WAR OF

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SOCIAL MEDIA HAS ITS PROS: **PANKAJ** 10 VIVA

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY MAY 14, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

Succour for India Inc, ₹3-L cr unsecured loans

Focus on MSME, ₹20K crore subordinate debt for stressed businesses

MARKETS BACK TO WINNING

WAYS ON STIMULUS LIFT



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman wearing a face mask gestures as she announces the Government's economic package to fight the coronavirus pandemic, during a Press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday

non-banking companies to

help them tide over the dis-ruptions caused by the lock-

FINANCIAL PROP

- Global tenders to be disallowed up to ₹200 crore
- ₹50,000 cr equity infusion through MSME Fund of Funds
- New definition of MSMEs ₹2,500 crore EPF support for businesses and workers for 3 more months
- ₹30,000cr liquidity facility for NBFC/HCs/ MFs
- ₹45,000cr partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0 for NBFC
- ₹90,000cr liquidity injection for DISCOMs
- Relief to contractors
- Extension of registration and completion date of real estate projects under RERA

cent of basic salary as employ-er's share to employee provident fund (EPF) contribution has been reduced to 10 per cent to boost their liquidity.

To boost construction, all Government agencies will give up to 6 months extension to all contractors to complete construction, and goods and service contracts.

"Essentially this is to spur growth and to build a very selfreliant India. It addresses ease of doing business, compliance, and due diligence and the intention is also to build local brands," she said.

Sitharaman said collateral-free loans will benefit 45 lakh small businesses. The loan will have 4-year tenure and will have a 12-month moratorium, she said, adding the loans will

be guaranteed by the Government. Also, ₹20,000 crore subordinate debts will be provided for stressed or loan defaulting MSMEs, she said, adding this would benefit 2 lakh such businesses.

A fund of funds for MSME is also being created, which will infuse ₹50,000 crore equity in MSMEs with growth potential.

The Government also changed the definition of MSMEs to allow units with higher investment as well as introduced turnover criteria to allow more companies to remain small businesses to get fiscal and other benefits.

Also, to help them get more business, global tenders for Government procurement up to ₹200 crore will be barred. Continued on Page 2

'The Government must

spend more, borrow more, and

allow states to borrow more but

it is not willing to do so," he

said. "Wrong time to bring labour law changes by BJP-

ruled States. Wrong precedent

set by them," the Congress

leader further opined at AICC

video Press conference soon

after Sitharaman Press confer-

rate slashed by 25% $\prod_{i=1}^{n} a_i$ relief to taxpayers, the Government on Wednesday extended the deadline for filing of all Income Tax returns for 2019-20 fiscal till November 30, 2020 and also slashed TDS (tax deducted at source)/TCS (Tax collected at source) rates for non-salary payments to residents by 25

per cent.
"From tomorrow till
March 31, 2021, the TDS/TCS rates have been reduced by 25 per cent of the existing rate... This shall also apply to all payments for contracts, interest, rent, dividend, commission or brokerage... all of these will be eligible for 25 per cent rate

reduction.
"This reduction would release nearly ₹50,000 crore in the hands of the people who would have otherwise paid it as TDS," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The Government has also extended, the Vivad Se Vishwas scheme for direct tax dispute resolution has been extended by six months till December 31, 2020.

Sitharaman said the income tax department will



fast track processing of pending refunds to charitable trusts, LLPs, non-corporate businesses and proprietorship firms, among others.

Also, assessments getting time-barred on September 30 have been extended till December 31, 2020 and those getting time-barred on March 31, 2021 have been extended

till September 30, 2021. She also said the income tax department has already cleared ₹18,000 crore worth of refunds where the quantum due was up to ₹5 lakĥ.

"This coupled with release of pending refunds to all noncorporate tax payers would fast track the revival of business and enterprises," he added.

Stimulus package eyewash:

PNS NEW DELHI

Announcing the first set of components stimulus package announced by the Prime Minister, she said ₹90,000 crore liquidity infusion will be made in electricity distribution companies to help them fight the current financial stress. The Minister also extend

ed by three months the Government support to companies with less than 100 employees to meet retirement fund obligations.

For companies, the statutory obligation to pay 12 per

Delhi updates death

count, adds 20 more

additional information

vid-19 cases

In the first week of May, the

On Tuesday, the total num-

city also recorded its largest sin-

gle-day spike of 448 new

ber of cases stood at 7,639 with

86 deaths. With 20 more fatal-

ities, the death toll from Covid-

19 in Delhi has risen to 106.

Capital's toll to 106

The Opposition leaders on Wednesday gave a thumb down to the Prime Minister's stimulus package of ₹20 lakh crore terming it hollow announcement Senior Congress leader

and former finance minister P Chidambaram stated there is nothing in what Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said for the lakhs of poor and it's a cruel blow to those who

toil everyday, Trinamool Congress chief

and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee echoed her views and said while people expected to get relief, but the announcements by the FM is a big zero. "There is nothing for the States," Mamata said.

Referring to the economic stimulus package, other leaders, including from Left parties, said neither the PM nor the FM mention about the rehabilita-

tion road plan for laborers whose lives have been upended by the lockdown. The former Finance

Minister said, "Except for modest MSME package, we are disappointed with announcements made by FM. "Centre has announced

₹3.6 lakh crore in the ₹20-lakh crore package; where is the rest of ₹16.4 lakh crore," Chidambaram asked. He said the Government is a prisoner of its own ignorance and fears.

ence. He said in case of the credit guarantee fund, not the entire fund would be spent. Continued on Page 2

Maharashtra retains top slot; total over 78K Death toll 2,551 across India; 26,392 people have recovered

PNS NEW DELHI

With Maharashtra recording nearly 1,500 new cases and 54 deaths, at least 123 fresh Covid-linked deaths and 3,712 positive cases were try on Wednesday taking the toll to 2,551 and total number of infections to 78,055.

Of the total number of cases 26,392 people have recovered or have been discharged.

Of the total deaths in Maharashtra, 40 were recorded in Mumbai alone taking the overall case count to 25,922 and the number of fatalities to 975. The total number of Covid-19 infected cases crossed the 1,000 mark in Mumbai's worst pandemic-hit Dharavi on Wednesday, as 66 more persons Of the total deaths, 86 tested positive for Covid-19.

On a day when the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) pegged the number of deaths in Dharavi at 40, as many as 66 new infected cases were reported from various parts of Asia's biggest slum. With the fresh infected cases, the total num-

Covid-19 In India CASES: 78,055 **DEATHS: 2,551 RECOVERED:**

26,392 ber of infected cases rose to a staggering 1,028

Attributing the increase in

the number of deaths to the new information received from the BMC's Epidemic Cell, the BMC said, "New nine deaths have been reported by epi-demic cell. These deaths had happened earlier on different dates and conveyed to ward office subsequently."

As many as five positive cases were recorded in Dhondu Mistry Chawl, while four cases were reported from Matunga Labour camp.

Three cases each were

3,562 Guiarat 9,227 2,176 Tamil Nadu 7,998 106 2,858 Delhi 4 328 2,573 Madhya Pradesh 4,173 225 1,860 Uttar Pradesh 3,758 1,965 702 West Bengal 2,290 207 Andhra Padesh 2,137 1,142 Punjab 1,924 200 recorded in Geetanjali Nagar,

Azad Nagar and 90 feet Road area, while the areas like Kerusheth Chawl, Vijaynagar and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar regis-

tered two positive cases. There is a race between Tamil Nadu and Gujarat for the second spot. The former has now replaced Guiarat from the second spot with 9,268 cases, nine cases more than Gujarat. Tamil Nadu reported 509 cases and Gujarat 364 on Wednesday. Delhi, the State with the fourthhighest number of cases, has 7,998 with the addition of 359

new cases on Wednesday.

Covid cases in Madhya Pradesh touched 4,173 with 187 new infections while in Uttar Pradesh, the cases surged to 3,758.

Bihar reported 932 cases. In Uttarakhand, the total number of cases touched 71. In Punjab, 1,924 Covid-19 cases were reported while 32 people died in the State. Odisha, which a few days ago, was reporting a few cases has now started witnessing surge in number daily with 101 new cases on Wednesday pushing up the total to 538 positive cases.

Continued on Page 2

Maha seeks 20 **CAPF** companies to aid overworked police during Eid

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

n an effort to give some rest Ito "overburdened" State police personnel who have been "working day and night in coronavirus", the Maharashtra Government has requested the Centre to make available 20 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) ahead of the Eid.

State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Wednesday said, "Owing to the outbreak of coronavirus in the State, our police personnel have been working day and night. Considering that Eid is round the corner and we have to maintain law and order situation in the State, the State Government — in order to give some rest to our police personnel — has requested the Centre to make available 20

companies CAPF to the State". 32 companies of the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) are working in tandem with the

Maharashtra Police. Continued on Page 2

10 Agra Central Jail prisoners test +ve

PNS NEW DELHI

ANarendra

day after Prime Minister

announced a special econom-

ic and comprehensive package

of ₹20 lakh crore — equivalent

to 10 per cent of India's GDP —

for the revival of the coron-

avirus-hit economy, Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

on Wednesday came out with

a slew of measures for relief and

credit support to businesses, especially MSMEs.

lakh crore of collateral-free

loans for small businesses, cut

the tax rate for non-salary payments and provided liquidity to

Unreported deaths

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 20 deaths which took

the national Capital as report-

ed on Wednesday by the authorities, the death toll due

to Covid-19 in Delhi has gone

navirus cases in Delhi climbed

to 7,998 after 359 fresh cases

Wednesday, the Delhi Health

Department said the 20 deaths

reported on Wednesday, took

place in April and May as per

case sheets received from hos-

pitals, and audited by the

footnote, saying certain figures

mentioned in the bulletin were

subject to change on receipt of

However, it also carried a

Covid-19 death committee.

