoing contro-

versy regarding the return of the migrant workers to Bengal the Chief Minister said already seven trains have been given and the people had started to return adding “the State has plans of giving 100 more trains for the held up workers to return,” but cautioned the “steps bring people back have to be taken very cautiously because it may lead to further proliferation of the dreaded virus into the villages... the trains will be given in stages and people will be screened before entry.”

In a related and significant development the Government transferred principal health secretary Vivek Kumar to the environment department, sources said adding he was likely to be replaced by Transport Secretary Narayan Swarup Nigam.

The development comes amid raging controversy over the State fudging corona related facts.

Kumar’s transfer preceded the much controversy over conflicting reports placed by the Health Department stating

the number of corona cases to the Centre and the media.

On April 30, Kumar reportedly wrote to the Union Health Secretary putting total number of corona infections to 931. However the number provided by the Health Department for public consumption in Bengal stood at 744.

Even as the Opposition parties including the BJP IT cell raised the issue the State Government had to face huge embarrassment. The transfer is an upshot of the incident, sources said.

Meanwhile, Bengal Government on Tuesday reported a total of 1363 active corona cases with 110 deaths. The State conducted 2622 tests in the past one day with total number of tests leading up to about 55,000.

The recovery rate from corona cases was about 28 percent State Home Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay said. There were 24,699 people in home quarantine and 6976 in Government quarantine he said. **IANS**

With 55 new infections, J&K’s total reaches 934

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Highest number of 55 coronavirus positive cases were detected in Jammu & Kashmir, taking the total tally to 934 on Tuesday. Of these, 42 cases were reported from Kashmir

and 13 from Jammu division while 28 patients were discharged from different hospitals of Kashmir division. Significantly, 11 districts of Jammu & Kashmir reported zero positive case on Tuesday.

Out of 934 cases, a total number of 469 cases are active positive in Jammu and Kashmir. At present 34 cases are active positive in Jammu division and 435 in Kashmir division. A total number of 455 cases have recovered, 400 in Kashmir and 55 in Jammu division. So far, 10 patients, 9 in Kashmir valley and one in Jammu division died due to Covid-19.

Meanwhile, the first train with 1,100 stranded persons, including majority of students arrived at Udhampur from Bengaluru. On their arrival, the

passengers were sent home in separate buses, following laid down guidelines. Another train from Goa with around 1100 passengers is expected to arrive early Wednesday morning.

According to media bulletin, “the highest number of 27 patients tested positive in Kulgam district and 10 in Kupwara district of Kashmir valley while Kathua reported 7 positive cases in Jammu division on Tuesday.”

According to district authorities in Kathua, all the patients were screened at the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir. At present 34 cases are active positive in Jammu division and 435 in Kashmir division. A total number of 455 cases have recovered, 400 in Kashmir and 55 in Jammu division. So far, 10 patients, 9 in Kashmir valley and one in Jammu division died due to Covid-19.

Four cases of coronavirus were reported from Samba and two from Reasi district of Jammu division”, official sources said.

Bandipora district, which had earlier emerged as ‘hot spot’ in Kashmir valley has recorded highest number of recovery cases. Out of 134 positive cases, 107 patients have recovered and only 26 cases are

active in the district.

In another related development, Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu Tuesday briefed Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, through video conferencing, about the effective measures undertaken by the Government for prevention, containment and management of Covid-19 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Lt Governor apprised the Union Minister about ‘Swasthya Nidhi’-an Integrated Health Audit & Intensive Screening Framework, an application that provides an ideal platform to reach out to each household in the UT.

A robust mechanism has been put in place for door to door survey, with 90% coverage under Swasthya Nidhi already done, for effectively combating the spread of Covid-19, he said, adding that emphasis was being laid on identifying vulnerable population including the elderly people and those with co-morbidities.

63 fresh cases take K’taka tally to 925

Bengaluru: After a lull on Monday, coronavirus positive cases in Karnataka spiked again to breach the 900-mark to settle at 925 with 63 new cases, an official said on Tuesday.

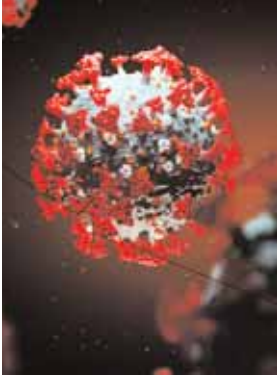
“As of 5 p.m. Tuesday, cumulatively 925 Covid positive cases have been confirmed in the state. These include 31 deaths and 433 discharges,” said a health official.

Seven patients were discharged, six in Bagalkote and one in Vijayapura.

Of the 460 active cases, 449 patients are in isolation at designated hospitals and are stable while 11 are in ICU.

A total of 63 more such cases were reported in the southern state in the past 24 hours. Fifty-one of the new patients are men and 12 women.

Of the new cases, Bagalkote contributed 15, followed by Davangere (12), Dharwad (9), Hassan and Kolar (5 each), Bengaluru Urban (4), Gadag (3),



Yadagiri, Bidar and Dakshina Kannada (2 each), and Mandya, Ballari, Kalaburagi and Chakkaballapura (1 each).

Eighteen of the new cases were contacts of earlier cases.

Only nine new patients were above the age of 50. Seventeen others are aged below 20. Cases spiked in Bagalkote and Dharwad as all cases reported from these two places have a travel history to Ahmedabad in Gujarat, a Covid hotspot. **IANS**

BMC chief allocates work among 8 IAS officers to combat pandemic

TN RAGHUNTHA ■ MUMBAI

In an effort to arrest the unabated spread of coronavirus in the metropolis, Mumbai’s new Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal on Tuesday decentralised the work among eight IAS officers working in the Covid-19 Task Force, including five Additional Municipal Commissioners, to monitor and execute the pandemic-related activities more effectively.

Departing from the style of functioning of his predecessor Praveen Pardeshi whom he replaced last week, Chahal appeared to be making optimum use of all the eight IAS officers who are part of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation’s Covid-19 Task Force, when he disturbed the various specific works among them.

Significantly enough, the BMC’s new Municipal Commissioner came out with the move to distribute work among eight IAS officers on a day when Mumbai recorded 28 more deaths and 426 new infected cases, which took the total number of deaths to 556 and positive cases to a staggering 14,781. As per the work sheet drawn up by Chahal, Mrs Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar – who is a principal secretary currently on deputation to the BMC – has been assigned the work of augmenting Covid beds in BMC Hospitals, a task under which all Deans and Medical Superintendents (MSs) will report to her to that extent.

In addition, Mrs Patankar-Mhaiskar will coordinate with the group especially created for improving outcomes in Covid care and treatment

in BMC Hospitals. She will work towards continuous decongestion of hospitals as per the established protocols, a task under which Deans, MSs and Zonal DMCs will report to her to that extent.

BMC’s Additional Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide has been vested with the task of overall coordination of Covid strategy and war room monitoring and dashboard updation and dissemination to all A.M.Cs, overseeing contact tracing, institutional quarantining and containment zones management, creation and overseeing Covid care centre-1 (CCC-1) and CCC2.

BMC’s another Additional Municipal Commissioner Sanjeev Jaiswal has been assigned the work of organising food grain procurement and distribution, cooked food packet distribution, coordination with NGOs, public representatives for food distribution related issues, food distribution, supply chains in containment zones, formulation and implementation policy relaxing of restrictions of lockdown in phased manner, liaisoning with the state government for migrant labour travelling back to their home states / locations and all other matters relating to Covid-19.

Another IAS officer Mrs Prajakta Lawangare-Varma will be involved in coordinating with Covid Yoddha Volunteers to appoint doctors, nurses, ward boys and other staff for various BMC and pvt. Hospitals, recruiting medical staff for enhancing the bed capacity of Seven Hills BMC Hospital to 1300 beds and carrying out a survey of elderly citizens for their Ps02 and comorbidity and other activities.

Yogi transfers ₹225 crore to MGNREGA beneficiaries

IANS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday transferred ₹225.39 crores to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) beneficiaries through direct bank transfer.

Yogi has raised the honorarium of the ‘gram sewaks’ who are beneficiaries under MGNREGA, to ₹6,000 per month from the earlier ₹3,630 per month.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government was providing employment to over 22 lakh workers under MGNREGA.

BJP MP slams Bengal Govt over Hooghly issue

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A delegation of BJP leaders led by party leader Mukul Roy on Tuesday met Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar expressing their concern over the communal flare up at Telinipara region of Hooghly district.

Alleging inaction by the State Government local BJP MP Locket Chatterjee on Tuesday said that “despite Government assurances there was no respite to violence in parts of Telinipara as some people went on rampage torching houses and looting shops including jewellery outlets.”

She said the police were trying to diffuse the tension but they had “no proper order from the top which is encouraging a group to perpetrate violence in the area.”

Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee however said that strong actions had been taken in the area and the situation had been brought under control.

“No one is being spared irrespective of caste or religion. The police are taking strong action not considering anyone’s affiliations,” Banerjee said alleging however that some people were trying to give it a communal colour. “Even during the corona crisis they are trying to incite people to cause riots. These rioters will be identified and dealt with strongly,” she said.

The violence between two communities flared up on Sunday over reported ignoring of the lockdown protocols by some people, sources said.

State Home Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay said “swift and strong action was taken in Telinipara against

those who were trying to disturb the peace. The situation was immediately brought under control. Telinipara is peaceful now.”

The “police will not allow any provocation, and strict action will be taken against anyone who tries to create disturbance including those who are posting and circulating false information,” he added.

Clashes had started when people of Wardibazar area where some people have been found with corona infection tried to enter Telinipara to use public toilets. Violence took place on Tuesday too when the people from same area tried to reenter Telinipara by breaking barricades erected by the people. In the process bombs were charged from both sides and several houses were torched, sources said.

Madras HC quashes Karti’s plea in tax evasion case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Yet another attempt by the family of senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram to derail a case filed against them by the Income Tax Department came a cropper on Tuesday.

The Madras High Court on Tuesday rejected petitions filed by his son Karti Chidambaram and wife Srinidhi Chidambaram seeking to quash the cases against them by the Income Tax Department and also to dismiss the transfer of these cases to the Special Court constituted to hear cases against elected representatives

The case involves alleged Income Tax evasion by the husband-wife duo in connection with the sale of a plot of land owned by them at Muttukadu

along the Bay of Bengal Coast near Chennai.

The IT Department had alleged that Karti did not disclose an income of ₹6.38 crore which he had received from the sale of the land in 2015. Kart’s wife Srinidhi too did not disclose the details of the amount of ₹1.35 crore she had received from the sale deed.

The contention of the Income Tax department was that, Karti, elected to Lok Sabha from Sivaganga constituency in the 2019 elections, and his wife had received the amount in cash for the sale of land at Muttukadu years ago but allegedly did not disclose it in their I-T returns.

Karti objected to the case being heard by the Special Court set up to hear cases against MPs and MLAs on the ground that the transaction was completed and returns were

filed in 2015 much before he was elected from Sivaganga constituency in 2019.

The Deputy Director of Income Tax Investigation (Chennai), had filed a complaint on September 12, 2018, against Karti and Srinidhi before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court-II (Economic Offenses) for offenses under sections 276c(1) and 277 of the I-T Act. The case was later transferred to the special court.

But the Madras High Court has stayed the proceedings twice against the Chidambarams in the months of January and February. Karti had fielded a team of eminent lawyers that included KTS Tulsi and Amit Desai along with Arun Natarajan, the family counsel of the Chidambarams. The Income Tax Department was repre-

sented by M Sheela and N Baskaran while Vijaya Kumar appeared for the High Court registry.

Justice M Sundar pronounced the verdict through video conferencing in the presence of all the counsels on Tuesday.

It is interesting to note that the same judge had twice stayed the proceedings against Karti-Srinidhi in the months of January and February 2020.

The Chidambaram family that include papa Chidambaram, wife Nalini, son Karti and daughter-in-law Srinidhi are accused in a series of cases ranging from Aircel-Maxis deal, money laundering in connection with the Foreign Investment Board permission to INX Media, Sarda Chit Fund scam ,which are all in various stages of hearing in different courts in the country.