The total number of coro-

In a bulletin issued on

up to 106.

were reported.

place in April and May in

The FM announced ₹3

Modi

Ten prisoners of Agra Central Jail tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday. They have been moved to an isolation ward, prison senior superintendent VK Singh said. The jail authorities have

requested the Uttar Pradesh health department to collect samples of other prisoners and staff for tests. Singh said, "There were 14 suspected cases and reports of four were negative while 10 inmates tested positive for the coronavirus." The prisoners who tested

positive were being held in barrack number three. "We have evacuated bar-

rack number three and requested the health department to collect samples of other inmates of the barrack and the jail staff," Singh said. Jailor SP Mishra said the

request for collecting the sam-



Passengers arrive at New Delhi Railway station following the resumption of

ongoing Covid-19 nationwide lockdown in New Delhi on Wednesday

passenger train services by Indian Railways connecting major cities, during the

ples of the other prisoners and staff had been made to the chief medical officer of Agra. According to Mishra, there are 1,941 inmates in Central Jail and about 120 jail staff, including senior officials. On May 9, a prisoner who

tested positive for Covid-19 died at Sarojani Naidu Medical College (SNMC). Subsequently, an 85-year-old prisoner from the same barrack, who was suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, died at SNMC on Tuesday.

Paramilitary canteens to sell only desi products from June, says Shah

The Central paramilitary forces' canteen will sell only Swadeshi/made in India products from June 1 as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of making India self-reliant through vocal for local" campaign. Modi had on Tuesday

took place at various Covid-19

dedicated hospitals, with RML

Hospital accounting for 41 of

these fatalities, the maximum

among the dedicated hospitals,

according to the bulletin, which

added that the others took

Continued on Page 2

place at other hospitals.

made an appeal to make the country self-reliant and use products made in India. Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday described PM's appeal as "a guiding light to make India the global leader."

In keeping with the PM's call, the Home Ministry has decided that all the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens and stores across the country will now sell only indigenous products, from June



would be around ₹2,800 crore. With this decision, 50 lakh family members of about 10 lakh CAPF personnel will use indigenous products. You should use the prod-

ucts made in the country as much as possible and encour age others to do the same. This is not the time to be lagging behind, but to turn the crisis into an opportunity," the Home Minister said in his appeal to the people of the country.

Continued on Page 2

social distancing rules PTI ■ SAGAR Defying the social distancing guidelines for preventing spread of Covid-19, a crowd gathered to welcome a monk

and his group when they arrived at a town in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district. Some videos of the incident went viral on social media, following which police have

started an investigation into it. A large number of people came out on a road on Monday when a group of Jain monks, headed by Muni Pranam Sagar, reached Banda town, located about 35 km from the district headquarters In the video clips shared on

social media, a large number of people without masks were purportedly seen out on the road to welcome the monk and



Monk in Sagar, defies

Additional Superintendent of Police Praveen Bhuria told PTI on Wednesday that they got information about the incident from videos shared on social media. 'This seems to be a case of

violation of preventive orders issued under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) Section 144. Directives have been issued to Banda police station officials to register a case after verification of the videos," he said.

Crowd gathers for Jain Pak locusts invade Raj, Guj, Punjab

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Tn the third attack in the past **⊥**six months, swarms of locusts from Iran and Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan have invaded parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab, compounding the woes of farmers, who are battling the coronavirus nationwide lockdown.

The Union Agriculture Ministry has convened a highlevel meeting with fertilisers and pesticides companies to discuss the course of action against the locusts. This is the third attack of locusts in less than a year, the worst one began in December and lasted till February of this year.

According to global reports, locust swarms are expected to arrive all the way from East Africa and attack farmlands in South Asia in the



of Ministry of Agriculture, 31 spots in Rajasthan and Gujarat are under attack of locusts, covering thousands of hectare. After a high-level meeting, Agriculture Minister Narendra

Singh has assured help. "The Government has ordered new machines from the UK to control locust swarms. Tractormounted sprayers and firetender vehicles are deployed at various locations in these States for locust control. Additional equipment also being procured," he said.

Continued on Page 2

India to end locust attack with UK machines: Min

PNS NEW DELHI

India has ordered new machines from the UK to control locust swarms that can destroy crops on the India-Pakistan border, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Wednesday.

Unfazed by the COVID-19 crisis, government officials in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab are working to control the outbreak of Desert Locust, he said in a statement.

Tractor-mounted sprayers and fire-tender vehicles are deployed at various locations in these states for locust control. Additional equipment are also being procured, he added.

The central and state governments are working together on the Desert Locust control measures and have been able to check its spread. New machines have been ordered from the United Kingdom and will arrive soon," Tomar said after a video conference with pesticides manufacturers to fine-tune a strategy to prevent locust attack on

will leave no stone unturned to ensure uninterrupted sowing and harvesting operations. Ministers of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala and Kailash Choudhary were also present during the video

In the statement, the Agriculture Ministry said that normally, locust swarms enter the desert areas of India via Pakistan for breeding in the summer of June-July, but this time Locust Hoppers as well as Pink Adult Swarms had entered border districts of Rajasthan and Punjab in April itself.

One reason for this was the uncontrolled swarms of the previous season in Pakistan that breed continuously. Swarms of Pink Immature Ádults fly high and travel long distances with strong winds coming from Pakistan. Most of these Pink Immature Adults settle on trees during the night and mostly fly during the day," it said. Around

Government of India located in He said the government Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Phalodi, Barmer, Jalore, Churu, Nagaur, Suratgarh districts of Rajasthan; Palanpur and Bhuj districts of Gujarat are working in scheduled desert area of more than 2

lakh sq km in India. The locusts are monitored, surveyed and controlled in coordination with the State Agricultural Departments and concerned District Administration. In addition, pest control in crops is done by the Agriculture Department of concerned Government.

"So far (till 11.05.2020), the Hoppers and Pink Swarms have been controlled in an area of 14,299 hectares of Jaisalmer, Sri Ganganagar, Jodhpur, Barmer and Nagaur districts in Rajasthan and Fazilka district of Punjab," the Ministry said.

Presently, swarms of immature Pink Locusts are active in Barmer, Phalodi (Jodhpur), Nagaur, Sriganganagar and Ajmer districts of Rajasthan.

Gujarat Law Minister moves SC against HC order nullifying his election victory

New Delhi: Gujarat Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court challenging the High Court's decision nullifying his 2017 election on the ground of malpractice and manipulation.

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

As an interim prayer, the minister sought stay of the operation of the Gujarat High Court's Tuesday order till the disposal of his appeal. The high court had held

that Returning Officer "illegally rejected" 429 postal bal-

lots during the counting of

votes, while the victory margin was only 327. 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

SC asks lawyers not to put on coat, long gowns during coronavirus pandemic

Minister projects rosy industrial

picture in Maha post-lockdown

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday came out with The Supreme Court on a formal notification asking lawvers not to wear coats and long gowns during the hearings through video conferencing "till medical exigencies exist or until further orders" in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The notification came in

the evening, hours after Chief Justice of India (CJI) S A Bobde, said such dresses should not be donned as they make it easier to "catch virus".

"It is notified for the information of all concerned that considering the medical advice, as a precautionary measure to contain spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection under the prevailing conditions, the Competent Authority has been pleased to direct that the advocates may wear 'plain white-shirt/whitesalwar-kameez/white saree, with a plain-white neck band during the hearings before the

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

35,000 industrial units had

resumed production, while

nine lakh workers resumed

Speaking to media persons

Supreme Court of India through Virtual Court System till medical exigencies exist or until further orders," said the notification, issued by apex court Secretary General, Sanjeev S Kalgaonkar. Besides sharing the noti-

fication on the apex court's website, it will be served to the secretaries of Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association to ensure com-

The observation of the CJI and subsequent formal notification assumed significance in view of the fact that the apex court has been holding courts through video conferencing only from March 25 due to the nation-wide lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and had even suspended the entry of advocates and other staff into the high security zone on the basis of their proximity cards, till further orders.

Haryana, J&K to provide potable water to entire rural areas 2 years ahead of goal

PNS NEW DELHI

By December 2022, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir will be providing potable water to their entire rural population under the central scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), ahead of national goal of 2024-25.

According to statement here by the Union Rural Development Ministry, Haryana has provided 1.05 lakh tap connections during 2019-20 under the JJM and now the State Government is planning 100 per centage coverage by December, 2022.

By doing so, Haryana will be among the leading states to accomplish the ambitious target of providing tap connection to each rural household.

State officials said there are 28.94 lakh households in Haryana, out of which 18.83 lakh are already provided with functional household tap connection (FHTCs). Out of the remaining 10.11 lakh households, Haryana plans to provide tap connections in 7 lakh households by 2020-21.

During the current year,

Haryana is planning for 100 per cent coverage of one district and 2,898 villages out of total 6,987

From Page 1 Three people have died in

Maharash...

the States so far. In Kerala, ten fresh cases

were noted, taking its tally to 534. Wayanad, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kottayam reported fresh cases on Wednesday. A total 490 people have recovered in the State.

Total coronavirus infection in Karnataka stands at 959 while Rajasthan noted 65 new cases with total infections in the State jumping to 4,278 while the recoveries stand at 2,459. So far, 120 people have died in the

With the new 29 Covid-19 cases, Bihar's total has increased to 908. Uttarakhand too witnessed rise in cases to touch to 70.

Coronavirus infections climbed to 783 in Haryana as 3 more cases were reported from Jhajjar, Rewari, and Rohtak in Haryana. As of now, 421 cases are active.

Situation in Andhra Pradesh too was not encouraging with reports of 48 fresh cases pushing the tally to 2137. The fresh cases were noted

in East Godavari, Anantapur, Chittoor, Krishna, Guntur, and Kurnool Andhra Pradesh has

recorded 1,142 recovered cases so far, including Wednesday's 86 recoveries and a total 47

Maha seeks 20 **CAPF** companies to aid overworked...

From page 1

"Many of our police personnel have tested positive for Covid-19. They need time to rest and recuperate... Since Eid will be on May 25, when we will have to augment security presence to ensure law and order is not disturbed. Hence, we have asked the Centre for immediate deployment of 20 CAPF companies to assist our

police," the State Home Minister said in elaboration. Deshmukh's announcement came a day after an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the Mumbai police succumbed to Covid-19.

"ASI Murlidhar Shankar Waghmare from Sewri Police Station, Mumbai lost his life to Coronavirus. May his soul rest in peace. DGP and all ranks of Maharashtra Police offer their condolences to the Waghmare family" the Maĥarashtra police tweeted his twitter handle @DGPMaharashtra late on

Waghmare, attached to the Sewree Police Station, had been undergoing treatment after having tested positive for Coronavirus.