The onus is on us

As lockdown 4 comes with easing of curbs, let us not undo gains with reckless behaviour. Self-control is the best preventive



Though the country is now going into lockdown 4, ostensibly at the request of States that have high cluster spirals and where containment is still a long-drawn problem, there is also a corresponding easing of restrictions to get the economy back on rails. So this lockdown is a lot about public behavioural discipline and compliance of norms and less of Government enforcement to ensure we slip into a culture of living with the virus. The Government would much rather focus on containing transmission of the disease with a targeted and focussed approach in containment areas

and allow resumption of the business of living in other areas. This, of course, does not mean a letting down of guard; the Government is keeping a watch but the onus of observance and vigil shifts considerably to citizens and local administrations. In fact, that is how things should be, a decentralised way of handling things. The Centre can only form broad policies but it is the States that are at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19, which is manifesting itself in different ways in different contexts and strains. This is one of the reasons why at the Prime Minister's teleconference with Chief Ministers, the latter argued that they be allowed to decide on zoning and easing of restrictions as they are best placed to assess and work on a situational report. It has taken Prime Minister Narendra Modi, usually known for his centrist and top-down approach, some effort to change himself and engage in consultative and cooperative federalism though all the "point taken" notes may not have reflected in policy always. But inputs now have to be matched with output. Which means the disease management has to be left to the wisdom of State Governments, irrespective of political affiliation or point-scoring. Central intervention can be limited to strategic management and lending expertise. Of course, it must now ramp up financial assistance within a reasonable range and work out a national fiscal stimulus, enable big bang reforms and launch economic correctives. Yes, things were mishandled in the beginning. The unplanned and sudden lockdown set off an unprecedented reverse migration of daily wagers, who were evicted from their livelihoods and settlements overnight. Now that there is a system of repatriating them through buses and trains, with the Prime Minister himself acknowledging that the right to return home must be respected, one wonders why this could not have been done before when the disease burden had not quite bulged out of shape and a disciplined exit would have saved them from contracting infection at overcrowded camps and assemblage points. Even now this unanticipated exodus of labourers from cities to their villages continues unabated, shocking us out of our wits when they die along the way due to hunger, dehydration or accidents. Those who cannot afford a bus or train as daily earnings have meant no savings — a majority, in fact — continue to trudge hundreds of kilometres, over weeks, in the journey back home where they may have a hovel and live off the land. And if they had to be held back, there should have been assurances, job camps and soup kitchens, something that are being organised by some private organisations even as States like Haryana and Punjab are registering migrants on a portal to relocate them to safe working sites that are running now. While the lockdown has given us ample time for preparing counter-strategies and medical infrastructure, testing wasn't intensive or fast enough to trace a pattern of clusters and hotspots and map the spread early. And though the Government is relying on its response module of experts, it wouldn't be a bad idea to broadbase that and get the best minds in medicine, economics and social sectors to submit their recovery strategies, regardless of whether they have been approached or not. Be that as it may, course correction can begin even now and howsoever flawed, the lockdown was needed in a densely populated country like ours.

Also, let us not forget the resurgence of the disease, the second wave as it is called, in South Korea, Germany and even Italy, where lockdown exits have been allowed but have gone out of hand as people got into their old socialising habits at public spaces. India will have to be very careful about not losing the advantage so far by giving into abandon. It can learn from scenarios in various countries. For example, the UK has allowed people to meet friends or relatives in parks maintaining a two-metre distance and will be permitting standalone shops, eateries and salons gradually thereafter. Of course, any spike will mean withdrawal of these freedoms. In the end, we have to reconcile that we have to mostly stay at home, even work from there and limit our public presence. This may seem a tall order but without a vaccine, our choices will shape our right to live.

Flying isn't a problem

The skies need to open again for the sake of the economy but the process might be complicated



The aviation sector has been among the hardest hit due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Even in those countries where air travel has not been completely restricted, passenger confidence has plummeted. Particularly as airlines became accustomed to shoving more and more people onto seats, social distancing onboard aircraft is being considered to be an impossibility now. Close proximity to strangers is the problem, or so we have been told over the past few weeks. And there are other things around, too. The huge lines at security and immigration points and at the check-in desk as well

as the luggage reclaim counters. And what about taking a bus to the plane? Or even a taxi to and from the airport? The fact is that the process of flying will not just expose one to the 200 or so people on an aircraft but potentially thousands, thanks to the airport and transportation links. But there's a spot of good news over here. Aircraft manufacturers and airlines are highlighting that the advanced air filtration systems they have onboard the aircraft are effective in stopping the spread of the virus. That may not help if someone around you sneezes but it should prevent an entire aircraft getting infected from a single passenger.

But how can an airline or even the Government assure hygiene within airports, buses and taxis? The problem may not be centred around the aircraft alone but the entire ecosystem. Controlling this might be a lot harder than it seems at first. So returning to the normal of having 10 million domestic air passengers every month is impossible. Starting up airlines will require an immense amount of coordination and planning if we do not want aviation to start spreading the virus again. It would be prudent to start flights similar to what the Indian Railways have done — limited numbers of flights to and from a limited number of airports. At the same time, only those who have the Aarogya Setu application on their devices for a certain period of time so as to get a bit of history, should be allowed to travel. Aggressive contact tracing might even need to be done through the use of Aadhaar, which is India's only reliable national identity card. Make no mistakes, civil aviation is vital. For a country as large as India, it offers the only fast, reliable and affordable way of covering large distances. If domestic tourism and business is to revive, aviation has to start soon. But we should not take any shortcuts or do any *jugaad*. We must ensure that all precautions are taken at the start.

opinion

Generalship hereafter

COVID realities have compelled the armed forces to make adaptive changes. For this, the leadership has to be politically literate, sophisticated but still daringly apolitical in its conduct



BHOPINDER SINGH

Like all domains, the armed forces will be forced into making adaptive changes necessitated by the COVID reality. As a lean-mean fighting machine, the onus of recalibrating the Army's professional essentialities and sensibilities will not fall on "generalist" bureaucrats or the temporary politicians who hold the reins of the Defence Ministry but will rely on the senior leadership of the armed forces, euphemistically the "Generalship" of all fighting services. Over the years, the strategic thinking and calculus of the armed forces have evolved to incorporate the fluid reality and inevitability of diverse security realms. For example, nuclear threats, slow-bleed insurgencies, integrated commands and cyber warfare, among others. Now, to meet the COVID imperatives, the tradition-bound armed forces will require the most intellectual, innovative and convention-challenging strategic callisthenics that would be called upon such "Generalship."

The most reassuring starting point is the unmistakable calibre, ethos and conduct of the ranks and the junior-to-middle leadership, which require fundamental soldiering attributes ie, physical, psychological and moral discipline of the "core" mass. The recent martyrdom of Col Ashutosh Sharma, Major Anuj Sood, Naik Rajesh and Lance Naik Dinesh (and Jammu & Kashmir police's sub-inspector Sagar Pathan) in Handwara was reflective of the Indian Army's "unlimited liability" where the officer-cadres lead from the front, unlike any other military in the world. The already twice gallantry-decorated commanding officer, Col Sharma, is a personification of the long list of brave hearts like Colonel MN Rai, Major Mukund Varadarajan and countless others who have given the Indian armed forces the highest "officer-to-soldier" fatality ratio in combat operations compared to any counter-insurgency operation in the world.

The Kargil war was yet another display of the supreme valour, raw grit and unparalleled *josh* of the "core" junior-to-middle leadership that defied conventional logic, firepower ratios and assumptions that typified the ground situation and prevailed before retaking those unforgiving heights. Yet, it is the peripheral tasks and expectations beyond this "core" of the Indian security framework that has not lived up to the parallel performance of the "core." Take the example of the much-talked-about "Made in India." The defence industry has repeatedly ensured that the country retains the dubious distinction and vulnerability as the world's largest importer of weaponry.

The winning USP of the tactical and operational competence of this "core" junior-to-middle military leadership must be force-multiplied with the matching



mental vigour, erudition and strategic thought of the "Generalship" that subsumes the increasingly complex world of symmetric, asymmetric and mutative threats and institutional perceptions.

In today's context, the "Generalship" must demonstrate leadership beyond the tactical and operational realm that is managed exceptionally well by the "core" and envisage the higher orders of geo-strategic, geopolitical, cultural, social, psychological and even political impact of every institutional action and commitment. Routinely invoking and positing the strength of the "core" is certainly justifiable and expected but not enough.

The "Generalship" has to go beyond and contribute its own towards the readiness for tomorrow. All military commitments have a political nudge as the armed forces are the "sword arm" of the nation. But it is incumbent on the "Generalship" to manage, nuance and advise the civilian leadership of the long-term consequences. There are always personal, institutional and cultural concerns at play. Managing the competing expectations and outlook will always determine the steel of the "Generalship."

Late Field Marshal FM Manekshaw goes down in the annals of history as the complete "General" who did not succumb to political pressures. Instead, he pushed back the establishment for timing, wares and control levers that were in consonance with the basic mil-

“IT IS INCUMBENT ON THE GENERALSHIP TO MANAGE, NUANCE AND ADVISE THE CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP OF THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES. THERE ARE ALWAYS PERSONAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND CULTURAL CONCERNS AT PLAY. MANAGING THE COMPETING EXPECTATIONS AND OUTLOOK WILL ALWAYS DETERMINE THE STEEL OF THE LEADERSHIP”

itary requirements. What made Manekshaw so inspirational was his ability to speak truth to power and often contradict the unfounded political assumptions, albeit in a manner that betrayed no political allegiance or preference, personally. The "Generalship" has to be politically literate, sophisticated but still, daringly apolitical in its conduct. Any creeping compromise or perception of political preference could be devastating.

The COVID experience is a classic case of the "unknown" for all arms of governance. It will require specialists, experts and subject immersions that will test the openness, culture and quest for knowledge within the institution. An enlightening culture of fact-based reading and military history was, perhaps, never more relevant than today.

Beyond the Oorah of Marines-bravado of "Mad Dog", former US Secretary of Defence, Gen James Mattis, also has a lesser known moniker as "warrior monk" as he is said to have a personal collection of over 6,000 books. This "last adult in the Trump administration" was reported to have said, "As commanders and staff officers, we are coaches and sentries for our units: How can we coach anything if we don't know a hell of a lot more than just the [tactics, techniques and procedures]?"

He added presciently, "Darwin has a pretty good theory about the outcome for those who cannot adapt to changing circumstance — in the informa-

tion age, things can change rather abruptly and at warp speed, especially the moral high ground which our regimented thinkers cede far too quickly in our recent fights." This was akin to the mercurial and controversial "thinking General," K Sundarji, who, too, insisted in his famous letter to the officers that "I want that we read more and seriously, think more and seriously, discuss more and seriously and write more and seriously about professional matters!"

COVID is the latest security mutation in the ever-evolving physical, social and political environment that requires constant adaptation in clinical military style. The scope of "security" has just got magnified manifold and this disallows more of the same. The lateral thinking required in such times will still necessitate a robust mix of history, tradition, regimentation, scientific upskilling, equipping and even portents of symbolism. But if the preponderance of only one of these vectors is bought to public imagination, then the institution risks atrophy within. The raw materials and base for ensuring the military of tomorrow are clearly available. We just need the inspiration of a Manekshaw, Sundarji or even the "core" brilliance of the finest combat commander, General Sagat Singh, who forsook limelight for soldiering genius, dignity and restraint. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

SOUND BITE

There is no certainty that India will gain in case big corporates shift their businesses from China in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Nobel laureate
—Abhijit Banerjee

Everyone is sort of learning that we can actually survive on smaller things, and lesser stuff. The idea should be to enjoy and embrace the finer things of life, and learn.

Actor
—Arjun Kapoor

We are focussing on the few candidates we have which can bring probably better results and accelerating those candidates with better potential.

WHO chief
—Tedros A Ghebreyesus

Minorities are flourishing in India and have been equal partners in development without discrimination under the Modi Government.

Union Minister
—Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wilful action

Sir — The Centre's Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 is against the federal spirit of the country. By appointing Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERCs), the Centre is usurping the States' privilege. The ERC is the right of the State. Privatisation is always an unpleasant threat. The Bill opposes subsidies and proposes transferring the benefit to consumers through direct benefit transfer (DBT).

Telangana is the only State which is giving 24-hour free power to farmers; with this Bill, its subsidiaries will be affected. The Centre should reconsider its decision. Many will suffer because of the hike in prices. Discoms will be pushed further into financial troubles.

Transferring several States' subjects to the Central list is not agreeable. It would be hard to imagine as to what would happen to farmers and common consumers if the power distribution is privatised, as proposed in the amendments.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli
Hyderabad

Shot in the arm for Indian Army

This refers to the editorial, "Pincer attack" (May 12). Indian forces in the Kashmir Valley have tasted a great deal of success in the last three to four years. The much-acclaimed "Operation Jackboot" claimed its last high-value target in the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen chief Riyaz Naikoo. The elimination of dreaded terrorists like Hizbul commanders Burhan Wani, Zakir Musa and Sabzar Bhat, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) chief commander Abu Dujana and South Kashmir LeT commander Abu Ismail, the mastermind of the 2017 Amarnath Yatra attack, were attributed to meticulous planning and clinical execution on the part of the armed forces.