With Waghmare's death, the total number of fatalities among the police force has gone up to five in Mumbai and the total death tally in the state has climbed

Meanwhile, the total number of Maharashtra police personnel testing positive for Covid-19 has crossed 1,000 mark. "More than a 1000 cops have tested COVID-19 positive while serving the state tirelessly & ensuring the safety of its people @DGPMaharashtra have left no stone unturned in keeping the state safe and yet breathing in the ongoing pandemic," Maharashtra Minority Development Minister and NCP's nation-

tweeted: @nawabmalikncp for your kind encouragement for #MaharashtraPolice! Means a lot in these times!! #MaharashtraGovtCares"

 $F_{\text{lockdown-three}}^{\text{our days ahead of the end of}}$ al spokesperson Nawan Maharashtra, State industries Malik tweeted. In response, State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh Minister Subhash Desai on Wednesday projected a rosy "Thank you picture of the industrial activity in the State by saying that

after reviewing industrial activity at the Aurangabad district collector's office, Desai said: "We have in all given permission to 65,000 industrial units in various parts of the State. Of them, 35,000 industrial units have resumed production. In all, 9 lakh workers have so far reported for duty".

duty in these units.

The Minister said that a Task Force had been set up a road map for increasing the industrial activity in the State. 'The Task Force is preparing a

plan to attract foreign invest-ment in the state. The Task force officials have been negotiating with their counterparts from the countries like US, Japan, Tiwan, Germany and United Kingdom".

Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has reserved as much as 40000 hectares of land for foreign investors. We are trying to reduce the number of permissions for foreign investments so as to facilitate setting up new industrial units by the international companies," Desai said. The Minister said that to

ensure that there was no short-

age of workers, the departments of Industries and Skill Development would set up employees' bureau. "We will train the workers in seven days and ready for employment. In this process, we intend to create skilled and unskilled labour on a large scale in the state,

SC declines interim bail to Sajjan serving life term in 1984 pogrom

The Supreme Conversed to Soil on medical grant interim bail on medical grounds to former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar who is serving life imprisonment in an 1984 anti-Sikh riots case.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices Índu Malhotra and Hrishikesh Roy perused his medical report and said that he did not need hospitalization at the moment.

Declining the interim bail plea, the bench, holding proceedings via video conferencing, said that it would hear the regular bail application in July.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, and senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for some riots

victims, opposed the bail plea

Singh, representing Kumar, said that his client be granted bail as if something happens to him in jail then his life imprisonment would become death penalty for him. Kumar and Balwan

Khokhar are serving life imprisonment in Tihar jail in the case after the Delhi High Court convicted them on December 17, 2018. Khokhar has also sought

parole in the case. His life sentence was upheld by the Delhi High Court in 2018, while it had reversed the acquittal of Kumar by the trial court in 2013, in a case related to the killings of five Sikhs in the Raj Nagar Part-I area in Palam Colony in southwest Delhi on November 1-2, 1984, and burning down of a gurdwara in Raj

Nagar Nigam Haridwar invites bids from the interested parties for allotme of exclusive outdoor advertisement rights for Unipole and Pole Kiosk

within Nagar Nigam Haridwar area for a period of two years. The bid document is available online on www.uktenders.gov.in from 14-05-2020 Last Date/Time for receipt of Bid though e-procurement is 30-05-2020 upto 13.00 Hrs. For submission of the Bids online the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one authorised certifying

NAGAR NIGAM HARIDWAR

E-Tender Notice

S. No.	Description of work	Est. Qty	EMID	Tender Document Co
1.	Unipole	126	EMD of Rs. 3.00 Lakhs (Rs. Three Lakh only) in the form of NEFT/RTGS By E-Banking in name of Nagar	
2.	Pole Kiosk	700	Nigam Haridwar, Account Number 52452010000010 in Oriental Bank of Commerce, Nagar Palika Perishad Haridwar, Haridwar IFSC Code ORBC0105245	Nil

documents. For further details please log on to www.uktenders.gov.in
Note: All documents will be submitted electronically on E-Porta www.uktenders.gov.in only. No Physics Documents needed

No 217/ADV/2020-21 Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Haridwar

CORPORATION LIMITED Tender A/C No 30231982762" (IFSC code Notice against specification SBIN0003347), E-Tenders can be sub-No. SD-886 through E-Tendering mitted only on e-procurement website E-Tenders in two parts, Part-I (Earnest etender.up.nic.in up to schedule date oney, Technical and Commercial details and time, Tenderer (s) are requested to etc.) Part - II : (Prices for Electrical / Mechanical & Civil works) valid for six Corporation so as to obtain digital signal nonths are invited for the work mentioned here under. Construction of 220 KV without E-tender documents fee, against SIS & 33KV AIS Substation Morta the purchase of document, and without (Ghaziabad) with SAS on turn-key basis. EMD will not be opened. Tender docu ncluding supply. erection, testing & comments fee will be deposited through missioning of all equipments / materials RTGS / NEFT in the UPPTCL account No. SD-886, Name of Sub-station deposit e.g. UTR no., Name of 220KV GIS & 33kV AIS Substation Morta account, scanned copy of pay-in slip (Ghaziabad), Transformation Capacity

x60 (220/33kV), Earnest Money (Rs.) be uploaded along with etender doc 68,00,000.00 (Sixty Eight Lacs only) To ments. Earnest money deposit (EMD) be submitted in the form of Bank Guarantee on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 10,000.00 In favour of SE, ESDC-I as per Prescribed format given in the bid document or through RTGS/NEFT in the pay-in slip countersigned by the ter UPPTCL A/C mentioned below Schedule Date of submission & time 04.06.2020 15:30hrs. Schedule Date of Opening & time 05.06.2020 15:30 hrs. In case of public Holiday on date of opening, the Substation Design Circle-I UPPTCL opening date will be on the next working date. The package in general includes but not limited to design, engineering, manufacturing, handling, safe storage and supply & erection of 220kv GIS module, LAs, control and protection panels, SAS system equipments, panels based on IEC 61850 protocol, metering system, main and auxiliary structures, control and from opening of Part-1 of tender of power Cables, Station grounding, Lighting date of opening of part-II whichever is system and all associated essential electrical and civil works including earth filling, foundations, anchor bolts, cable trenches, drainage, water supply, control room building, fencing, roads etc. as per latest national / international standards and mercial papers are required to be terms and conditions of Form "A" of submitted in hard copy or through UPPTCL. <u>However 60MVA, 220/33kV</u> messenger on date of tender transformers shall be provided by opening. Undersigned reserves the UPPTCL and shall not be inscope of tenderer. Similarly construction of assigning any reason. Please visit the e-procurement website etender.up.nic.in pproach road, Residences and boundary wall of substation shall also as well as our website www.upptcl.org not be in scope of this tender. The for all amendments, corrigendum, mod package also includes erection, testing & fications and extensions till the date of nissioning of the entire substation commissioning of the entire substation submission of tender. Superintending including Transformers in a time bound Engineer, Electricity Substation Design chedule, all items and accessories Circle-I, U.P. Power Transmissi equired for completion & commissioning Corporation Ltd., 13th Floor Shakti and O&M of the substation for a period of Bhawan Extension, 14-Ashok Marg two years after completion of substation. Lucknow- 226001 (Uttar Pradesh) plete tender documents against this Email Bid specification can be downloaded from UPPTCL website :- www.upptcl.org e-procurement website of U.P. Govt. etender.up.nic.in and Tenderer will e-procurement website: etender.up.nic.i Email id :- seesdc1@upptcl.org pay non-refundable fee of No. 98, Date

(Narendra Singh Bhandari) IAS U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION through RTGS / NEFT in "UPPTCL SE get them registered with U.P. Electronic countersigned by the tenderer should in UPPTCL account mentioned about and a proof of such deposit e.g. UTF derer, should be uploaded alongwit E-tender documents OR in the form o Bank Guarantee in favour o Superintending Engineer, Electricity Lucknow. If EMD is deposited in the form of Bank Guarantee, scanne copy of EMD BG along with a scann copy of mail in confirmation of the same from the bank issuing the BG will be uploaded with tender docu & the hard copy of the original BG shall be submitted within 01 weel of bidders not submitting origina BG within stipulated time shall not be opened. No tender docume including tender fee and other con right to accept or reject any offer withou

id :- seesdcl@upptcl.or

Rs. 11,800.00 (Inclusive of 18% GST) ENERGY IN THE INTEREST OF

Delhi updates...

From Page 1

The deaths recorded till date at other Covid-19 dedicated facilities are - LNJP Hospital (19), Apollo Hospital (8), Sir Ganga Ram Kolmet Hospital (5), Max Hospital, Saket (5), Safdarjung Hospital (4), AIIMS (Delhi & Jhajjhar) (2) and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (2), the bulletin said.

Of the total number of deceased patients, 58 were aged 60 and above, accounting for over 54 per cent of the fatali-

Twenty-eight of them were aged between 50-59 years and

bulletin said. Facing criticism for "under

reporting" COVID-19 deaths, the Delhi Government on Sunday had issued standard operating procedure (SOP) for hospitals and other health facilities in the city on reporting fatalities due to coronavirus. Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay

Dev had issued an order along with the SOP under which all Covid-19 hospitals and other facilities will e-mail a 'death report' to the Government by 5 pm every day.

As many as 2,858 patients have recovered so far, while there are 5,034 active cases, the Delhi Health Department said.

A total of 1.13.345 tests for Covid-19 have been conduct-

Paramilitary...

From Page 1 According to Shah, if every Indian pledges to use products made in India (Swadeshi), the country can become self-sufficient in next five years.

"Let us all strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Modi in this journey of making India selfreliant, by using indigenous products," Shah added.

Earlier, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIČ)

Sub:-NIT for S&T tenders of Moradabad Division

S. Tender No. & Description of work

009(RT)/Tele/S&T/MB/Kumbh

010(RT)/Tele/S&T/MB/Kumbh

011(RT)/Tele/S&T/MB/Kumbh

007(RT)/Tele/S&T/MB/Kumbh

008(RT)/Tele/S&T/MB/Kumbh

(In connection with Khumb-2020-21).

2018/CE-I/CT/37/GCC/policy dt. 12.05.2020 issued by Railway Board.

Improvement and extension of telecom and data communication cab

operation kumbh for smooth working (In connection with Khumb-2020-21).

Provision of OFC equipment, interface cards for control communicatio and PRS/UTS & Camera working for monitoring in LRJ-HW-RKSH

rovision of OFC equipment, interface cards for control communication

and PRS/UTS & Camera working for monitoring in LRJ-SRE section

Provision of CCTV installation at MOTC, RWL station between

LRJ-HW and HW-RKSH. (In connection with Khumb-2020-21).