A 35-year-old math teacher, who joined the militant ranks in 2012, Naikoo quickly rose to be the Hizbul Mujahideen's "operational commander" after incumbent Zakir Musa quit to form a separate outfit. Musa had replaced Wani in that role. Naikoo, after Wani, was said to be the "face" of the Hizbul. His ability to keep his flock together was considered as an asset in a rank divided by infighting. It was speculated that Naikoo's presence stopped splinter groups within the Hizbul from turning towards the slain Musa's outfit. The low-profile terrorist, who carried a bounty worth rupees ₹12 lakh, never attracted publicity, a "quality" that endeared

him to the Hizbul cadres. The killing of Naikoo is considered a shot in the arm for the armed forces. The surgical precision with which Naikoo has been gunned down points to the fact that the intelligence gathering network in Kashmir is now intensive and precise. Naikoo's killing may drive a wedge between different top terror organisations much to the glee of India's security forces. Additionally, his killing has created a vacuum in the higher rung of the Hizbul. The so-called homespun militancy wave seems to be on the wane.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Save Mumbai

Sir — This refers to the report, "36 more deaths, 1,230 more +ve cases in Maha" (May 12). With more than 23,000 cases, Maharashtra continues to be the State with the highest number of COVID-19 infections. Being the financial capital, it is adversely affecting the overall socio-economic condition of the country. The gross value added

(GPA) of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region stood at ₹8.6 lakh crore in 2018-19, as per the latest data available. It accounted for about five per cent of India's GVA as of that year. Mumbai's COVID-19 num-

bers expose not only the city's poor public health infrastructure but also point to systemic drawbacks in urban design. The city's infrastructure has failed to keep up with the surge in migration and population density. COVID-19 should make Mumbai's planners and leaders review not only health facilities but also its housing and transport policies.

Yugal Kishore Sharma
Faridabad

Peaceful resolution

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Pincer attack" (May 12). The tussle between the Chinese and Indian forces along the Sikkim border reminded me of the 1962 war when we lost to the former. A lot of water has flown down the river since. Now India is equally prepared. Our fronts are well connected with a good network of roads and airfields with modern equipment and aircraft. It would be prudent for China to come to terms peacefully.

Ayush
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

US will cross 10mn mark in conducting virus tests: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump has said the US has increased the COVID-19 testing capacity and the number of tests being conducted in the country will cross the 10-million mark this week even as the coronavirus deaths surged past 80,000 in the world's worst-affected nation.

The coronavirus, which originated in China, has so far infected more than 4 million people and claimed over 285,000 lives worldwide.

US has so far recorded over 1.3 million infected cases and more than 80,000 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins University data.

The US Food and Drug Administration has authorised over 92 public health laboratories to conduct the tests, and over nine million have been performed in the US. Three weeks ago, the US was conducting

roughly 150,000 tests per day, which now has increased to 300,000 tests daily.

Speaking to reporters during a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House on Monday, Trump announced that the US this week will pass 10 million tests conducted, nearly double the number of any other country.

"We're testing more people per capita than South Korea, the UK, France, Japan, Sweden, Finland, and many other countries -- and, in some cases, combined," he said.

The president said that as a result of the steps being taken by the administration, every single state will be able to test more people per capita in May alone than South Korea has tested in four months since the outbreak began.

This major commitment is possible because of the massive

mobilisation of the American industry, including Puritan Medical Products, US Cotton, Abbott Labs, and Thermo Fisher.

Trump said that his administration used every resource available in the country to combat the deadly virus.

"To battle a virus, my administration marshalled every resource at our nation's disposal: public, private, military, economic, scientific, and industrial -- all at your disposal. We launched the largest manufacturing ramp-up since the Second World War. There's been nothing like it since," Trump said.

"This global pandemic has inflicted great pain and hardship on our people. It should have never been allowed to happen. It should have been stopped at the source.

"We mourn for every life

the virus has claimed, and we share the grief of all of you who have lost a loved one — and that goes worldwide, too. Many, many countries — 184 countries, at least," he said.

Acknowledging that the American economy has been hit badly in the first quarter and the second quarter is likely to be bad as well, Trump exuded confidence that the country will bounce back economically in the third and fourth quarter.

"Next year, I think we're going to have one of the best years we've ever had because there's a tremendous pent-up demand. It's a demand -- and I'm feeling it," he asserted.

People of the country, he said, have learned a lot over the last two months.

"They've learned about social distancing and washing your hands and other things

that we've all learned and talked about. They've learned about — I see everybody — just about everybody has a facemask on. They've learned about facemasks — the good and the bad, by the way. It's not a one-sided thing, believe it or not," he added.

"But our country has learned. Our country has been incredible. And you see the numbers; they're dropping very substantially. The numbers are dropping around our country very, very substantially," he said in response to a question.

Meanwhile, over 40 states, including the country's epicentre New York, have announced plans to reopen their economy.

New York, which alone has registered more than 3,30,000 confirmed cases and over 21,000 deaths, will allow some areas to reopen on Friday. *PTI*

As Trump urges reopening, thousands getting sick on job

New York: Even as President Donald Trump urges getting people back to work and reopening the economy, an Associated Press analysis shows thousands of people are getting sick from Covid-19 on the job.

Recent figures show a surge of infections in meatpacking and poultry-processing plants. There's been a spike of new cases among construction workers in Austin, Texas, where that sector recently returned to work. Even the White House has proven vulnerable, with positive coronavirus tests for one of Trump's valets and for Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary.

The developments underscore the high stakes for communities nationwide as they gradually loosen restrictions on business. "The people who are getting sick right now are generally people who are working," Dr Mark Escott, a regional health official, told Austin's city council.

"That risk is going to increase the more people are working."

Austin's concerns will likely be mirrored in communities nationwide as the reopening of

stores and factories creates new opportunities for the virus to spread. To be sure, there are plenty of new infections outside the workplace — in nursing homes, and among retired and unemployed people, particularly in densely populated places such as New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia and urban parts of New Jersey and Massachusetts. *AP*

Fauci warns of 'suffering and death' if US reopens too soon

Washington: Dr Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, is warning Congress that if the country reopens too soon during the coronavirus pandemic, it will result in "needless suffering and death."

Fauci is among the health experts testifying to a Senate panel. His testimony comes as President Donald Trump is praising states that are reopening after the prolonged lockdown aimed at controlling the virus' spread.

Fauci, a member of the coronavirus task force charged with shaping the response to Covid-19, which has killed tens of thousands of people in the US, is testifying via video conference after self-quarantining as a White House staffer

tested positive for the virus.

With the U.S. Economy in free-fall and more than 30 million people unemployed, Trump has been pressuring states to reopen.

Fauci, in a statement to The New York Times, warned that officials should adhere to federal guidelines for a phased reopening, including a 'downward trajectory' of positive tests or documented cases of coronavirus over two weeks, robust contact tracing, and "sentinel surveillance" testing of asymptomatic people in vulnerable populations, such as nursing homes.

"If we skip over the checkpoints in the guidelines...Then we risk the danger of multiple outbreaks throughout the country," Fauci wrote. *AP*

Putin's spokesman hospitalised with coronavirus

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman says he is hospitalised with the coronavirus.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the Interfax news agency on Tuesday, "Yes, I've gotten sick. I'm being treated."

Peskov, 52, has been Putin's spokesman since 2008, but started working him with in the early 2000s.

Russians who have the virus but light or no symptoms of illness are allowed to stay home, and it wasn't immediately clear if Peskov's hospitalization reflects the gravity of his condition or was an extra

precaution.

Reporters from the Kremlin pool said on Twitter that Peskov was last seen in public on April 30 "at a meeting with Vladimir Putin." It was not clear whether it means the two were in the same room, as Putin has been conducting all his meetings via teleconference in recent weeks.

Since early in the outbreak, the Russian president minimized meetings and switched to holding daily video calls with Cabinet members and aides.

Peskov's announcement comes just a day after Putin said Russia successful in slowing down infections and announced easing some of the nationwide lockdown restrictions. *AFP*

Vaccine may never be found, warns UK PM

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a COVID-19 survivor, has warned that a mass vaccine for the highly contagious disease may be over a year away and may in fact never be found.

In his foreword to the government's new 50-page guidance on a step by step easing of the lockdown measures in place to control the spread of the deadly virus, the UK prime minister lays out plans for businesses to gradually start reopening with "COVID-19 Secure" measures of social distancing and for the public to use "good solid British common sense" as the economy is unlocked.

"A mass vaccine or treatment may be more than a year away," said Johnson, highlighting the work being done in the UK by scientists at Oxford University and Imperial

College London towards this mission.

"Indeed, in a worst-case scenario, we may never find a vaccine. So our plan must countenance a situation where we are in this, together, for the long haul, even while doing all we can to avoid that outcome," he said.

Admitting that a vaccine or drug-based treatment is the only "feasible long-term solution," he said the UK has accelerated this with "promising" vaccine development programmes and a collaboration between Oxford University and pharma major AstraZeneca was a vital step that could help rapidly advance the manufacture of a COVID-19 vaccine when it is ready.

Johnson himself had been diagnosed with COVID-19 on March 26 and was admitted to the hospital 10 days later.

Johnson was discharged from hospital on April 12.

As part of global efforts, he flagged the 388 million pound in aid funding for research into vaccines, tests and treatment, including 250 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

"But while we hope for a breakthrough, hope is not a plan," he said, as he unveiled his plan for starting to lift lockdown restrictions from this week in phases.

Following a televised address to the nation on Sunday night and a statement in Parliament on Monday, the guidance comes into effect in public life across England from Wednesday when people will be allowed one-to-one contact with people other than those they live with, as long as they remain outside and two metres apart. *PTI*

Fire at Russian hospital kills 5 virus patients

Moscow: A fire on Tuesday morning at St. George Hospital in St. Petersburg killed five coronavirus patients who were on ventilators, Russian emergency officials said.

The unnamed emergency officials spoke to the state Tass news agency.

The fire broke out in an intensive care unit and was put out within half an hour. It could have been caused by a faulty ventilator, the Interfax news agency reported, citing anonymous sources.

Police in St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city, have launched a criminal investigation into the fire.

It was not the first deadly fire in a coronavirus hospital in Russia. On Saturday, a fire in the Spasokukotsky Hospital in Moscow killed one patient.

Russia has reported more than 220,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and 2,009 deaths — numbers that international health officials say significantly undercut the true toll of Russia's outbreak.

Treating coronavirus patients has put a strain on the country's vastly outdated health care infrastructure. *AP*

Docs, nurses died as Iran ignored virus concerns

AP ■ CAIRO

They are regarded as heroes, their fallen colleagues as martyrs. But for doctors and nurses still dealing with Iran's growing number of coronavirus infections, such praise rings hollow.

While crippling sanctions imposed by the US left Iran ill-equipped to deal with the fast-moving virus, some medical professionals say government and religious leaders bear the brunt of the blame for allowing the virus to spread — and for hiding how much it had spread.

Those medical workers say they were defenceless to handle the contagion. During the first 90 days of the outbreak alone, about one medical staffer died each day and dozens became infected.

"We are heading fast toward a disaster," said an Isfahan doctor who has been tirelessly giving initial exams to dozens of suspected coronavirus patients.

It is no secret that Iran has been hit hard by the coronavirus.

According to official figures, around 100,000 people were infected and around 6,500 have died. But a report by the research arm of Iran's parliament said the number of cases could be eight to 10 times higher, making it among the most hardest hit countries in the world. The report said 11,700 may have died, 80% higher than official numbers.

The Iranian government is currently reporting a decline in the number of COVID-19 infections and deaths, though local authorities are expanding cemeteries in places. In Tehran, the municipal council said it had to add 10,000 new graves to its largest cemetery, Behesht e-Zahra.

Interviews with more than 30 medical professionals and a review of communications by doctors on messaging apps and other documents by an Associated Press reporter in Cairo revealed many previously unreported details.

The reporting paints a fuller picture of the roots and extent of the disjointed response as the virus spread through Iran's population. *AP*

Mexico: Virus kills 111 medical staff, infects 8,544

Mexico City: The death toll from the novel coronavirus among medical personnel in Mexico has reached 111, and the virus has infected between 8,500 and 15,000 hospital staffers, officials said Monday.

Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell said the dead included 66 doctors, 16 nurses and 29 other hospital staff, including support personnel, dentists and lab techs.

There are 8,544 confirmed COVID-19 cases among health professionals in Mexico, and another 6,747 suspected cases, many of which are awaiting test results.

The country's total coronavirus case load has increased to 36,327 cases, with 3,573 deaths, though officials have acknowledged the true number is probably much higher.

Some cities in Mexico have seen a lot of cases but are tapering off. Others like Mexico City appear to be at their peak.

And still other cities have not seen many cases at all. *AP*

US donates 1,000 ventilators to South Africa

Johannesburg: The US government has donated 1,000 ventilators to South Africa to help the country respond to COVID-19. South Africa has the most confirmed cases of the disease in Africa with more than 10,600, including 206 deaths.

The new ventilators are valued at \$14 million, and with accessories, service plans and shipping, the total donation is worth \$20 million, said the US Embassy in a statement issued Tuesday. The ventilators, produced in the United States, will help South Africa's hospitals treat patients in intensive care units, and the US Agency for International Development will work with the South African Govt to distribute the equipment across the country.

US Ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks was at Johannesburg's OR Tambo airport on Monday to receive the shipment. "These ventilators are another example of the American spirit of generosity as we battle this virus at home in the United States and together abroad with our partner countries," said Marks, in the statement. *AP*

Acting PM of Kosovo returns to work after a colleague tested negative for the virus

Pristina: Kosovo's acting Prime Minister has returned to his office after the person suspected of being exposed to the virus tested negative, his spokesman said on Tuesday.