LRJ-HW and HW-RKSH. (In connection with Khumb-2020-21).

LRJ-HW and HW-RKSH (In connection with Khumb-2020-21).

Note:- Complete details of tender can be seen at www.ireps.gov.in

Provision of CCTV installation at LRJ,ATMO,PRI station betwee

Tender Notice No-009,010,011,006,007,008(RT)/Tele/ S&T/MB/Kumbh Date. 13.05.2020

etween LRJ-HW-RKSH-DDN for improving backbone for efficient train

was entrusted to design fabric for the 10 lakh strong paramilitary forces like CRPF, BSF, ITBP following a directive from Shah who had stressed introduction of products from the cottage sector.

Last year, Shah had stressed the introduction of cottage products as part of the celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Besides the adoption of the khadi fabric, the paramilitary forces were also asked going to introduce only "swadeshi" origin items manufactured by the khadi sector in messes and canteens.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

With reference to above, the tender Correction in GCC clause no -6 regarding uploading of affidavit as per correction slip no

Ref: -1. This office NIT No. 009,010,011,006,007,008(RT)/Tele/S&T/MB/Kumbh Dt. 05.05.2020

Succour for India inc...

From Page-1

The FM announced a ₹30,000 crore special liquidity liquidity and law." scheme for non-banking finaning finance firms (HFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs) with a view to provide credit support to them and create confidence in the market.

Further, ₹45,000 crore partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0 was also announced for NBFCs, HFCs, and MFIs with low credit rating to help them extend a loan to individuals and MSMEs.

"Essentially, the goal is to build a self-reliant India that is why the Economic Package is called AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan," Sitharaman said.

Citing the pillars on which India would seek to build an AatmaNirbhar Bharat

Earnest Cost of Last date and

time for

of tender

and opening

29.05.2020

up to 14:00

hrs, and

29.05.2020

at 15:00 hrs

1095/2020

Tender

Money

16709848.06 233600.00 5000.00

19515112.41 247600.00 5000.00

20044488.63 250200.00 10000.00

91800.00

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167000.00 5000.00

Abhiyaan, the FM said, "Our focus would be on land, labour, The FM said the

age for different sectors would

be made over several days. That means the Finance Ministry would hold a daily conference now. "Beginning today, for the next few days, I shall be coming here with the entire team of the Ministry of Finance to detail the Prime Minister's

Minister on Tuesday," Sitharaman said. Following measures were

vision for AatmaNirbhar Bharat laid out by the Prime

announced today:-Rs 3 lakh crore Emergency Working Capital Facility for Businesses, including MSMEs

To provide relief to the business, additional working capital finance of 20 per cent of the outstanding credit as on February 29, 2020, in the form of a term loan at a concessional rate of interest will be provided. This will be available to units with up to Rs 25 crore outstanding and turnover of up to Rs 100 crore whose accounts are standard. The units will not have to provide any guarantee or collateral of their own. The amount will be 100 per cent guaranteed by the Government of India providing a total liq-uidity of Rs 3.0 lakh crore to more than 45 lakh MSMEs.

2. Rs 20,000 crore subor-

dinate debt for stressed MSMEs Provision made for Rs 20,000 crore subordinate debt for two lakh MSMEs which are NPA or are stressed. The Government will support them with Rs 4,000 crore to Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small enterprises (CGTMSE). Banks are expected to provide the subordinate-debt to promoters of such MSMEs equal to 15 per cent of his existing stake in the unit subject to a maximum of Rs 75 lakh.

Stimulus package...

From Page 1

"The expenditure will be limited to the extent of NPAs in the outstanding guarantee credit to MSMEs. Assuming an NPA level of 20-50 per cent, the actual expenditure over the loan period (which may be years) will be a maximum of Rs 3,00,000 crore," he said.

Mamata questioned about States getting nothing."There is nothing in public spending, money transfer, and nothing for Covid," she told reporters in Kolkatta minutes after

Sitharaman shared details of the package. "It is eyewash, they are cheating the people. This is bulldozing federal structure, '

Leaders Opposition parties, including five of Left parties, also staged a protest against dilution and annulment of labour laws by State Governments.

On the issue of labour laws, the leaders protest was a follow up to their joint representation to the President of India Ram Nath Kovind on belittling of labour laws, a few days ago.

Pak locusts...

FromPage 1

In a statement, the Agriculture Ministry said that normally, locust swarms enter the desert areas of India via Pakistan for breeding in the summer of June-July, but this time Locust Hoppers as well as Pink Adult Swarms had entered border districts of Rajasthan and Punjab in April itself.

"One reason for this was the uncontrolled swarms of the previous season in Pakistan that breed continuously. Swarms of Pink Immature adults fly high and travel long distances with strong winds coming from Pakistan. Most of these Pink Immature adults settle on trees during the night and mostly fly during the day," it said.

The Ministry said that the Hoppers and Pink Swarms have been controlled at 145 spots covering in an area of 14,299 hectares of Jaisalmer, Sri Ganganagar, Jodhpur, Barmer and Nagaur districts in Rajasthan and Fazilka district of Punjab.

Presently, swarms of immature Pink Locusts are active in Barmer, Phalodi (Jodhpur), Nagaur, Sriganganagar and Ajmer districts of Rajasthan. Around 10 Locust Circle Offices of Government of India located in Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Phalodi, Barmer, Jalore, Churu, Nagaur, Suratgarh districts of Rajasthan; Palanpur and Bhuj districts of Gujarat are working in scheduled desert area of more than 2 lakh sq km in India. In the last few days, medium-sized swarms of locusts have attacked crops in at least 12 districts including Ajmer, Pushkar, Jaisalmer, Fazilka, Nagore, Barmer and Sri Ganga Nagar in Rajasthan.

📵 SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY 🏽 Corrigendum to

E-Tender Notice No. 01 UBL 2020-21 Dated 01.04.2020 The above Tender Notice which

was to be opened on 11.05.2020 & 12.05.2020 are postponed to 20.05.2020 & 21.05.2020 on administrative grounds. For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisonal Railway Manager/Work
Hubballi

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DTC operates buses for migrants from New Delhi Rly Station

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Solving a major concern of the migrants labourer and other railways passengers dependent on public transport in the National Capital, the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has started to operate buses from New Delhi Railway Station to the city's eleven districts headquarters with the terminal point being the District Magistrate (DM) office com-

those people using private conveyance can take Bhavbhuti Marg/Minto Road while the passengers taking DTC buses will board at the parking area in front of Ajmeri Gate.

According to Harendra Kumar Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Railways unit, those railways passengers dependants on public transport had some anxious moments but with the availability of DTC buses, efforts have been made

to provide seamless services to the

After the train services stopped during lockdown, Indian Railways started operating special trains meant for general public on 12.05.2020 from New Delhi Railway Station and three trains departed for Bilaspur, Dibrugarh and Bengaluru. Similarly, four trains arrived on May 12 from Patna, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Howrah at New Delhi Railway Station



arrangements to ensure that the people have no inconvenience and at the same time follow the guidelines to protect from Corona. For the passengers boarding trains, dedicated corridor was made on the Paharganj side where people queued up, all wearing masks and maintaining social distance," said the DCP.

"After thermal scanning they boarded the trains. Sanitizer dispensers were placed at prominent places for the passengers. Police team through public address system not only guided them, team also counseled to take adequate precautions during journey," said the DCP.

"Thus, Delhi Police ensured that no inconvenience is caused to the passengers and with the efforts made in close coordination with Railway Authorities the whole operation went off very well and will continue in the same way in the coming days," the DCP added.

DJB gears up to meet water demand

CHANDAN PRAKASH

n order to supplement water **⊥**availability in deficient areas across the National Capital and to meet peak summer demand, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has completed a series of works such as installing 254 new tube-wells this year, up-gradation of 'Water Treatment Plant' (WTP) and replacement of old and rusted pipes besides fixing leakage to achieve targeted 925

MGD (millions of gallons per day) of potable water production. Every year water demand in the city reaches to its peak during the summers. To carter the need of consumers during the summer, the DJB has targeted water production of about 925 MGD in its summer action plan by optimizing all its resources, a senior DJB official

The DJB will also deploy 1,077 tankers between April and July in water deficient areas to meet the demand. It has identified 8738 numbers of supply points for delivery of water on daily basis through

To monitors the movement of 'Stainless Steel Tankers' the DJB has also put an efficient mechanism in place by equipping it with GPS (Global Positioning System). "Many of areas which are either deficient or not connected with pipe lines are supplied water by

tankers during summer. Now with installation of GPS, the DJB can monitor the movements of these tankers," he

As many as 117 water ATM and e-piaos have been installed by DJB in water deficit areas and strategic locations to reduce chances of water unavailability, he further said.

The civic body has also carried out works to upgrade WTPs and associated pumping installations through measures like replacement of old pumps, old panels and other accessories for their optimum per-

"All preventive maintenance activities for water treatment plants and associated infrastructure including for standby arrangements has been completed and ordinarily there will not be any requirement for shutdown of water treatment plants and associated pumping installations during peak summer months," he said. The official further said

that daily trips of tankers will optimised to supplement drinking water demand in both the areas that are not connected with pipe lines and in deficient areas depending on the requirement, he said, adding that tanker filling capacity at each filling point location has also been optimized. There will be 155 tanker filling hydrants in operation for improved efficiency in deploy-

- Replacement of old pumps, panels and other accessories has been completed to ensure optimum performance
- 117 water ATM and e-piaos have been installed in water deficit areas and strategic locations
- Water tankers are equipped with GPS to monitor movement
- DJB has targeted to achieve 925 MGD potable water production this



642 Shramik trains run so far, 8 lakh migrants ferried: Railways

STAFF REPORTER

▼ndian Railways has operat-**L**ed 642 "Shramik Special" trains till May 13 across the country and ferried home around 7.90 lakh passengers to their home States.

The Railways Ministry said these 642 "Shramik Special" trains were terminated in various States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West

Proper screening of passengers is ensured before boarding the train. During the journey, passengers are given free meals and water," it said in a statement.

Following the order of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) regarding movement of migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places by special trains, Indian Railways had decided to oper-

3,000 labourers leave for MP, Bihar from Gurugram

PARVESH SHARMA **GURUGRAM**

The Gurugram district 1 administration Wednesday sent about 3,000 labourers of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar back to their native States via two labour special trains which were dispatched from Gurugram railway sta-

Of these, one train left for Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh at 10:30 am and the second train left for Madhubani in

Bihar at 12:30 pm.
"Thermal scanning of all those workers and their families before boarding the train ensured that none of them was corona infected," said Amit Khatri, deputy commissioner Gurugram.

An administration official said the workers who were going to Tikamgarh were accumulated at Government College, Sector-14, Gurugram, from where they were taken to Gurugram railway station via

The first labour special train from Gurugram railway station was dispatched to Tikamgarh in which about 1,400 labourers left for their Similarly, a second labour

special train from Gurugram railway station left for

Madhubani in Bihar, with

around 1,600 workers going to their villages. The train had 20 bogies and each bogie had a capacity of 80 seats. "All the workers who went

to Madhubani had their registration done. They were accumulated at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Sector 38. Only those workers have been sent who had no symptoms of corona infection," Khatri said. A 40-year-old migrant

worker Rambihari from Jhansi, who was going to Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh said he used to work in Gurugram and lived with his family in Dundahera. He said that due to the

lockdown, he made up his mind to go to his state and as soon as the conditions are good, he and his family will come back here.

Expressing similar views, another worker Narendra Rajput (21) a resident of Chhatarpur said he used to work in a shop in the village

hicm.suggestions@gmail.com

Government has been appeal-

ing to the Centre to reassess the

categorisation of red zones in

the city factoring in population

density and the need to reopen

businesses and other commer-

Kejriwal raised the matter

Leaders of the

to take in the suggestions.

Meanwhile,

cial activities.

Khandsa and would come back here after the things will be

Apart from this, five more Covid-19 cases have been detected in different areas of the millennium city on Wednesday, taking the tally to 166. Of this, 99 are active cases and 67 have been cured and discharged from hospitals.

No response from Nitish, will pay migrants' trains fare: Delhi

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Government will **1** bear the cost of sending home stranded migrant workers from Bihar in three Shramik Special trains on Wednesday as the Nitish Kumar-led Government hasn't yet responded to its request to pay for their tickets, an official said.

Each special train will carry around 1,200 migrant workers, according to the official.

This comes days after a war of words broke out between Delhi and Bihar governments over expenses incurred by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led dispensation to send around 1,200 Muzaffarpur on a Shramik

"The Delhi Government will bear the cost of ferrying migrant workers as the Bihar government is yet to respond on the payment (for train tickets)," the official said.

The three special trains will leave for Bhagalpur, Barauni and Darbhanga in

Last week, the AAP had

However, Bihar's ruling Janata Dal (United) rejected the claim.

decentralisation in enforcing and lifting

the measures to contain the

Delhi are classified as red.

Special train.

Bihar.

said it bore the cost of ferrying migrant workers from Delhi to Bihar.

It alleged the AAP was speaking "half-truth" on the issue as the Delhi Government had sought from the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led Bihar dispensation a reimbursement of the train fare. The JD(U) had also accused the AAP of resorting to "cheap politics to gain

popularity".

Police reserve beds for its personnel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With rising number of Covid-19 cases and to keep its personnel safe while maintaining law & order situation in National Capital, the Delhi Police on Wednesday said they have reserved beds for their personnel in case they are infected with the virus as many of them have been performing duties at sensitive locations.

Police said that over 100 Delhi police personnel have been tested positive for Covid-19 and out of them, 35 personnel have recovered from the infection and resumed their

According to police, with rise in Covid-19 cases in Delhi, difficulties are being faced in the admission of Covid warriors in the dedicated Covid government hospitals in the

Commissioner SN Shrivastava, spoke to few private hospitals and on his request, they have placed few beds at the disposal of Delhi Police to meet emergency admissions since several police personnel are performing duties at sensitive locations including containment zones, covid hospitals and quarantine facilities. A team led by Special

Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Taj Hassan and Special Commissioner of Police (Women Safety) Nuzhat Hassan are overseeing the admission of police personnel in such new facilities and ensure that police personnel get adequate relief in getting admission in critical cases.

The police said that six of their modified police vehicles which serves as ambulances

city, so Delhi Police will be used for shifting covid

positive police personnel and their families.

Those policemen who were tested positive for COVID-19 are currently undergoing treatment at government hospitals such as Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain Hospital, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in Dilshad Garden, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital,

AIIMS (New Delhi), AIIMS (Jhajjar), Safdarjung Hospital and other private hospitals like Max Hospital, Saket, Apollo Maa Durga Hospital, Charitable Trust Hospital, Model Town, Ayurvedic Tibbia College Karol Bagh,

Chaudhary Braham Prakash

Ayurvedic Hospital in Najafgarh), PGI in Sonipat and

ESIC in Sahibabad, police said.

Selling stolen phones
STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI pick-pocketing.

■ ed a 25-year-old man who used to allegedly purchase stolen mobile phones from robbers and snatchers and then sold then in States of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Rajasthan and Harvana.

Nizam Sheikh, a resident of Sahibabad, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. With his arrest, police claimed to have recovered 143

According to Jasmeet the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, the accused used to purchase such stolen mobile phones from several criminals who were

pick-pocketing.
"He used to purchase around 100-150 such phone and then disposed them to different areas including Mathura, Kosi, Bharatpur, Alwar, Nuh and Mewat. During interrogation, it was revealed that when earlier he used to drive autos at Loni Border, he came in contact with several criminals and came to know about the stolen mobile phones being disposed off at a huge margin," said the

with one resident of Hapur, chase such mobile phones and dispose them off in Rajasthan and West Bengal. He joined him and started assisting him and later started at his owner,"

plea in HC to shift Saad's case to NIA New Delhi: Delhi Police The plea alleged that the acts Wednesday opposed a plea in Tabligi Jamaat constitute

Delhi Police against

the Delhi High Court seeking ed over the investigation of a case against Tablighi Jamaat leader Maulana Saad for holding a congregation in alleged violation of the orders aimed at containing the spread of coro-A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup

Jairam Bhambhani, conducting the hearing through video conferencing, asked the petitioner to place the judgements in support of his plea to transfer the investigation from Delhi Police Crime Branch to National Investigation Agency

The petition, filed by Mumbai-based lawver Ghanshyam Upadhyay, has also sought direction to the NIA to investigate the matter in a time bound manner and the probe be monitored by the high court. It alleged that Delhi Police has failed to arrest the leader despite the lapse of considerable time.

Delhi government standing counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra and advocate Chaitanya Gosain opposed the plea saying Delhi Police was conducting the investigation in a fair manner and argued that the petitioner has no locus standi to file the plea.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on May 28. Advocates Subhash Jha and Yash Chaturvedi, representing

Upadhyay, claimed that the crime branch of Delhi Police has miserably failed in tracing out/ apprehending/ arresting Saad despite lapse of considerable time and his photograph being published in electronic media. "It is virtually impossible

for Maulana Saad to hide himself for such a long time and that too in the capital of the country. Performance of Delhi Police has been pathetic from the very inception and outset. Failure of Delhi Police is explicit from the fact that despite there being lockdown and curfew like situation, Maulana Saad was able to

of omission and commission "terrorist acts/activities" as

defined under the UAPA

arrange gathering of thousands of people belonging to Tabiligi Jamaat in the capital of India," the plea claimed.

It further alleged that "from media reports and evidence so far collected by Delhi Police Crime Branch, it is now axiomatic that Maulana Saad and his henchmen conspired to spread and transmit coronavirus in different parts of the country, with oblique and ulterior motive of causing massive deaths all over the country and thereby to derail the Government of India in pre-

venting the deadly disease". The Delhi Police's crime branch had on March 31 lodged an FIR against seven persons, including the cleric, on a complaint by Station House Officer of Nizamuddin police station here for holding a congregation of Tablighi Jamaat followers in alleged violation of the orders against large gatherings to contain the spread of coronavirus.

The ED has also filed a money laundering case against Saad, trusts links to the Jamaat and others. The plea alleged that the

acts of omission and commission of Saad and his associates / Tabligi Jamaat constitute "terrorist acts/activities" as defined under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and claimed that the Delhi Police has failed to arrest the leader despite lapse of considerable time. It said people of Tablighi Jamaat have been spreading the deadly virus all over the country not only by defying the national lockdown, also by assaulting corona warriors who have been treating the patients.

50 cases filed, 1,860 detained for breaking lockdown rules

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday registered over 50 cases and detained 1,860 people across the national Capital for violating coronavirus lockdown.

According to the data shared by the police, 58 cases were registered under section 188 (for disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) till 5 pm.

Police said that a total of ,860 people have been detained under section 65 (persons bound to comply with reasonable directions of police officers) and 143 vehicles have been impounded under section

66 of the Delhi Police Act. "The police also registered 21 cases against people for stepping outside their residence without wearing masks. A total of 373 movement passes have been issued," police said. Since March 24, more over lakh people have been detained so far for violating order under section 65 of the Delhi Police Act.

However, on Wednesday Delhi Police received over 650 calls on their 24x7 helpline



number to resolve issues related to lockdown. Police said that total 43, 923 number of calls received by police till Wednesday on their helpline

011-23469526. "Police received 688 calls from Tuesday 2 pm to Wednesday 2 pm. Out of 688, around 84 calls were related to outside Delhi, which have been referred to respective state helpline numbers. However, one call was received related to no food/no money, which have been forwarded to NGO for direct relief at their addresses,"

said police. "While 403 calls were related to movement passes and

were advised to apply online on website of Delhi Police," said

'The food delivery network established in all 15 districts with involvement of nearly 400 NGOs/ RWAs/Good Śamaritans facilitated by Delhi Police has led to provision of meals/food packets at more than 250 locations which enabled feeding of nearly 208751 persons and dry ration kits to 2102 persons," said the police.

The move comes following nationwide restrictions due to complete lockdown imposed across the country to contain Coronavirus.

LOCKDOWN RELAXATIONS

After CM's proposal, Govt gets 10K emails, 4 lakh WhatsApp messages

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI 8800007722, helpline number

The Delhi Government has within a day received 10,000 emails, four lakh WhatsApp messages and 27,000 recorded messages, carrying suggestions on relaxations that can be allowed in the national capital after May

According to Delhi Government's spokesperson, the suggestions were accepted pm on

Wednesday evening. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday has announced that the government in its proposal to the Centre, on post May

17 lockdown relaxations, incorporate suggestions from the people and medical experts as

Government official said that a dedicated team has been going through the suggestions. The government has issued a WhatsApp number

at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video conference with various Chief Ministers on Monday. AAP have also been pressing for greater

spread of corona.