Acting Prime Minister Albin Kurti "has returned to the regular working regime" and he has not been tested of the virus because "the suspected person he had contacted resulted negative," said Perparim Kryeziu, a Government spokesperson.

A day earlier Kurti said he

was quarantining himself at home following contacts with a possible virus-infected official.

Kosovo has eased some of its lockdown measures, but it is still with closed borders and many businesses remain shut. As of Tuesday, Kosovo has had 28 confirmed virus deaths and about 900 confirmed cases. *AP*

Around the Globe

Jerusalem: An Israeli soldier was killed on Tuesday morning during a West Bank arrest raid when a rock thrown off a rooftop struck him in the head, the military said. The military typically carries out such pre-dawn raids against wanted militants in the West Bank, occasionally encountering local resistance but the killing of a soldier is rare.

Dhaka: A fire on Tuesday raced through a crowded camp housing Rohingya refugees in southern Bangladesh, destroying nearly 400 shanties and shops, a Bangladeshi official and the U.N.'s refugee agency said. No casualties were immediately reported, the refugee agency said in a Facebook post.

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's government is working to push through a contentious bill that seeks to criminalize abuse of the Chinese national anthem, days after a pro-Beijing lawmaker wrested control over a key committee that vets bills. Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, said at a news conference Tuesday that the bill would be given "priority," as the Legislative Council's House Committee — which scrutinises bills and decides when they can be sent for a final vote — moves to resume second readings of bills.

Washington: US President Donald Trump's re-election campaign raised an impressive USD 61.7 million in April while his Democratic rival and former vice president Joe Biden collected USD 60.5 million at a time when the world's biggest economy has come to a virtual standstill and over 33 million Americans have lost their jobs. Presidential elections are scheduled to be held on November 3 and the two campaigns as of now are raising funds virtually. *AP*

Terrorists storm maternity clinic in Afghan capital, kill 14

Kabul: Militants stormed a maternity hospital in the western part of Kabul on Tuesday, setting off an hours-long shootout with the police and killing 14 people, including two newborn babies, their mothers and an unspecified number of nurses, Afghan officials said.

While the battle was underway, Afghan security forces struggled to evacuate the facility, carrying out babies and frantic young mothers, according to images shared by the Interior Ministry.

But the day's spasm of violence extended beyond Kabul. A suicide bomber in eastern Nangarhar province — a hotbed of the Islamic State group — targeted a funeral ceremony, killing 21 people and wounding 55. And in eastern Khost province, a bomb planted in a cart in a market killed a child and wounded 10 people.



A bullet holes line the wall of a maternity hospital in Kabul on Tuesday

AP

The violence could further undermine a peace process in the wake of a deal signed between the United States and the Taliban in February, which envisages the start of talks among key Afghan figures, including government representatives, and the Taliban. Relentless, near-daily attacks

have also left Afghan authorities ill-prepared to face the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected more than 4,900 people in the country and killed at least 127.

Soon after the Kabul attack started, black smoke rose into the sky over the hospital in Dashti Barchi, a mostly Shiite

neighborhood that has been the site of many past attacks by Islamic State militants. The Interior Ministry spokesman, Tareq Arian, said over 100 women and babies were evacuated from the building before it was over.

Arian said 15 others, including women, men and children were wounded in the attack. Three foreign nationals were among those safely evacuated, he said, without elaborating.

It was unclear why the maternity hospital in Dashti Barchi, a 100-bed facility, was targeted — an attack Arian said was an "act against humanity and war crime."

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Kabul, where both the Taliban and the IS frequently target Afghan military and security forces, as well as civilians. The Taliban denied they

were involved.

Photos shared by the Interior Ministry during the Kabul attack show newborn babies and their mothers being carried out of the hospital by Afghan security forces.

"The forces are trying to eliminate the terrorists and bring the situation under control," said Arian while the battle was ongoing.

By mid-afternoon, the ministry issued a statement saying three attackers had stormed the hospital and that one was shot and killed while the other two were still resisting arrest. The first floor of the clinic was cleared but the operation was ongoing to secure the rest of the building, the statement said.

A few hours later, the ministry released another statement, saying all three attackers were dead and that the operation was over. *AP*

Crimes against women, kids in Pak see 200% spike in March

PTI ■ KARACHI

The crimes against women and children in Pakistan have seen a 200 per cent rise in March, the month when the coronavirus outbreak hit the country, according to a study.

The study comes soon after a report by the country's human rights commission, warning that the ongoing coronavirus pandemic will worsen the condition of the poorest sections.

In its January to March 2020 report, the Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO) said cases of violence against women increased by more than 200 per cent in March compared to January, The News said in an article on Tuesday.

Trump praise of 'tormented' Flynn raises pardon speculation

Washington: President Donald Trump voiced strong support Thursday for his former national security adviser Michael Flynn, raising speculation that a pardon may be coming after Flynn's lawyers disclosed internal FBI documents they claim show the FBI tried to "intentionally frame" him.

Trump said he believes Flynn should now be cleared in court, but if that doesn't happen, he as president has "a different type of power." "It looks to me like Michael Flynn would be exonerated based on everything I see," Trump told reporters Thursday.

"I'm not the judge, but I have a different type of power. But I don't know that anybody would have to use that power.

I think he's exonerated." Trump has long said he is considering pardoning Flynn, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador to the United States.

The president spent Wednesday night and Thursday morning retweeting supportive statements of Flynn and condemned the FBI's investigation into his onetime adviser "They came at him with 15 buses and he's standing in the middle of the highway."

What they did to this man," Trump said at an earlier event at the White House, without specifying what he meant. "They tormented him. They destroyed him. But he's going to come back." *AP*

Industrial output falls a record 16.7%

IIP had grown by 2.7% in March 2019

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production contracted by a record 16.7 per cent in March, on account of poor show by mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors mainly due to the nationwide lockdown, Government data showed on Tuesday.

The Government had imposed the lockdown to contain COVID-19 from March 25. The 16.7 per cent fall in factory output is the sharpest since April 2012, based on the new series of IIP data with base year 2011-12. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown by 2.7 per cent in March, 2019. According to National Statistical Office (NSO) data, manufacturing sector output fell 20.6 per cent compared to

a growth of 3.1 per cent in the same month a year ago.

Electricity generation declined by 6.8 per cent as against a growth of 2.2 per cent in March 2019. Mining sector output remained flat compared to a growth of 0.8 per cent earlier. The IIP in the last fiscal contracted by 0.7 per cent from 3.8 per cent expansion in the 2018-19.

The data for March showed that production of capital goods, a barometer of investment, declined by 35.6 per cent as compared to a contraction of 9.1 per cent in the same month previous year.

As per use-based classification, primary good registered a contraction of 3.1 per cent, intermediate goods 18.5 per cent (-) and infrastructure/construction goods 23.8 per cent (-) in March 2020 over the same period previous year.

The consumer durables output fell 33.1 per cent, while non-durables production slipped 16.2 per cent in March. In terms of industries, 7 out of 23 industry groups in the manufacturing sector have shown positive growth in March 2020.

'E-commerce regains 30% of pre-lockdown order volume'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online commerce platforms are estimated to have regained about 30 per cent of the pre-lockdown order volume in the last one week after relaxations were eased in the third phase of lockdown, a report by Unicommerce eSolutions said on Tuesday.

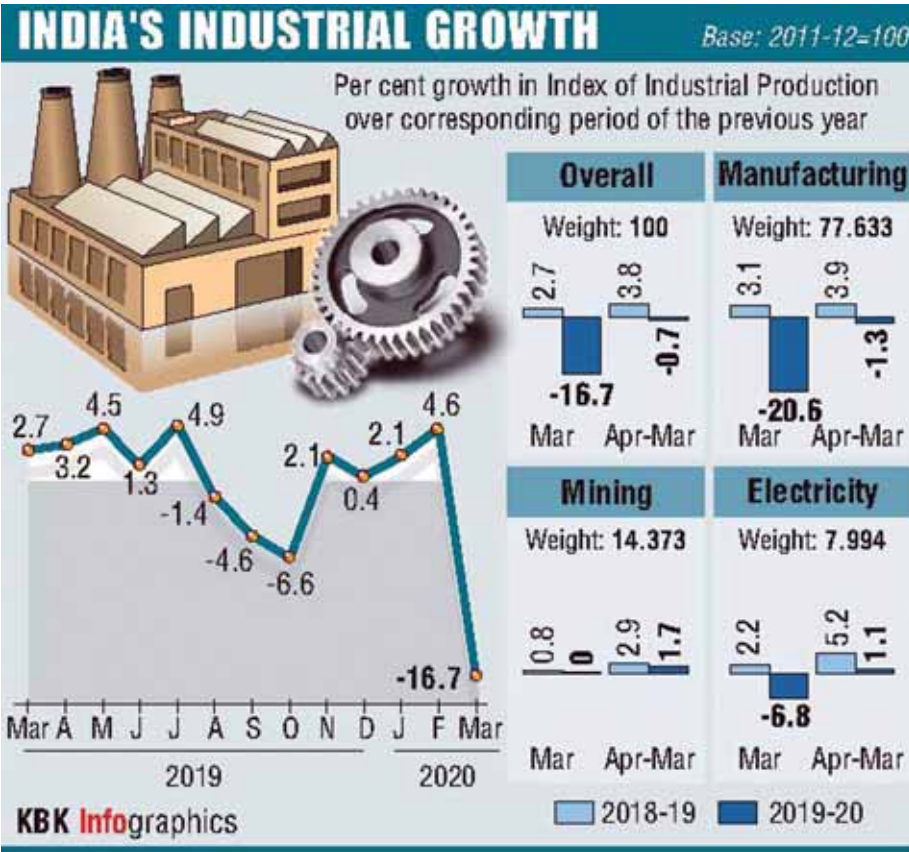
Unicommerce is an e-commerce focused supply chain solutions provider, and claims to process over 20 per cent of the country's e-commerce volume.

Its clients include Myntra, Bulbul TV, Urbanclap, Forever New, House of Anita Dongre, Jack & Jones, Vero Moda and others.

The company said it processes 4 lakh order items a day, amounting to over USD 2 billion (about ₹15,000 crore) in gross merchandise value.

"The overall e-commerce sector showed a good sign of recovery in the first week of lockdown 3.0 and made up for the steep decline of 40 days due to lockdown.

The overall industry has reached 30 per cent of pre-lockdown order volumes which is a good sign for the industry," the report said.



China announces new list of US imports eligible for trade war tariff waivers

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday released a list of 79 American products which will be exempted from the second round of retaliatory tariffs imposed at the peak of the bilateral trade war, as it faced fresh pressure from the US to import more to end the bruising dispute.

This is the second list of American goods to be excluded from the second round of tariff countermeasures against the US Section 301 measure, according to a statement from the Customs Tariff Commission of China's State Council.

The exemption will be valid from May 19, 2020, to May 18, 2021, it said.

There are 79 products in total on the list published on Tuesday by the Ministry of Finance that included rare earth mineral ores, aircraft radar equipment, semiconductor parts, medical disinfectants, and a range of precious metals, chemical and petrochemical products.

The first batch of exclusions was announced in September 2019, and included major agricultural commodities such as soybeans and pork,

as well as petrochemical products.

Tariffs that have already been levied will be refunded, the statement said.

The remaining US products subject to China's second round of additional tariffs will not be excluded for the time being, it said.

For United States products that are not on the first two lists, the commission advised enterprises to apply for the exemption of additional tariffs following a specific product list that applies to domestic firms.

Which plan to sign deals to purchase and import these products from the United States in a market-oriented and commercial fashion, the State-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The US and China signed the phase one deal on January 16 to end the 22-month-long trade war during which two countries slapped tit-for-tat tariff hikes over nearly half a trillion USD worth of products.

Under the January deal, China agreed to increase its purchases of US goods from a 2017 baseline by USD 200 billion over two years.

FY21 INDIA RATINGS

Auto component industry likely to witness double-digit degrowth

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Auto component industry is likely to witness a second consecutive year of a double-digit degrowth this fiscal mainly on account of disruption in operations due to coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, according to a report.

The counter measures are likely to lead to lower income levels, weaker consumer sentiments, production disruptions, decreased industrial output as well as lesser movement of vehicles, resulting in a decline in global automobile demand and therefore, lower revenue and profitability for auto ancillaries in FY21, India Ratings (Ind-Ra) said in the report on Tuesday.

"Ind-Ra expects that the auto ancillaries industry on an average could record at least 100bp EBITDA margin decline in FY21 and the profitability decline for export focused auto ancillaries could be steeper as exports earn higher margins.

The lower commodity prices could aid the profitability for the sector, though only to a limited extent, due to pass-through agreements with OEMs and OEMs' higher bargaining power.

"Also, some benefit may accrue to companies with overseas manufacturing units, as certain economies have announced support measures to meet part of the fixed costs during the shutdown period.

A depreciated rupee rate could partly offset the decline in sales volumes; however, the benefit is not expected to be significant," it said.

However, the revenue and profitability of auto ancillaries focused on domestic markets are likely to fare better due to higher content per vehicle on the back of evolving regulatory norms including BS-VI applicable from April 1, 2020, as per the report.