According to senior officials the Centre plans to involve the states consider their suggestions in drawing up the list of red, green and orange zones. Currently, all the 11 districts in

Man held for buying,

he Delhi Police has arrest-

The accused is identified as

stolen mobile phones.

Singh, indulged in street crime and "He then came in contact

Uttar Pradesh who use to purthe DCP added.



Opp dominated Upper House for 39 of 68 yrs: Naidu

In an interesting research amidst the Corona lockdown, it has turned out that the Opposition has had an upper hand in the Rajya Sabha for 39 of the 68 years in terms of numbers. The information shared by Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu says that despite this, legislative business was not adversely impacted, though other concerns did emerge.

"The mode of elections to and tenures of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are different. This could lead to a situation of the Government of the day having majority as required in the Lok Sabha and not having the numbers in the Rajya Sabha. This is what had happened over the years," Naidu noted while recounting the journey of the



Upper House on the occasion of 68th anniversary of its first

Naidu said the Rajya Sabha held 5,472 sittings and passed 3,857 Bills till the Budget Session this year, even as it asserted its independence on some occasions.

Sharing about the first sitting of Rajya Sabha on May 13, 1952, Naidu recounted the proceedings and mentioned the first observation in the House was made by the then Secretary SN Mukherjee, who read out the order of the President of India appointing Dr S Radhakrishnan and SV Krishna Moorthy Rao.



And the first ever observation in the House by the Chairman Radhakrishnan while welcoming the Members was: "May I extend to you all a hearty welcome and express the hope that by our activities we will further the speedy and allround progress of our people?"

As per the information, 197 Members including 9 women from 16 States made and subscribed the oath or affirmation on the first day of the Council of States. The first Member to take oath was N. Gopalaswami Ayyengar, the then Minister of Defence, who was subsequently appointed the leader of the House. The first woman to take oath was Pushpalata Das. Some other

Kunwarani Vijaya Raje, Prof. Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Violet Alva and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Naidu recalled the Upper House passing several major Bills relating to GST, IBC, triple talaq, re-organisation of J & K, citizenship amendment etc, even though the present government does not have the numbers. "This suggests that no case can be made against the Rajya Sabha as being obstructionist in law making," he

He further observed that irrespective of the composition of the House, time spent on legislation remained 29 pc of the total functional time of the Upper House.

The line between obstruction and disruption is thin and needs to be put aside," he Rajya Sabha, Naidu stated that it is turning out to be more and more a deliberative body having spent 33.54 pc of the time of the House on discussing issues of public importance during 1978-2014; 41.42 pc

46.59 pc during 2015-19.

The chairman, however, expressed concern over declining time spent on the oversight function of the House amidst rising trend of disruptions eroding the productivity of the House.

during 2005-14 and a high of

He observed that the Rajya Sabha spent 39.50 pc of the total time on ensuring the accountability of the executive during 1978-2004 which declined to 21.99 pc during 2005-14 and further to 12.34 pc

during 2015-19. This was primarily on being abandoned due to disruptions", he said.

Naidu informed that the functional productivity of the Rajya Sabha used to be about 100 pc till 1997 and it slid to 87 pc during 1998-2004, to 71 pc during 2005-14 and further to 61 pc during the next five

"Since 1978, the annual productivity of the Rajya Sabha has been 100 pc in only 12 years and it has never been 100 pc in the last 29 years," he said, adding that the lowest annual productivity of 38.63 pc was recorded in 2018.

He also referred to three Joint Sittings in 1961, 1978 and 2002 when the Rajya Sabha rejected the Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1959, the Banking Services Commission (Repeal) Bill,

tively. In 1959, the then government had majority in the Upper House.

The Rajya Sabha also dif-fered with the Lok Sabha when it rejected the Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1970, seeking to abolish privy purses to the erstwhile rulers and two more such Constitution Amendment Bills in 1989 seeking to strengthen Panchayats Municipalities which later became the Acts of Parliament.

Referring to delaying of passing of some other Bills by the Upper House, Naidu said that if they amounted to checking 'hasty legislation', the Rajya Sabha passed five Constitution Amendment Bills in a day on August 25, 1994, when the then Government did not have

Army mulls 3-yr Tour of Duty for civilians

Proposal has come forward to overcome shortage of officers and attract talent; 8,000 junior officers-level vacancies exist in forces

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to overcome shortage of officers and attract talent into the armed forces, the Army is mulling a proposal to allow a three-year 'Tour of Duty' to common citizens on a trial basis in the force. The induction will be purely voluntary in nature and will have no dilution of selection standards. Those selected will on an average get a higher pay package than their peers in the corporate or civilian sector besides income tax exemption benefits. At present, the briefest stint is for five to 10 years as a Short Service Commission (SSC) inductee.

The Army top brass is considering all aspects of the proposed 'Tour of Duty" process where in those men and women desirous of donning the uniform, though for a short period, can serve the nation, sources said here on Wednesday.

The proposed scheme will enable the Army both to reduce shortage of officers to a large extent and also bring down the burgeoning salary and pension bill, the sources added.

This is expected to free up funds for modernisation for the Army too. At present, there is a shortfall of more than 8,000 officers in junior positions.

Giving details of the 'Tour the US during Vietnam when its personnel served stints of six months to a year and then reinducted for the next 'tour,' sources said the induction will be for both officers and other ranks initially for a limited number of vacancies and then expanded later.

The overall purpose of this

This is expected to free up funds for modernisation for the Army too. At present, there is a shortfall of more than 9,000 officers in

Giving details of the 'Tour of Duty,' the term first used by the US during Vietnam when its personnel served stints of six months to a year and then re-inducted for the next 'tour,' sources said the induction will be for both officers and other ranks initially for a limited number of vacancies and then expanded later.

 The overall purpose of this entry scheme is 'internship/temporary experience' and so there will be no requirement of attractive severance packages, resettlement courses professional encashment training leave, ex-servicemen status and Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)

ence' and so there will be no mate cost of pre-commission requirement of attractive sev- training, pay, allowances, graerance packages, resettlement tuity, proposed severance packcourses, professional encash- ages, leave encashment and vicemen status and Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS).

Elaborating upon the expenditure, they said the cost of training incurred on each personnel compared to the limited employment of the manpower for three years is more. Explaining the benefits of the proposed scheme, they

'internship/temporary experi- said the cumulative approxinearly ₹5.12 crore and ₹6.83 crore respectively on an SSC officer if he or she is released from Service

after 10 and 14 years. The overall cost goes up even further as 50-60% of the SSC officers opt for Permanent Commission and continue in service till 54 years and thereafter as pension benefits. However, similar costs for

those released after three years is just ₹80-85 lakh, they said. Similarly, estimates for a

non-commissioned soldier with 17 years of service as compared to with the 'Tour of Duty' jawan with three-yearsservice, shows that the prospective lifetime savings for just one Jawan is ₹11.5 crore. Therefore, savings for only 1,000 jawans could be ?11,000 crore which could be used for the much needed modernisation of the Army the proposal said.

Underlining the advantages of the scheme, officials said it focuses on those individuals who do not want a full career in the Army but still want to put on the Uniform.

Those opting for this process will get a much higher salary than their peers on an average who start a career in the corporate sector. They will also have advantage after leaving the Service and going to the Corporate sector, the proposal States. The Army hopes this scheme will attract individuals from the best col-

leges.

The proposal has suggested several measures to incentivise this scheme like a tax-free income for three vears and a token lumpsum at the end of three years about ₹ 5-6 lakh for officers and ₹

The Army's pay and pension bill has been increasingly steeply over the years accounting for 60% of the Army's budget allocation. During the last five years though the growth in defence budget has been 68%, and for defence salaries 75%, defence pensions have increased by a staggering 146%.

New draft guidelines for hotels

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Making it clear that the hotel industry needs to be ready for changes as lockdown restrictions get gradually eased amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has prepared draft guidelines for hotels and other accommodation units to ensure social distancing and adequate safety measures.

Besides listing Covid-19related must-have amenities at hotels, the draft "Post COVID-

Protocols Accommodation Units' details procedures for check-ins and check-outs, room allocation process and in-room provisions, daily thermal checking of guests and staff, room and common area cleaning, food service, and other dos and don'ts for hotel staff and guests.

The Union Tourism Ministry has now sought suggestions from the stakeholders like Hotel Association of India (HAI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) and Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI).

The draft protocols seek to minimise all possible touch points between a staff and guest while at the hotel, and proposes a 'special recommendation' that the staff should have the Aarogya Setu app for guest surveillance during check-ins. "As the Coronavirus pan-

demic has brought in new norms in day-today life, turning has come to think and organize our near future. We know that Coronavirus has already had and will also have important economic consequences and that tourism is one of the sectors most affected by this crisis. Draft protocols are way forward in the Coronavirus times," said an official from the Tourism Ministry which has prepared the guidelines.

Prepared in consultation with the Union Health Ministry and other agencies, the protocols will be finalised soon, he said.

"This policy is developed with the view of the government's guidelines of maintaining social distancing at all times by multiple preventive actions and safety measures in addition to making hotels aware about how to operate and manage running operations during the current of the guest should be locked

Protect interest of homebuyers, real estate sector: MoHUA advisory to States, UTs PNS NEW DELHI flats/homes although with the mately result in non-delivery of

To protect the interest of homebuyers as well as the real estate sector, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on Wednesday issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories and their respective Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (RERA) to automatically extend registration of all projects registered under RERA which were due on or after March 25 by six months and further upto three months if the situation in a particular state or any part thereof needs consideration in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The regulatory authorities now cannot take action against the developers until the revised timelines get over.

In a statement, the ministry said it has issued an advisory to all States / UTs and their respective Real Estate Regulatory Authorities to consider the current pandemic of COVID-19 as "force majeure" being a natural calamity, which is adversely affecting the reg-ular development of the real estate projects and extend registration of all real estate projects registered under RERA by 6 months and further upto 3 months, as per situation evolv-

According to the ministry, this measure will safeguard the interest of homebuyers to get them the delivery of their

situation," as per the document.

lines endeavour to make the

traceability of guests easier, in

case a situation in future war-

rants so. Housekeeping staff

would have to wear masks or

PPE wherever needed while

cleaning or deep cleaning the

the hotels should maintain a safe

distance of 6 feet from such

guests and should offer them

medical assistance. The staff

should keep a watch over the

health condition of these guests

and if illness persists the room

As per the draft guidelines,

It also stated that the guide-

delay of few months but it will definitely ensure the completion of the projects.

To avoid unnecessary litigation against real estate developers Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 13 announced an extension in registration and completion date of real estate projects under RERA.

"The nationwide lockdown forced the labours to return to their home and in such circumstances, work on the real estate projects will take quite some time to restart in full gear. In the absence of urgent remedial regulatory measures under RERA, there is also a possibility of many real estate projects getting stalled leading to litigation etc. This will ultimately result in nondelivery of flats to the homebuyers, who have invested their lifetime savings for their dream homes," the ministry

A lot of projects got stalled due to various reasons leaving lakhs of homebuyers in a very difficult situation, where they were running from pillar to post for their booked homes. "It is clear that in such circumstances, work on the real estate projects will take quite some time to restart in full gear. In the absence of urgent reme dial regulatory measures under RERA Act, 2016, there is also a possibility of many real estate projects getting stalled leading to litigation etc. This will ulti-

and the entire floor, reception

and all common areas should be

be washed separately. Details of

the guest, including travel his-

tory and medical condition

along with ID and self-decla-

ration form must be provided by the guest at the reception for

procedure, the draft SOP pro-

posed that guests should inform

at the reception an hour before

the check out and they should

only check out once he/she is

In case of a guest is sus-

confirmed by the reception.

Regarding the check-out

the time being.

Linen and other items must

deep cleaned and fumigated.

flats to the homebuyers, who have invested their lifetime savings for their dream homes,"

officials said. The construction work of ongoing real estate projects was halted leading to reverse migration of labourers to their native places. Further, there was large scale disruption in the supply chain of construction materials which adverse-

ly impacted the construction activities across the country The officials further added that it is also anticipated that construction activities in premonsoon could not be undertaken, which will further delay the construction cycle. Moreover, due to the impending monsoon season followed by festivals like Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath, the labourers are not expected to come back soon.

Project registration certificates will also be issued automatically with revised timelines and all timelines for various statutory compliance under RERA are extended concurrently. These measures will destress the developers of the compliance burden and will ensure that they focus on the completion of the project as per revised timelines.

There was a demand for sector so that it is able to cope up with adverse impact of the crisis. Covid-19 has already disrupted construction activities due to reverse migration.

pected of COVID-19 infec-

tion, the draft guidelines say

they should not be denied

check-in if they are coughing or

sneezing, instead social dis-

tancing should be maintained

and medical assistance should

flee/not traceable, inform the

police immediately," as per the

document. The protocols come

days after the Union Health

Ministry prepared guidelines

for the hotels interested to offer

their rooms/accommodations

for Covid-19 suspected/patients

needing quarantine/isolation

"In case suspected guests

be offered.

Army Chief downplays face-off with China

New Delhi: The face-offs between troops of India and China have no connection with any domestic or international situation prevailing today, Army Chief Gen Manoi Mukund Naravane said on

Wednesday.

In an interview with ANI, Naravane said these face-offs have been happening in the past and it has happened again now and "we will deal with it as per protocol between the two coun-

The Army chief said faceoffs between Chinese People's Liberation Army troops and Indian troops are nothing new as the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is not very "well defined" but asserted that the armed force will deal with the issue as per the protocol laid out between the two countries.



The Army chief's remarks came after Indian forces had face-offs with Chinese forces in northern Sikkim and in eastern Ladakh earlier this week.

"As far the situation in northern borders is concerned, LAC is not very well defined. There are different perceptions where the LAC runs. Accordingly, both sides patrol up to their accepted claimed lines and, therefore, when patrols reach at the same place and at the same time such face-offs do occur. They have occurred in the past and there is nothing new in what has happened in last week or ten days," Naravane said. The Army chief said face-offs between **Chinese People's Liberation Army** troops and Indian troops are nothing new as the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is not very "well defined" but asserted that the armed force will deal with the issue as per the protocol laid out between the two countries

"It is just a matter of chance that the face-off in eastern countries and in accordance with strategic guidelines," he said.

Army is always working towards self-reliance and a majority of its orders have gone into firms in the country. "We always working towards self-reliance and I have

been fully in support of the Make in India initiative. In the past, we have also had new categorisations like Make 1, Make 2 which make it much easier for private industries to participate in defence-related products and they can make it in India for us. So, we are not only doing indigenisation through our PSUs and Ordnance Factory Board (OFBs)," he said when asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for selfreliant India.

"We also want to get local industry and indigenous players into the fold of making defence-related products. More than 70-80 per cent of Army's orders both in numbers and cost have gone to Indian firms and we will continue doing it in the future also. Recently, we have signed an order of ₹70 crores with L&T and we will contin-

41 more afflicted with Covid PNS NEW DELHI

I recorded a major spurt in Covid-19 cases with the detection of 41 coronavirus-infected persons. A maximum of 38 Covid-19 positive cases were reported from its unit deployed at Kolkata-based defence PSU

For their part, the BSF reported 13 new cases and the CRPF three cases.

The Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Limited (GRSEL) is a strategic warship building facility on the banks of Hooghly River in West Bengal which caters to the requirements of both Navy and Coast Guard.

On Monday, a 55-year-old Assistant Sub Inspector of the paramilitary at GRSEL had succumbed to the disease. This was the third death from the pandemic in the force with the other two in a unit that guards the Indian Museum in Kolkata and the one that protects the Mumbai international airport.

The CISF unit at GRSEL now, with all but one being reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel were deployed at GRSEL in 2016 for securing the campus.

in GRSE and having history of positive for Covid 19 and darity at this hour with the bereaved family."

Medical Facilities designated for treatment of Covid 19, as

Ratna further said. The GRSE has been under

has 38 active COVID-19 cases The CISF on Wednesday

Over 400 armed Central

In a statement, the GRSEL said, "An ASI of CISF deputed diabetes & hypertension tested passed away on 11 May 2020. The Shipvard stands in soli-

All CISF personnel who reside within the barrack accommodation of GRSE Main Unit have been placed under quarantine and their samples have been immediately sent for testing. Personnel found Covid positive have already been shifted for treatment at State

per extant norms, the Mini

lockdown since March 23 in

Government of India and State Government directives.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.-II, Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work :-

1. Name of work and

2. Completion period of

Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi". 36 (Thirty six months)

Rs. 38.18 Lakh (Rupees Thirty eight lakh & eightee

Approx. cost of work

Earnest money amount (to be deposited online)

Date, Time for submission of E-tende

nders may be uploaded up to 11.30 hrs. on

04.06.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can only participate in the e-t tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 04.06.2020.

Rs. 76,400/- (Seventy Six thousand four hundred only)

"Hiring of two Vehicles such as Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo

type of vehicles on monthly hiring basis for three years

one for XEN/C-I/CSB & other for XEN/C-II/CSB

working under Dy. Chief Engineer/Const-II, Northern

Detailed Tender Notice

The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 12.05.2020 to

1091/2020

All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office

No: 114-Acs-Dy-CE-C-II-CSB, Dt. 12.05.2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

submit E-Bids accordingly.

CORRIGENDUM-II, DATED: 12.05.2020

Tender No. Dated Corrigendum No. 12.05.2020 FLEXI-DEMU-P11-20 Corrigendum No. IV

Bidders may visit the website to download the details mentioned in the Corrigendum-IV and

Ladakh happened during the same period but we should not read too much into this that this is part of some coordinated plan. There is nothing like that... But we will deal with it as per the protocol which has been laid out between the two

Naravane said that Indian

(INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS) 4th Floor, Railway Offices Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

Corrigenda has been issued to E-Tender No. FLEXI-DEMU-P11-20 already uploaded on the website www.ireps.gov.in

ue to support indigenisation process," he said.



9-month pregnant woman walks 196 km to home

the pioneer

Jaipur: It was a tough trail for a 9-month pregnant woman who walked 196 kilometres on foot, from Ahmedabad with her husband, son (1-year-old) and daughter (2-year-old) for 6 days to reach her native place in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam.

Surprisingly, no one took pity on her condition throughout the way as she crossed district after district, checkpost after checkpost with an aim to reach her native place at the

However, it was her luck to get a few good samaritans at Dungarpur checkpost, who seeing her plight, stopped her and offered her food and transportation to help her reach her

Dungarpur SDM Rajeev Dwivedi told

IANS, "This woman, with her family, including husband and two kids, reached Dungapur checkpost on Monday evening. The staff at the location was stunned to see her feeble condition as she looked quite tired and lacked energy. When asked if she had food, she simply refused. It also seemed as if she was in

The officials at the checkpoint hence informed the SDM and other officials. Soon a team of doctors from nearby medical checkpost arrived at the location to review her med ical condition. It was evident that she was not in a condition to walk but had walked all along from Ahmedabad and hence they asked the family to rest overnight and offered them food and shelter, said Dwivedi.

Mamata calls Centre's package 'zero'

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday dismissed the 'muchbandied' central package worth ₹20 lakh crore as a 'big zero' and 'eyewash' intended to 'hoodwink' the people of the country.

Accusing the Centre for "bulldozing the federal structure" of the country she said "in the name of a special package this Government has produced a Ghorar Deem (mare's nest) ... it is a big zero, a big eyewash aimed at hoodwinking the people in the name of fighting corona crisis.'

Banerjee was referring to the d them | Tuesday's press conference of | IANS | Union Finance Minister Nirmala

rated on the Centre's package.

Claiming that there was "no consistency between what the Prime Minister said yesterday, and what we were given to hear today," the Chief Minister said "when the PM announced ₹20 lakh crore package, we were hopeful that the interest of the states will be looked into, the FRBM limit would be increased. But today ... it was found that everything that was said yesterday was a bluff ... There is nothing in public spending, money transfer, and nothing to fight the pandemic."

Comparing the central package with her own new scheme called "Maatir Shristi" --- that would entail setting up of environment friendly units on 50,000

jobs --- Banerjee said, the Finance Minister's announcement had "nothing to generate employment ... no fund for health infrastructure ... no fund for fighting the pandemic... neither it has put cash in the pocket of the poorest of the poor who have lost their jobs and were travelling back hundreds of miles to their

Accusing the Centre for try-ing to "bulldoze" and "destroy" the "cooperative federalism" Banerjee said "the State's rights are being taken away." How the States would run without financial assistance from the Centre she asked wondering "why the farmers' debts were not

villages.