Sensex drops 190 points; RIL tanks over 6 per cent

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex slipped over 190 points on Tuesday, dragged by a massive loss in index heavyweight Reliance Industries amid weak cues from Asian peers as fears of a second wave of coronavirus infections spooked global investors.

After plunging over 716 points during the day, the 30-share index pared some losses but still settled 190.10 points or 0.60 per cent lower at 31,371.12.

Similarly, NSE Nifty declined 42.65 points, or 0.46 per cent, to 9,196.55.

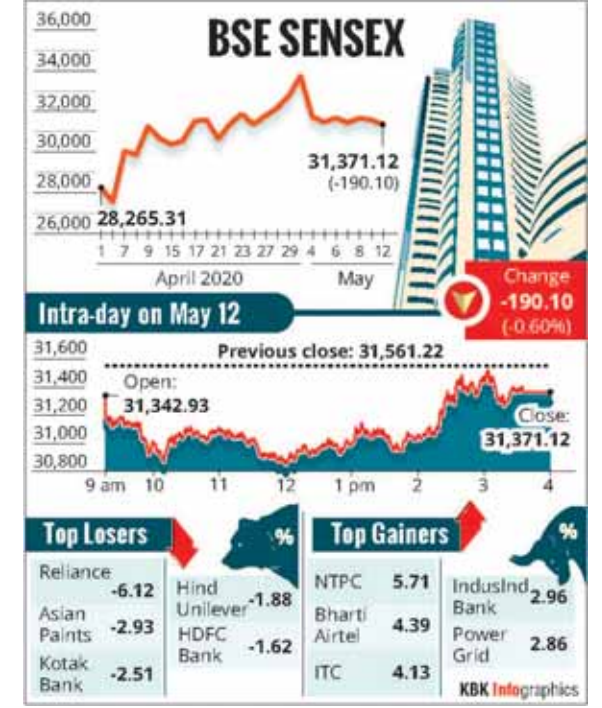
Reliance Industries was the top loser in the Sensex pack, plunging over 6 per cent, followed by Asian Paints, Kotak Bank, HUL, HDFC Bank and ONGC.

On the other hand, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, ITC and IndusInd Bank and PowerGrid were among the top gainers.

According to traders, weak cues from global markets on fears of a second wave of coronavirus infections spooked investors across Asia.

After weeks of no new cases, Wuhan, the central Chinese city where the outbreak first emerged, reported six new infections in two days and South Korea announced its biggest spike in new cases in more than a month.

Following the reports, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul finished in the red. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in early deals.



Rupee rebounds 22p to 75.51 against dollar on stimulus hopes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Tuesday rebounded by 22 paise to close at 75.51 against the US currency on hopes of stimulus measures by the Govt and a weak dollar in the global markets as countries started to open up their economies. Foreign fund inflows and a spirited recovery in domestic stocks also supported the

rupee, forex dealers said.

The rupee opened lower at 75.89 at the interbank foreign exchange market and moved between 75.49 and 75.95 in the day trade. The currency finally settled at 75.51 against the US dollar, registering a rise of 22 paise over its previous close of 75.73. "Rupee traded strong as expectation of an announcement of stimulus package after news of PM.

Roadside dhabas extorting money for releasing parked trucks

ALLEGES TRUCKERS BODY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Truckers on Tuesday alleged that roadside dhabas and local goons are demanding sums ranging from Rs 200 to 300 per day for releasing vehicles that they had parked at their set-ups and other places during the first phase of lockdown. Truckers alleged that vehicles have been forcibly detained by dhaba (eatery) owners in conjunction with local goons who are demanding around ₹16,000 as parking fee which small operators cannot afford to pay.

"Exorbitant parking fee is being charged by roadside dhaba owners where drivers had abandoned their vehicles during lockdown 1.0," All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) President Kuluran Singh Atwal told PTI. "The vehicles are being forcibly detained by dhaba owners in conjunction with local goons and they are charging ₹200 - ₹300 per day, which amounts to ₹16,200 per vehicle, which small operators cannot afford," he claimed.

Thousands of vehicles are stranded across the country due to restricted mobility, Atwal said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Re-Invitation of Tender through E- Tendering (E-Procurement System)
1. Name of work with its location: Hiring of (01) one number road vehicle Tata Sumo/Tavera or equivalent (Non AC) with taxi permit on monthly basis under AXEN/BL/MB for a period of (02) two years and hiring of (02) two numbers Multi Utility Vehicle (MUV) Tata/Mahindra or equivalent, offloading 1MT capacity each one for SSE/Br/M/MB and SSE/Br/M/BE under AXEN/BL/MB for a period of (03) three years. **2. Approx. Cost of work:** Rs. 3976767.41 3. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 79500.00 **4. Completion period of the work:** 36 (Thirty Six) Months **5. Cost of Tender form:** Rs. 3000/- **Note:** - **Cost of EMD & Tender Form** should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). **6. Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender:** Upto 15.00 hrs on 15.06.2020 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day **7. Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.** Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in **Tender Notice No: 32-W-HIRING-VEH-MB-19-20 Date: 12.05.2020**
Serving Customers With A Smile

Railways providing logistics, transportation Solutions in Coovid-19



New Delhi: Railways Providing Logistics and Transportation Solutions during Covid-19 LockdownNorthern Railway Runs Special Rajdhani Trains Planned from New Delhi to several Major Cities Special Rajdhani Trains to Bilaspur and Dibrugarh Leave from New Delhi Railway Station today Chairman Railway Board Inspects New Delhi Railway Station

Extending a helping hand to provide transportation facility during the lockdown necessitated due to Corona virus outbreak in the country, Northern Railway has initiated Special Rajdhani Trains from New Delhi to some major cities across India.

Two such trains commenced their run from New Delhi Railway Station today, one each to Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) and Dibrugarh (Assam). The response to the initiation of movement of the passenger trains other than the Shramik Specials is overwhelming.

The percentage occupancy of the trains has been 137% and 122% respectively.

बिहार सरकार
जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, प्रमंडल, किशनगंज।
अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण
अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – 04SBD/2020-21.
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
1. कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (लाख रु० में)	परिमाण-विषय (अग्रघन/पंजीय) (केवल ऑनलाईन मोड में भुगतये) (रु० में)	बेड्टॉन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अग्रघन/पंजीय) (केवल ऑनलाईन मोड में भुगतये) रु० में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	अम्बुजित
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
01	किशनगंज जिला के कोचाधामन प्रखंड अन्तर्गत महानदी नदी के दाएँ तट पर स्थित बगलबाडी, बैरिया ग्राम के समीप ट्रांसमिशन सबस्टेशन का सुरक्षात्मक कार्य (एजेण्डा संख्या 159/06/2020)।	1031.93	20.6386	10000.00	17700.00	45 दिन	

2. विज्ञापन दाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, प्रमंडल, किशनगंज।
3. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक 09.05.2020
4. निविदा कागजात संपादन करने की अवधि : दिनांक 18.05.2020 से 20.05.2020 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर।
5. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक 19.05.2020 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण जल संसाधन विभाग काटिहार।
6. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 21.05.2020 के अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर।
7. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 23.05.2020 के अपराह्न 3:30 बजे। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर।
8. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर घोषित की जायेगी। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर।
9. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : 120 दिन।
10. निविदा बैकला की अवधि : 120 दिन।
11. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in एवं www.wrd.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण,
प्रमंडल, किशनगंज फोन-7463889229
PR. No. 000968 (WRD) 2020-21
नोट: कोविड-19 के संघर्ष में किस्तुन जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
स्वात सम्पत्ति- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुसुहाय हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 06122-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
श्रमिकों के सहयोग एवं सहायता हेतु श्रम संसाधन विभाग का Toll Free No.: 18003456138

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO. 1
No. 23AC/393/C-S-Car Pkg/DLI1st Entry/17
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the allotment of parking Contracts at Delhi (1st Entry) and Delhi Sadar Bazar Railway Stations of Delhi Division for the period of three years, were published in various newspapers on 25.04.2020, with tender opening dated 18.05.2020, through website www.ireps.gov.in.
Now, due to lockdown-3.0, bidders may please note that the date of opening of above published NIT's has been further extended for date **02.06.2020 at 15:00 hrs. All others terms and conditions will remain the same. All tender/s is/are requested to visit website of E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in.**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE
1085/20

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx cost of work	Earnest Money to be deposited	Cost of tender document	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen
1.	Hiring of Vehicle for ADEN/DLI in the section of SSE/W/DLI under ADEN/DLI.	Rs. 11,75,435.04 (Eleven Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Five and Four paise only)	Rs. 23,500/- (Rupees Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Rs. 3540/-	05.06.2020 @ 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. • The cost of work is exclusive of GST. No. No. 128-W/280/E Tender Notice/NIT/04/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 12.05.2020 1082/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 07.05.2020 at Infront of DDU Hospital Main Road Footpat.** In this regard **DD No. 8A, dated 07.05.2020** has been lodged at Police Station, Hari Nagar, Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved in DDU Hospital, Delhi mortuary for 72 hours for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 30/32 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour lining Shirt.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Hari Nagar, Delhi
DP/96/WD/2020 Ph.: 011-28525719, 8750871128, 9990094497

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named: Suraj, S/o: Bhim Kumar, R/o: Rain Basera Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, Age: About 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Green and Yellow Color T-shirt and Light Blue Colour Jeans.** was found dead at Rain Basera Rajouri Garden, New Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 14-A, Dated 16.04.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi.

Dead Body has been kept preserved in DDU Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Rajouri Garden, New Delhi
DP/95/WD/2020 Ph.: 011-25453990, 8750871127

Strategise smartly

Online education is not confined to e-lectures. It also demands e-content, study material, a developed ed-tech base and an effective entrepreneurship to make it a success, says DR DNS KUMAR

The Coronavirus outbreak has caught people across the maps off-guard and is seen manifesting itself exponentially with every passing day. COVID-19 is not only impacting the economy of the countries but is also disrupting the basics of survival, with one of them being education.

The virus is to be held accountable not only for postponing the board exams and encouraging States to adopt social-distancing but is also intervening with the higher education of the aspiring students. With universities and schools shut across the country, the question arises — are we ready? The question stands to be if India is prepared to adapt to an online education system and encourage students to learn from the comfort of their homes? And if yes, how fertile is it going to be in the long run?

The answer somewhere reflects in the current statistics of the country. Even though India has been expanding its horizons of success and adapting to international ways of learning, what remains unchanged is the fact that only 45 crores of the total population in India can access the mobiles and thus hindering the purpose of e-learning on the move or remotely. The students lying in the underprivileged section are still being deprived of the education online. The education system of India is branched into various kinds of educational institutions such as private, Government, rural, urban, government-funded; non-funded and many more. The entire cluster of educational stations requires concrete support to be able to make a fertile change in society.

The cycle of online education is not confined to e-lectures but also demands e-content, study material, a developed ed-tech base, effective entrepreneurship and much more to make it a success. However, India does not seem prepared in terms of resources as well as advancements to carry forward the westernised approach of e-learning for all, considering there lies a lot of obstacles in the same. This is where one realises that the need for the Government to step in. The Government is required to render its expertise and services and focus on the educational infrastructure



and facilities, irrespective of institution falling under the private or the government sector.

Also, the fact that the country hardly has a handful of online platforms to guide students in their respective fields somehow negates the aim of online learning and e-education. Although India's budget 2020 talked of about ₹3,900 crore of the online education market, there is no denying that the providers did not emerge evidently and now, the pandemic spreading across is also impacting in the economy, resulting in a slow-down and mass-panic — which again is a factor playing a significant role in the ed-tech sector not being developed

INDIA DOES NOT SEEM PREPARED IN TERMS OF RESOURCES AS WELL AS ADVANCEMENTS TO CARRY FORWARD THE WESTERNISED APPROACH OF E-LEARNING FOR ALL, CONSIDERING THERE LIES A LOT OF OBSTACLES IN THE SAME

to handle e-learning comprehensively. Furthermore, existing educational institutions have had the desire to develop have a regulatory restriction as you have to specify a 3.50+ NAAC score to go fully on online mode; however, it isn't seen contributing to the current scenario and crisis heroically. Adding to the situation lies the fact that the e-content and ed-specific material is at the nascent stage of development and it will take quite some time or terms for India to become one of the dozens of the e-learning industry.

The advancements in IT sector and with an expected CAGR of 44 per cent in online between 2019-2024 might sound good enough for one to

anticipate a productive future in the ed-tech and e-learning sector; however, the current situation stands way apart from that.

Adopting e-learning partially in the moment of crisis might seem like an idea which would steer us through the storm, but considering it an extensive plan in the term might sound like an exaggeration. The ray of hope, here, seems to be the fact that the country is collectively supporting fellow citizens and endeavouring to devise ways to get through the crisis and thus being the light at the end of the tunnel — because 'this, too, shall pass'.

The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Ansal University

QUOTE OF THE DAY

No one has yet realised the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.

— Emma Goldman

SRMJEE dates announced

The SRM Joint Entrance Examination Engineering SRMJEEE (BTech) 2020 will be held from July 30 to August 4, 2020, in 127 Indian cities and five abroad, in Dubai, Doha, Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait. The eagerly awaited exam expected to enable an overwhelming 1.75 lakhs candidates to participate and aspire to gain entry into the multi-stream university.

The test will be computer based of two hours and 30 minutes duration, with 125 MCQs and no negative marking. The questions will be drawn from maths or biology, physics, chemistry, english, together with an aptitude test. With two sessions each day, candidates can select the exam date, session and choice of centre. Candidates will be able to download the hall ticket in the third week of July 2020.

SRMJEEE is a common entrance examination for the BTech programmes for entry into all the campuses of SRM Institute of Science and Technology located at Kattankulathu, Vadapalani, Ramapuram, and Delhi — NCR; SRM University, AP — Andhra Pradesh; SRM University, Sonapat, Haryana and SRM University, Sikkim. The joint counselling is slated to be held in the second or third week of August, 2020. The students will be chosen based on their SRMJEEE rank.

Due to the lockdown, the last date for applying has also been extended.

SRM will conduct the exam in a safe and secure manner, following all State regulations on social distancing, sanitation and cleanliness.

For more details, aspirants can visit www.srmist.edu.in.

PG diploma programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar has taken up several initiatives to help its graduating students whose future plans may be interrupted by COVID-19 pandemic.

The Institute has launched a one-year postgraduate diploma programme in several streams for the upcoming academic year (2020-21) for students of the current graduating class.

A major objective of this programme is to help students whose higher education or employment plans may be disrupted. This programme will also help graduating students who are interested in exploring, but are not fully committed to, a master's programme.

In addition, IIT Gandhinagar is also offering two Fellowships — 'IIT Gandhinagar Junior Fellowship in Leadership' and 'Sabarmati Bridge Fellowship' to enable students to undertake unconventional professional and exciting research opportunities.

Speaking about the objectives, Prof Sudhir K Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar, said: "The postgraduate diploma and the research and leadership fellowships have been designed to engage some of our brightest students whose post-graduation plans for higher education and employment may get disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These opportunities will enable them to continue to pursue their education or undertake exciting research or develop career-enhancing leadership skills until they can move on once this crisis passes."

Know your rights

Legal awareness is the domain of every citizen. Just like health and hygiene are taught to toddlers, legal awareness should also be included in the curriculum, says DR PURVI POKHARIYAL

With a large part of its population living in villages, India does not have a literacy rate to be proud of-it is barely 74.04 per cent. Most of the literacy figures pertain to those who can actually read, write or do basic arithmetic! Awareness about law and legal aspects is obviously abysmal to pathetic.

There have been several impediments to the issue of awareness of Legal Aid in India. The first and the foremost is the total lack of knowledge of the fact that legal aid is the provision of assistance to people who are unable to afford legal representation and access to the court system. This is followed by the mistaken notion that free legal aid is not compatible with quality of service rendered. The fact that remuneration to the lawyers imparting free legal service to clients pecuniarily handicapped is a pittance does not help much either, which is a cause of lack of interest of such lawyers handling such cases.

The Indian Constitution provides for its citizens a right to legal aid. This is guaranteed under Article 39-



A of the Constitution brought through by the 42nd Amendment in 1976, supported by Article 21. Right to free legal aid is also guaranteed by the European Convention (Article 6.3) of the Human Rights particularly in criminal cases wherein it is deemed essential to guaranteeing equal access to justice for all, especially to those citizens who do not have sufficient financial resources. The concept of pro bono

is very much prevalent in the British judicial system which recognises this aspect and imparts free judicial service to its citizens through legal clinics and Duty Lawyers.

However, legal aid, without its awareness is an exercise in futility. The empowerment of the general mass is imperative to ensure that this aspect of legal aid is utilised to the fullest. Without legal literacy, the common

man is likely to get intimidated and alienated from the legal system and consequently get in conflict with their own law that is made to serve the interest of the common people with damaging and disastrous consequences.

It is a mistaken notion that legal awareness is only meant for the law student. It is precisely here that the seeds of exploitation of the common man is sown. Legal awareness is the domain of each and every citizen of this country; just like health and hygiene is taught to the toddlers, legal awareness should also be included in the curriculum after the child reaches a certain standard. The student of political science is taught about the Indian constitution; how many are taught about the intricacies of the complex legal system? Such studies should be made the integral part of the curriculum wherein a student is made aware of all the nitty-gritty of the legal system, and above all, free legal aid is his right as imparted by the Indian constitution and he should demand it.

The writer is

Reshaping education

The Coronavirus pandemic has revolutionised the education sector. The new solutions are slowly and steadily making a lasting impact on the trajectory of learning innovation, says DR NARENDRA SHYAMSUKHA

With the introduction of e-learning in educational institutes, the coronavirus pandemic has actually revolutionised the way we once thought of our slow-paced educational learning would be. These new solutions for education are slowly and steadily making a lasting impact on the trajectory of learning innovation and digitisation.

The pandemic has given an opportunity to remind ourselves of the skills students need in this unpredictable world such as informed decision making, creative problem solving, and perhaps above all, adaptability. Therefore, it is very important that education should also help to build resilience to face various threats in students.

Well, it is too early to figure out whether COVID-19 can affect education systems around the world, but there are signs suggesting that it could change for the better in the long run. Following are the few ways that could reshape the future education:

Honing one's skills: For older students, who now have more time on their hands, could use the various e-learning platforms to hone their skills. It has been observed that YouTube is an excellent



resource for self-directed learning, especially when it revolves around skill development. When a learner opts for self-learning, he makes his own goals and creates strategies to accomplish it. Parents should also lend a helping hand.

Education is pushed to change: Until now the change in our education system was going through a slow pace but the COVID-19 has become the agent for change in the educational institutions worldwide to search for innovative solutions in a relatively short period of time. Many private schools and colleges have distributed learning materials

online so that students can learn from home.

Not replacing teachers: Parents should not think that the various online platforms are a replacement for regular studies, but rather as a supplement to what is being offered. This includes online programs that schools are sending, as well as official video interaction. For making them learn through the new technology, teachers are there to support the kids. There are many teachers, who have created brilliant online content to help the students.

The writer is Founder & Chairman, ICA Edu Skills

AI virtual summit for students

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Microsoft conducted an AI Virtual Summit for the students of BML Munjal University (BMU), a Hero Group initiative on May 6-May 7, 2020. This was as per the MoU signed between BMU and Microsoft Intelligent Cloud Hub (ICH), to enrich skills and expertise in Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things & data science. The collaboration furthers the hands-on learning experience at BMU through workshops, internships and industry specific labs. The two-day long summit was attended by approximately 200 students and the faculty members.

Data science is a diverse field with

immense purpose in today's time, and the students of BMU got the chance to hear from leading experts in the space, share their experience and derive key insights from the online sessions.

The first day's session of the two-day virtual summit was inaugurated by Dr Manoj K Arora, Vice Chancellor, BMU, on May 6, 2020, where he spoke about how BMU is taking charge in teaching skills that are relevant for students today, and how the collaboration with Microsoft is helping them achieve that.

Dr Maneek Kumar, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, spoke about the importance of collaboration with industry leaders in today's time, to enable holistic growth of the students.

Laurels for SSCBS at Harvard

The Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies (SSCBS), a college under the University of Delhi, and funded by GNCTD bagged the first position for India in the Global Case Competition at Harvard while representing the country at the International finals of the prestigious event. This is a first-of-its-kind win for India.

The team from the college represented India and presented the entire case solution through a video format fol-

lowed by facing a live Q&A session with the judges from top-tier consulting, investment banking and academic backgrounds who grilled them on their solution as well as key technical concepts. The team competed alongside other teams with members ranging from undergraduate to PhD level of study from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), John Hopkins University, HEC Paris, London Business School, among others. SSCBS was the only Indian college

amidst such prestigious institutions, making the finals even more exhilarating and gruelling.

While every year the final round of this esteemed event takes place at Harvard University, this year it was organised via video conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Top-tier business executives and professors from various prestigious institutes and corporates judged and declared Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies as the winning team with a grand

prize of \$10,000.

The team consisted of second year students — Kunal Vats, Raghav Nath and Anand Negi, under the able mentorship of well experienced faculty members Neeraj Sehrawat and Amit Kumar. SSCBS' Principal, Dr Poonam Verma said: "Once again, our students have got home a huge laurel at global level, adding to many stupendous achievements of the college. This award is all the more reckoning as India has emerged winner in this event for the first time."

Surge in online learners

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the lockdown in force for close to two months, Board Infinity, a career and education tech start-up sees a 400 per cent surge in enrolments for live online classes focussed on skilling and career transition. The preferred courses amongst the learners have been data science, machine learning, AI, product management, personal finance management,

aptitude test preparation, digital marketing and big data. The reason is that these are focussed on jobs of the future, and also it helps them to obtain employment.

This increase in the learners can be mainly attributed to a combination of new courses, behavioural change to consume the same category online and referrals from customers who have got job placements through it.

A degree in finance and accounting can open several doors to lucrative options, says DR KULNEET SURI



The Indian economy has witnessed an extensive transformation over the past few years. There has been a significant progression in the areas of digital payments, e-commerce and net banking. Not only is the financial sector taking exciting twists and turns with the digitalisation, but, various other sectors have showcased improvements.

Taking the education sector into consideration, the demand for courses in accounting and finance has also increased with the changing trends. There are different factors that a student considers before enrolling for accounting or finance courses. One of those is the benefits that the degree brings to a student. Let's start with analysing the key benefits of taking up finance and accounting programme.

Endless job opportunities: One of the perks a student enjoys after getting an accounting degree is that they are open to an extensive number of opportunities. Accountants and finance professionals are a need for every organisation. Thus, the requirement for finance candidates never sees a decline.

Open for any industry: Irrespective of the sector or industry, finance professionals, enjoy the privilege of exposure to any industry they wish to work in. Students get the opportunity to work in different industries and then, identify

the best path for their career.

Opportunities for graduate schemes: Few of the top multinational organisations introduce their graduate schemes, wherein, they hire the graduates from different areas like finance, accounting and business to join them and work under their programme.

Firms like KPMG and PWC are few of those that hire students from a finance background. Graduates in finance and accounting have a chance of getting hired in these prestigious companies and get structured training as well as get clear career growth.

A finance and accounting degree is advantageous, however, getting a seat in the course is not easy. A student is expected to be proficient with mathematics to clear the entrance examinations and meet the necessary entry-level requirements of the course.

SKILLS

The degree not only provides an understanding of accounting practices, principles, finance, and industry but, offers a blend of knowledge and skillsets which can make you

The advantage of a finance and accounts degree is that the graduate becomes industry ready and can join any organisation right after the completion of their course

ready for any industry. There are a set of specific skills that the degree delivers throughout the entire duration of the course. Below mentioned are skills attained by the students:

- Numerical Skills
- Strong aptitude skills
- Communication Skills (Written and Oral)
- Understanding of International Finance
- Commercial Awareness
- Negotiation and Convincing Skills

OPPORTUNITIES

The job opportunities for finance students are tremendous in the Indian economy. The requirement for finance professionals is a must in every organisation. The recruiters hire finance and accounting graduates on different profiles.

A few top profiles that ensure a promising career for finance graduates: Data analyst; management consultant; tax adviser and company secretary to name a few

The principal advantage that finance and accounting graduate possesses is that they become industry ready and can join any organi-

sation right after the completion of their course.

The recruiters lay a considerable focus on the financial understanding of the students followed with the skills mentioned above during the time of placement process.

According to Statista, Digital payments have become the largest segment valued at \$51,756 million in the year 2018. The FinTech culture in India is emerging rapidly, which has further led to a demand for finance and accounting professionals.

Students nowadays prefer a career in finance and accounting degree as it is extremely lucrative. Students across the country are seeking admission into the top colleges for BCom in India. However, getting a seat into the top institution is not easy, due to increasing competition.

Aspirants prefer metro cities for their higher education, due to the industry exposure and the plethora of job opportunities available in multinationals located in metros.

The writer is a senior director at Institute of Management Studies, Noida

‘One must set an area for work’

Most of us are dealing with working from home situation due to lockdown with mixed feelings — some are struggling while others are reveling it. CHULAMAS JITPATIMA shares tips on how to be productive

As the world gears up to battle the COVID-19 epidemic, businesses galore are grappling to stay afloat and continue the momentum. Amidst the chaos, most of the employees have been given strict mandates of working from home. Many are still processing, adapting and to the new normative while stepping out only when absolutely essential.

Most of us are dealing with this situation with mixed feelings about working from home. Not being able to see your work buddies or even suddenly craving that instant coffee from the office cafeteria can let many of us down. Some of us, on the other hand relish these special moments of being able to just work in our jammies with a hot cup of freshly brewed tea at home.

For those struggling to concentrate or those reveling the peaceful quite of their home workstation, here are five tricks to ensure a productive work from home:

Set-up a specified workspace: While it's fun and quite relaxing to work from your bed or working up a cool presentation as you laze about on that laid-back couch, studies have validated that working from a set area has a positive impact on an individuals' productivity. A desk not only allows us to differentiate between work and family time in this period of self-isolation, but also encourages and adds to better efficiency, minimal distractions and reduced fatigue.

Skill-building: While stepping out of the house is not be an option, doing an online course could help you build on your expertise and up-skill, or even allow for a fun change of pace. Courses ranging from digital marketing, art courses, disaster management (especially in these times), music and business management could help you keep busy and entertained.

Family time: A lot of times working from home results in 12-14 hours of working. When you are in your



Chulamas Jitpatima, Director, MQDC India

comfortable space the work timings are bound to go beyond the normal 9 am to 6 pm. In a stressful time like this allow multiple 15 minute designated breaks to yourself, to move around and spend time with your family.

Wellness and happiness: Social isolation, while a demanding period, could be a period of healing and learning.

Find something you have always wanted to do but couldn't because you didn't have the time, or something that you haven't touched in a long time. This time can be utilised to focus on individual wellness, happiness and overall mental and spiritual growth.

Safe distance: Social distance is the go to phrase these days but screen-distance has been taught to several of us since our childhoods. The ideal distance of your screen from your face is about the length of your arm, so sit at a relaxed state and stretch out your arm. If your finger lightly touches your screen, it's at the perfect distance and will help reduce the strain on your eyes.

So distance it out and play safe! Enjoy while you work at home.

With the Coronavirus having irrevocably changed the nature of work and the state of mind of FYI, a health-tech community product, undertook a first of its kind survey conducted by MindMap Advance Research. As the country prepares for offices to open post the lockdown, the survey assesses the anxiety level of employees and records a strong desire to do what's right by their co-workers by complying to new health monitoring compliances, along with a high degree of awareness of changes in routine that await them.

The survey suggests that employees expect their employers to take responsibility to ensure a healthy and safe

environment for them. An overwhelming 93 per cent of employees are anxious to return to office, reveal the survey findings announced today. They fear is on account of their health being compromised.

The new normal of a post pandemic world has raised the expectations employees have of their employer towards their health. All employee polled, an overwhelming 99 per cent said that they would like to see a system of Corporate Health Responsibility (CHR) made mandatory for employers, just like there is in force a system of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Nearly 85 per cent expect their employers to sanitise the office space, implement and enforce safety guidelines and advisories and seek out new

MINDIT

and innovative ways to protect their health while they are in the office.

These expectations are balanced by a recognition among employees that it would require them to participate in efforts that employers take to make their health a priority. 82 per cent said that they would agree to participate in measures that require them to be monitored, while 18 per cent said that they would comply if the privacy of their data was assured. A high sense of solidarity and doing the right thing by their co-workers emerges strongly among employees, with 96

per cent confirming that they would embrace and comply with health monitoring initiatives, despite the inconvenience.

Employees expect the new normal to bring changes and are cognizant of what these could be. 81 per cent said that employees would resume work only in batches, while 73 per cent expect employers to enforce work from home as an ongoing process.

A post pandemic world offers employers an opportunity to win the hearts of their employees and customers by deploying

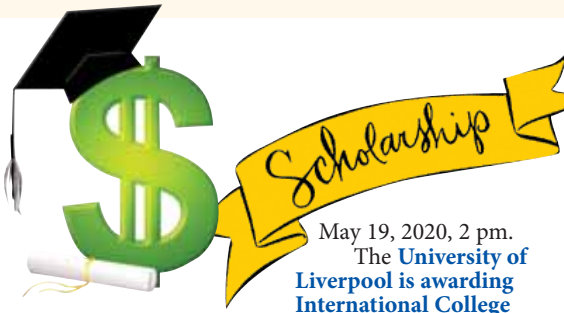
stronger solutions for the overall well-being of their workforce, said a majority of the respondents. While 81 per cent of employees strongly feel this will be the case, 16 per cent said that this has always been an expectation, regardless of recent events.

COVID-19 has left professionals anxious on several accounts. While a majority, 59 per cent are concerned about their health, 25 per cent said they are anxious about their financial situation, while 16 per cent fear that the crisis will be a prolonged one and this uncertainty lends to high anxiety.

“It may be an understatement to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way we live and work. This event has very quickly served as a tipping

point to unprecedented change in the mindset and attitudes of people, to both life and work. The new priorities they would need to juggle when it comes to the health and safety of their employees. India Inc. employees are clearly stressed on account of their health and that needs to be managed on priority. Evidence supports the fact that happier and secure employees are more productive and perform their jobs better while those under stress, perform worse”, said Yeishan Goel, Co-founder, FYI.

The survey was conducted with 560 employees across small, medium and large enterprises in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Of these employees, 85 per cent were men and 15 per cent were women.



May 19, 2020, 2 pm.
The University of Liverpool is awarding International College Excellence Scholarship.

Eligible countries:

Non-EU

Eligibility:

Undergraduate degree program in any field offered by the university. Must be liable to pay full tuition fees at the overseas rate. Must be starting a new non-clinical undergraduate programme in academic year 2020/21.

Must have achieved 75% or above in the UoL Foundation Certificate. Attach pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts and award, a statement, a copy of passport.

Admission requirements: Entry requirements vary from course to course.

Language requirement: Students whose first language is not English must have an internationally recognised English language qualification. For an undergraduate course, the university requires IELTS.

How to apply: There is no need to apply separately as you will be considered for this application after successfully being enrolled in an applicable programme.

Application deadline:

The last date to apply is June 30, 2020.

DATA ENTRY AT INSTASOLV

Location: Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3714263
Application deadline: June 3, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT THE SOLAR LABS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3714264
Application deadline: June 3, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT MIM-ESSAY

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3714269
Application deadline: June 3, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT GRAYGRAPH TECHNOLOGIES LLC

Location: Lucknow, Noida
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3714307
Application deadline: June 2, 2020

VIDEO MAKING/EDITING AT BROOKS AND GLANE

Location: Chandigarh, Zirakpur, Panchkula, Mohali
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3714391
Application deadline: June 3, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT UNANIMITY INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3714485
Application deadline: June 2, 2020

PSYCHOLOGY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AT COGNIALE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3714544
Application deadline: June 4, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

Factsheet support for students abroad

Parents of students studying in New Zealand need not fret. The Government has taken action to support them by putting proper measures in place

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, New Zealand institutions, the Government and communities are supporting the 51,000 international students currently studying at New Zealand.

New Zealand Government student support factsheet outlines support for international students:

Visa support

Addressing visa concerns, students with a temporary visa due to expire between April 1 and July 9, 2020 will have their visas extended to September 25, 2020. Adjustments are also being made for tertiary students who are unable to leave and are no longer enrolled.

Work rights & subsidies

New Zealand has also relaxed work rights for international students. As per the revised rights, international students in health-care roles including aged residential care may work more than 20 hours per week for a period of three months.

To help students cope with

financial hardship, the Government is offering wage subsidies to those whose employment has been affected by COVID-19. Universities and student associations are offering budgeting or finance services, emergency payments from a hardship fund, or a food parcel. Students have been guided to their local Civil Defense Emergency Management Group for basic food, medicine and cleaning supplies. Free public healthcare is provided to international students if they think they have contracted COVID-19.

Hotline set-up

The hotline is a one-stop solution for international students with all kinds of queries. Students living in a hostel have been advised to check with their place of study to confirm accommodation arrangements that they have in place. Student hostels are strictly enforcing personal distancing and hygiene requirements, in accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines.

Students have additional support by the Tertiary Education Commission on a hotline number dedicated to them. If students are feeling anxious or lonely, there are several free counselling services they can use.



IN BRIEF

NEW COURSES & LIVE CLASSES FOR IAS ASPIRANTS

The Balyans.com, an initiative of INSight IAS Academy has launched its new courses and live classes for IAS aspirants for 2020-21 exam due to nationwide lockdown down to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The platform is a one-stop solution for aspirants as it seeks to provide 3,600 guidance through various initiatives. One of them are its live classes which has a two-way interaction. So, any student sitting in a home can simulate the experience of an Offline class through this programme.

The platform also provides various

free initiatives like free courses on Geography and Economics, open all India mock test series, free Prelims course and free support material.

S Balyan, Co-founder-director, Balyans.com said: “The spread-out has impacted every aspect of life including the preparation for entrance exams. Most Civil Service aspirants are stuck in their homes and offline IAS institutes have been shut completely, so its high time that educational institutes transform the model of providing high-quality education to the students at home.”

categories (animals, cuisines, cultures, inventions, maps, and monuments) with a variety of interactive learning games. It also sensitises young minds to people and cultures around the world, making them global citizens. Built for the ever-curious kids, the app sparks their imagination and curiosity. It also helps build knowledge, linguistic, and cognitive skills.

Vivek Goyal, co-founder of PlayShifu said: “We have been sharing tons of useful resources to keep kids engaged while stuck at home — DIY activities, curriculum-focused workbooks and share these for free.”

LEARNING THAT IS FUN AND INTERACTIVE

PlayShifu, the leading augmented reality (AR) toy company teaching foundational, STEAM skills through phygital (physical and digital) play, has announced that their Orboot app is now free for any user.

The app is like a live encyclopedia and has been very successful in engaging kids for months. More than 200,000 kids worldwide love it. The app retains 45% of users beyond 30 days (while the kid's app category sees on an average of 1% of users coming back after 30 days).

It brings alive 400 wonders in 3D and 1000-plus facts through six

DOFFING UNIT FOR SAFE REMOVAL OF PPE

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Civil Engineering Department has collaborated with Chengalpattu Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in Tamil Nadu to design and develop Doffing Unit to enable healthcare professionals to safely and effectively remove their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Donning is a procedure of

assembling PPE and doffing for removal. Such procedures will have to adhere to certain standard protocols to prevent spread of infections. Several versions of the design were generated and reviewed before the team finalised the version for fabrication. District officials also coordinated with the team to enable the fabrication and safe transportation of the unit to operational location at CMCH.

FIFA U-17 Women's WC from Feb 17

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The postponed FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India was on Tuesday rescheduled to next year from February 17 to March 7 after the world body made a "thorough assessment" of the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be held from November 2 to 21 this year but was postponed last month due to the coronavirus outbreak.

FIFA announced that the tournament will keep its original eligibility criteria and allow "players born on or after January 1, 2003 and on or before December 31, 2005" to compete.

"Following a thorough assessment of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent recommendations made by the FIFA Confederations Covid-19 Working Group, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has taken the decision to confirm the proposed new tournament dates, subject to further monitoring," the FIFA said in a statement.

The tournament will be held at five venues in the country — Kolkata, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad and Navi Mumbai — and competed among 16 teams, with hosts India being automatic qualifiers in what will be the country's maiden appearance in the U-17 Women's World Cup.



Promptly reacting to the development, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju assured full cooperation and support to the tournament.

"I assure full cooperation and support to make it a grand success," Rijiju tweeted.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel, under whose leadership the country successfully hosted the men's U-17 World Cup in 2017, promised an encore.

"Delighted to share the new dates for the U17WWC, which will now be held between Feb 17 to Mar 7, 2021. I would like to thank all our stakeholders for their continuous support over this period. AIFF & LOC remain committed to delivering a historic tournament," Patel tweeted.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) welcomed the decision and assured full preparedness.

"The dates were confirmed after taking into account the time needed to complete the UEFA, CONCACAF, CAF, OFC, and CONMEBOL qualification tournaments as well as the best possible conditions in the coun-

try to host a successful FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup," the LOC said.

Before the tournament was postponed, the only qualifying event that could be held was for Asia from which Japan and North Korea made the cut.

Five remaining qualifying events — that of Africa, Europe, Oceania, South America, and Central, North America and Caribbean — saw a halt due to the ongoing global health crisis.

The LOC stated, "We are now looking ahead and hoping to host a wonderful tournament that will give women's football in India, the perfect platform to grow and develop."

"All the host cities have put in a lot of effort and commitment so far, and we are happy that the new dates will allow them to make up for the lost time and provide momentum going forward."

The official schedule of the tournament was announced in February, and Navi Mumbai was to host the final.

"All the stakeholders, including the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, have been supportive of the decision keeping in mind the health, safety and security of everyone involved, especially the teams and fans," the LOC stated.

"The LOC will continue to work together with FIFA, and we remain fully committed to hosting a memorable and successful tournament," the organising committee added.



When MS lost his cool

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has hardly lost his temper during his decade and a half long illustrious career but there have been a few exceptions when *Captain Cool* has let it rip, recall his former India teammates Gautam Gambhir and Irfan Pathan.

Recently, India spinner Kuldeep Yadav had revealed that he was mortally scared when Dhoni, by his own admission, had lost his cool for the first time in 20 years.

And the left-arm chinaman bowler was at the receiving end when he did not adhere to Dhoni's instructions while bowling during an ODI against Sri Lanka in 2017.

The 38-year-old Gambhir, who played 58 Tests and 147 ODIs for India, revealed that on couple of occasions he saw the veteran wicket-keeper batsman lose his cool.

"People say that they have never seen him (Dhoni) lose his cool, but I have on a couple of times. It was during the 2007 World Cup and in other World Cups, when we haven't done well," Gambhir said on *Star Sports show Cricket Connected*.

But in the same vein Gambhir also said that Dhoni was a human and was bound to react as well.

"He's human and he's bound to react as well. It's absolutely fair enough to do that. Even at CSK, if there's a misfield or if someone has dropped a catch....," added Gambhir.

Gambhir, who was often known to lose his cool, said that

Dhoni was cooler than him.

"Yes, he's cool, he's probably much cooler than the rest of the other captains. Much cooler than me for sure!" said Gambhir, who also played under Dhoni.

Former Australia speedster Brett Lee agreed with Gambhir and said: "We want entertainers, we want people to do that and MS Dhoni is an entertainer."

"He never steps over the boundary. If he does, it's very rare. But we are all human as Gautam Gambhir said."

In the IPL, the likes of Ravindra Jadeja and Deepak Chahar all have faced Dhoni's wrath at some point or the other.

In 2019, Chahar bowled consecutive no-balls against Kings XI Punjab in the 19th over of the chase and Dhoni was furious. The young pacer learned quickly and bowled Chennai Super Kings to victory.

The 35-year-old Pathan, who also played with Dhoni, recalled an instance from 2006-07 when the Jharkhand dasher lost his temper during warm-up and reported late for practice.

"It was in 2006-07. During the warm-up, we had a game where the right-handed batsman would bat with the left-hand and vice-versa. After we finished the warm-up, we used to get into our practice."

"So, during the warm-ups, there were 2 teams. Once MS Dhoni was given out which he didn't think he was. He threw his bat and made a dash to the dressing room and came late for the practice. So, he does get angry," said Pathan.

Playing 2023 ODI World Cup 'ultimate goal' for Warner



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian opener David Warner says he is feeling fitter than ever despite missing two of the last three years of cricket and making it to the 2023 ODI World Cup remains his "ultimate goal".

"In the last three years I'll have had almost two years off, depending on when we play cricket again," Warner, who lost 12 months due to a ban for ball tampering in 2018, was quoted as *cricket.Com.Au*.

"The longevity in your body helps. The get ups of training and playing gets harder as you get older but I haven't felt any fitter in my career than I do now."

"As the legs get older time will tell. At the moment I'm feeling as fit as a fiddle and if I can keep running between wickets as well as I have done, who knows. That (2023 ODI) World Cup is the ultimate goal."

The 33-year-old said next

year's T20 World Cup in India might be a good time to step away from the shortest format to allow selectors include young blood in the team.

"There's back-to-back Twenty20 World Cups, and I started my career with Twenty20 cricket, and I think it's important we've got younger kids coming through and they get a sniff and a chance of playing at this level as well."

"We're seeing a lot of guys and talent coming through Australian cricket (and) I think it's important we're leaving those opportunities open there."

"At that stage you will probably get two spots open up in the team with me and *Finchy* (Aaron Finch). He wants to go to that World Cup in three years' time as well, so there's going to be a few spots available after that."

There were reports that a window might be created for Australia's international stars to play in the Big Bash League.

Warner, who hasn't played a BBL game in last seven years, said he will take a call on whether to return to the domestic league depending on how the summer schedule pans out.

"All my decisions are based around how much playing and touring I'm doing in the summer," said Warner, who last played a Big Bash game between the third and fourth Ashes Tests in the 2013-14 summer.

"It would be easy to sit here now and say 'Yes, I'd like to play' but I have to see what is happening at the end of the year. I'll have to have a hard think about it depending on the schedule."

Kohli is like Federer while Smith is more of Nadal: ABD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli's natural talent makes him a cricketing equivalent of Roger Federer while Steve Smith's mental fortitude matches that of Rafael Nadal, said South African swashbuckler AB de Villiers comparing the two contemporary greats.

In an *Instagram* chat with former Zimbabwe seamer Pommie Mbanga, de Villiers spoke about the two batsmen, who are easily the game's biggest crowd-pullers right now.

"It's a difficult one, but Virat is definitely the more nat-



ural ball-striker, there's no doubt about that," de Villiers said during his interaction on *Sports Hurricane*.

"In tennis terms, I'd say he's more like a (Roger) Federer whereas Smith is like a (Rafael) Nadal. Smith is mentally very strong and figures out a way of scoring runs — he doesn't look natural, but he ends up writing records and doing amazing things at the crease."

"I think mentally, Smith is one of the best I have ever seen. Virat has also scored runs all over the world and won games under pressure," de Villiers, himself a modern day great, said.

De Villiers also felt that when it comes to chasing, Kohli is a shade ahead of Tendulkar.

"Sachin is a role model for both of us (him and Kohli). The way he stood out in his era, the things he achieved and with the grace he did all that is a great example for everyone," de Villiers said.

"And I think Virat will also say that he set the standards for us to follow."

"But personally, in a chase, I'd say Virat is the best I've seen in my life. Sachin was amazing in all formats and all situations, but Virat comes out on top while chasing."

Aus, NZ mull restart of cricket

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Their scheduled international tours unlikely to go ahead due to coronavirus pandemic, the cricket boards of Australia and New Zealand are exploring the possibility of creating a constant stream of matches between the two neighbouring nations.

With the two Governments planning to open up a corridor to allow a quarantine-free travel, New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White discussed the possibility with his Cricket Australia counterpart Kevin Roberts.

"I've talked to Kevin Roberts about that. A Tasman bubble would be terrific if it did eventuate," White told *Sydney Morning Herald*.



Aus skipper Aaron Finch with NZ captain Kane Williamson ICC/Twitter

"...It would present some opportunities going forward. But I think the key is to keep an open mind and be flexible if opportunities do arise we can take them."

"We haven't talked specifics really. What we have talked about is conceptually the possibility of playing each other and that's where we are at the moment."

With the 13th IPL sus-

pending indefinitely, the Test tour of Bangladesh abandoned and a limited-overs tour of England in July also likely to be called off, Australia will be without any cricket action this winter. There are also doubts over the T20 World Cup scheduled to be held in October-November in Australia.

New Zealand's home international summer is also uncertain with Pakistan and West Indies scheduled to tour for Tests and Sri Lanka in the shorter form. Australia and New Zealand were locked in a three-game men's ODI series in March when it was called off due to the coronavirus outbreak after the first game was played behind closed doors at the SCG.

No point in Indians only IPL: CSK

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings have rejected the idea of an IPL with only Indian players in the near future, differing with Rajasthan Royals, the franchise which is keen on the option given the circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The IPL, which is indefinitely postponed, can be held in the September-October window if the scheduled T20 World Cup in Australia doesn't take place.

"CSK is not keen to do an IPL with only Indian players. That way it would be playing another Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (domestic T20 competition). The franchise has not been in touch with the BCCI of late as the situation is worsening," a CSK source said.

"Let's hope we can have the IPL later this year," he added.

CSK are three-time IPL champions, making them the second most successful team in the event's history after Mumbai Indians, who have won the tournament four times.

The BCCI is also very keen to stage the IPL but with Covid-19 cases continuing to rise in India, the board and IPL team officials see little point in discussing when the event can be held.

"There has been no discussion with the BCCI ever since it postponed the IPL. There is no point in discussing also as things are unlikely to be okay anytime soon," the CSK source said.

"We expect the BCCI to take the best possible decision when the time comes," he added.

Pace generation from short run-up makes Bumrah injury prone: Holding

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With his short run-up, Jasprit Bumrah makes it extremely difficult for batsmen to measure his pace but the Indian pacers' body may not hold for long because of that approach, reckons West Indies' fast bowling great Michael Holding.

Holding, who completed the famous West Indies' pace quartet along with Malcolm Marshall, Joel Garner and Andy Roberts, said Bumrah's ability to hit the deck hard with short run up is unique.

"Bumrah hits the deck hard and that creates more problem. And especially with that short run, it is difficult for batsmen to formulate in the their minds the pace at which that ball is coming," Holding said on the *Sony Ten Pit*

Stop show aired on channel's *Facebook* page.

"People talk about bowlers who hit the deck hard and bowlers who just skid off the surface. Malcolm Marshall, for instance, great fast bowler, he skidded the ball off the surface, more than hitting the deck."

It may be an advantage for Bumrah but it also has a drawback, the 68-year-old felt.

"My problem with Bumrah and I mentioned it to him, when last time I saw him in England, is how long that body will hold up with that short run and the amount of effort he has to put into in his bowling, it is a human body. It is not a machine," said Holding.

Bumrah had to be on sidelines for four months last year due to stress fracture in his

lower back and made a return to competitive cricket only in January this year when India competed against Sri Lanka.

Holding said both Bumrah and Mohammed Shami are India's special fast bowling talent and it's "not just because of the pace" they generate.

"It is important to have pace, but you have got to have control as well and both of these guys have control. Shami is not very tall, is not extremely quick, but is quick enough. And he has the control and he moves the ball around a bit," the Kingston-born legend observed.

"You don't find Shami spraying the ball all over the place. When you spray the ball all over the place, batsmen get relief, watching those balls go away. If you are constantly (bowling) in the right areas, attacking these batsmen, it creates more and more pressure and they are more liable to make mistakes. So that is Shami's real strength," elaborated Holding, who picked 249 wickets from 60 Tests.

Yuvi questions Rathour's ability to guide T20 players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh on Tuesday questioned India batting coach Vikram Rathour's ability to guide Indian cricketers in the T20 format.

Rathour had replaced Sanjay Bangar as the batting coach last year. "He (Rathour) is my friend ... Do you think he can help players of this T20 generation? Has he played cricket at the level to help them?" Yuvraj, who was part of the 2007 World T20 and 2011 World Cup winning teams, said during an Instagram session.

Rathour played six Tests and seven ODIs for India between 1996 and 1997.

Yuvraj said a player should be dealt with on the basis of his personality.

"If I was coach I'll tell goodnight to (Jasprit) Bumrah at 9pm and take



Vikram Rathour with Mayank Agarwal PTI

Hardik (Pandya) out for a drink at 10pm ... That's how you deal with different personalities."

Yuvraj, who had retired from international cricket last year, also

took a veiled dig at India chief coach Ravi Shastri.

"The current guys have no one to talk to and take advice," he said. Asked if it is not Shastri's job to guide the players, Yuvraj said: "I don't know if Ravi is doing it but maybe he has others things in his hand."

"Anyway, you can't tell everyone just go out and play your game, express yourself, this approach may work with someone like Sehwaag ... But this will never work with Pujara ... So these things the coaching staff need to realise."

The 38-year-old also tipped Hardik Pandya to break his fastest T20 fifty record.

"Hardik Pandya could be the guy who breaks my record of fastest T20 fifty ... He has all the making of being a great all-rounder ... But then again you need to have someone to guide him in the team."

Witsel, Can miss Bundesliga restart

AFP ■ DORTMUND

Former Liverpool star Emre Can and Belgian international Axel Witsel will miss Borussia Dortmund's derby with Schalke 04 on Saturday as German football makes a tentative return.

As with all other fix-

tures in the rest of the Bundesliga season, it will be played behind closed doors with the players quarantined for a week before kick-off.

Witsel and German central midfielder Can, who spent four years at Liverpool and recently joined Dortmund on loan

from Juventus, both picked up injuries in training after the long lay-off.

Dortmund have played two training matches without the injured pair as they prepare for the first Ruhr derby in its 95-year history without a crowd.

"We are used to playing at home in front of 82,000," Dortmund coach Lucien Favre told the *Bild* daily.

"To prepare mentally now to play without being cheered and without being pushed by the atmosphere is an extreme challenge."

Vettel to leave Ferrari

AFP ■ MILAN

Four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel on Tuesday said he would leave Ferrari at the end of the season, saying there was no "common desire" to work together any more.

No replacement was named for the German, who dominated F1 with Red Bull before switching to the Italian marque in 2015. He said his departure was a "joint decision".

"My relationship with Scuderia Ferrari will finish at the end of 2020", the 32-year-old said in a statement from Ferrari.

"In order to get the best possible results in this sport, it's vital for all parties to work in perfect harmony."

"The team and I have realised that there is no longer a common desire to stay together beyond the end of this season."

Vettel, who has won 14 races with Ferrari and 53 overall in his career, said financial considerations played no role in his decision. He said he would "reflect on what really matters when it comes to my future".

Yet it has been widely reported that Ferrari had offered him only a one-year contract extension at a significantly reduced salary.

His departure will spark intense speculation about his replacement, with reigning world champion Lewis Hamilton among the drivers previously linked with Ferrari. The Briton has indicated however he will be staying at Mercedes.

Team principal Mattia Binotto said Vettel's departure was "a decision taken jointly by ourselves and Sebastian, one which both parties feel is for the best".

Other names tipped to take over from Vettel are McLaren driver Carlos Sainz and Renault's Daniel Ricciardo while Antonio Giovinazzi would be a popular home choice for the Italian team's legion of fans. Vettel had been under pressure from the strong performance of Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc in the 2019 season. Leclerc said: "It's been a huge honour for me to be your team-mate."

"I've never learnt so much as I did with you as my team-mate. Thank you for everything Seb."