IMD predicts cyclone storm by May 16

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday forecast that a low pressure area has developed in the southeast Bay of Bengal and the same could intensify into a cyclonic storm by the evening of May 16. The low pressure area, to be named 'Amphan' if it develops into a cyclonic storm, is likely to move northwestwards initially till May 17 before recurving northnortheastwards.

According to the IMD, there were 354 heavy rainfall events — defined by IMD as absolute rainfall above 64.5 millimetres (mm) — across India in March and April. Of these events, 224 occurred in April, while 130 occurred in March. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were impacted the most (52 occurrences), followed by West Bengal (41) and Odisha (40), while Meghalaya recorded 29 such events in two months. The heavy rain and storms led to cooler-than-normal temperatures across north, central and east India. The IMD recorded some

unusual climatic changes to forecast for the upcoming summer. "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," it said. In its weather forecast on Wednesday, the IMD said that a low pressure area has formed over southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea, in the Wednesday morning.

509 new cases takes TN total tally at 9,227

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

There are 9,227 Covid-19 L cases in Tamil Nadu as on Wednesday evening 7 pm. The daily medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu stated that 509 persons tested positive for coronavirus all over the State on Wednesday taking the number of patients to 9,227.

With three more persons succumbing to the pandemic on Wednesday, the fatalities in the State reached 64.

Chennai, the capital city, saw the number of covid-19 patients going up by 380 making the total number of patients in the metropolis to 5,262. This means that the number of coronavirus positive persons in the city increasing two-fold during the last week.

According to the details furnished by the Government, there were 2,644 patients on May 7 in the city. This has shot up to 5,262 in six days, a shocking increase.

But Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami told reporters early in the day that the hike in the number of coronavirus cases is due to the increased testing of samples which he claimed as the highest in the country.

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ayoungster from Central Kashmir's Budgam district

Wednesday paid a heavy price

for jumping the security check

Gulmarg road after security

forces stationed there opened

fire on him resulting in his

identified as Mehrajuddin Peer

son of Ghulam Nabi Peer res-

ident of Makhama Beerwah

hands of security forces, spread

like wild fire in the area, the

district authorities snapped

mobile internet services in the

area and rushed additional

security personnel to handle

any law and order situation.

The deceased has been

As news of his death, at the

66 more +ve cases in Dharavi

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The total number of Covid-19 infected cases crossed the 1,000 mark in Mumbai's worst pandemic-affected Dharavi on Wednesday, as 66 more persons tested positive for

On a day when the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) pegged the number of deaths in Dharavi at 40, as many as 66 new infected cases were reported from various parts of Asia's biggest slum. With the fresh infected cases, the total number of infected cases rose to a taggering 1,028.

Attributing the increase in

the number of deaths to the new information received from the BMC's Epidemic Cell,

the BMC said: " New nine deaths have informed by epidemic cell. These deaths had happened earlier on different dates and conveyed to ward office subsequently". As many as five positive cases were recorded in Dhondu Mistry Chawl, while four cases were reported from Matunga Labour camp.

area, while the areas like Kerusheth Chawl, Vijaynagar and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar regis-

ered two positive cases. Rest of the infected cases were reported from most parts of Dharavi where positive cases are

The spike in the number of infected cases in Dharavi came a day after this densely popu-

lated slum recorded 46 positive cases and one death on Tuesday. Matunga Labour camp, which on Wednesday accounted for four infected, has been the worst-hit area in Dharavi. On Tuesday, eight infected cases were recorded in Matunga Labour camp. On Monday, this area had registered eight cases

One more death due to Covid-19 was reported from Jammu district on Wednesday after test reports of a patient, who was admitted in the Government Medical College hospital late Tuesday night, tested positive posthumously while 37 fresh cases were detected across Jammu & Kashmir taking the total tally to 971 cases.

The total death toll due to Covid -19 in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up to 11. So far, nine deaths have been reported from Kashmir and two from Jammu division.

Out of these 37 fresh cases, Kashmir valley recorded 30 cases while Jammu division recorded 7 new cases of coronavirus. 11 patients were discharged from the hospitals, 2 from Jammu and 9 from Kashmir division. On Wednesday, dis-

spokesman, "on Wednesday at about 10.20 a.m, during Joint Former Chief Minister Omar

Naka at Khalisa Kawoosa in Abdullah termed the incident

the jurisdiction of Police as unfortunate. "Very unfortu-

Station Magam, a Wagon-R nate. The circumstances sur-

vehicle bearing registration rounding this shooting need to

e impartially investig

findings made known. My con-

dolences to the family of the

deceased," he tweeted. Jammu

and Kashmir Pradesh Congress

Committee (JKPCC), in a

statement, strongly condemned

"The firing should have been avoided. The loss of inno-

cent lives has the potential to

lead to further alienation of the

people," the JKPCC said. The

party demanded a probe into

the circumstances, which led to

the killing of the civilian in

to

fix

the

Mehrajuddin.

killing

Youngster killed in Budgam firing

naled to stop. However, the said

vehicle ignored to stop and fled

away from two Naka points in

"the Naka party opened fire at

the vehicle to thwart the

attempt. The driver of the vehi-

cle got injured and was shifted

to hospital for medical treat-

ment, however he succumbed

to his injuries. Police has reg-

istered a case and started inves-

ties in Kashmir valley con-

demned the killing of a civilian

Mainstream political par-

tigation in to the matter".

The police spokesman said,

suspicious condition".

trict Anantnag recorded 18 fresh cases, Budgam 7 while 4 cases were reported from Kathua and

pital authorities in Jammu especially among those who had handled the patient in the emergency department before the patient breathed his last. Apparently, the patient had no travel history but official sources claimed his son had returned from New Delhi recently. The district authorities have launched contact tracing exercise and sealed the area to prevent spread of coronavirus in the vicinity.

cremation ground.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

eral and Tamil Nadu in particular are of

the view that banks should show com-

passion and kindness towards them. This

is in the backdrop of the coronavirus

induced economic melt-down and set-

back suffered by industrial sector in

up any challenge to revive the economy

and bring the country back to life. But

we alone cannot do that. There is an

ocean of opportunities waiting for us and

we can make it happen with some help

from the banking sector," Hari

Indian Industries' Tamil Nadu Council,

"The industrialists are willing to take

Mixed reactions to Fin Min's relief package in South

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The economic package amounted by American Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday The economic package announced by Finance has failed to enthuse the Micro, Small and Mini Enterprises (MSME) in Tamil Nadu which directly employs 1.3 crore workers in the State. There are 20 lakh such units spread out in Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode districts.

"None of the announcements made by the Finance Minister would help us," said S Vasudevan, joint secretary, Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association (TANSTIA), the apex body of MSME units in the State.

'The only concession which we have received is the announcement by the Union Minister that the pending payments from Government would be cleared in 45 days. There is no mention about the interest waiver on loans during the lockdown period which the industrial units were looking for," said Vasudevan who is also the spokesman of the TANSTIA. "It was a big disappointment for us. We had sent many representations and appeals

Laghu Udyog Bharati Kerala unit was all praise for the announcements made by Sitharaman. "There are many concessions which have been granted. The Government's move to allocate ₹3 lakh crore for the MSME will go along way in addressing the problems faced by the sector. We had requested the Minister to allocate ₹5 lakh crore but the fact that she has kept apart more than half of what we had asked for is a positive sign. It is difficult to please one and all.

जल संसाधन विभाग

क्रय भंडार एवं सामग्री प्रबंधन निदेशालय राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्घात्मक निविदा

(बाढ़ 2020 के पहले बाढ़ संघर्षात्मक सामग्रियों के लिए कोटेशन)

संचिका सं0 02 क्रय-03-01/2020-233 <u>अति अल्पकालीन पुर्नकोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना सं0 01/2020–21</u>

केवल ई-टेन्डर (पद्धित के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर)

युप संo	कार्य का नाम	मात्रा	अग्रधन की राशि (रू० में) (ऑनलाईन अथवा ऑफलाईन मोड में मुगतेय)	बीड कागजात का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (रू० में) (केवल ऑनलाईन मोड में मुगतेय)	BELTRON को Online देय बीड प्रोसेसिंग फिस (रू० में) (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में भुगतेय)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथ्यि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता पटना एवं मुजपकरपुर के परिक्षेत्राधीन विभिन्न प्रमङ्क्षीय / केन्द्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप (2m x 1.5m) आकार के नन वोभन मेगा जियो बैग का आपूर्ति कार्य।	1,000 Nos.	13,500.00	1250.00	1180.00	30.06.2020
2.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता समस्तीपुर, कटिहार एवं पटना के परिक्षेत्राधीन विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/ केन्द्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप जीठ टीठ फिल्टर का आपूर्ति कार्य।	15000 M ²	27,000.00	2500.00	1180.00	30.06.2020
3.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता बीरपुर, कटिहार एवं गोपालगंज के परिक्षेत्राधीन विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/केन्द्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप 3.15 मी0 मी0 व्यास के बी0 ए० वायर का आपूर्ति कार्य।	50 M T	75,000.00	5,000.00	1180.00	30.06.2020

3 परिमाण विपन्न प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 20.05.2020 से 25.05.2020 के अपराहृन 3:00 बजे तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

4 प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

5 कोटेशन अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय

टेक्निकल बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

र वित्तीय बीड खोलने की विधि एवं समय

10 विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

9 कोटेशन की वैद्यता की अंतिम तिथि

कार्यालय दिनांक 26.05.2020 समय अपराहन 3:00 बजे तक (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

सामग्री प्रबंधन निदेशालय, जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का

22.05.2020 को पूर्वाहन 11:00 बजे निदेशक, क्य भंडार एवं

(www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) तिथि एवं समय की सूचना तकनीकी वीड पर निर्णय के बाद वेबसाईट पर दी जायेगी।

www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर

15.10.2020 (बाढ़ अवधि तक) निदेशक क्रय भंडार एवं सामग्री प्रबंधन निदेशालय जल संसाधन विभाग, न्यू बैरक संख्या-5 हार्डिंग रोड, पटना-800001 दुरभाष

संख्या:-9334107013

11. ई- टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु संवेदकों को पंजीकृत होना होगा, जिससे कि उन्हें उपयोगकर्त्ता का नाम (User ID) पासवर्ड (Password) एवं अंकीय हस्ताक्षर (Digital Signature) प्राप्त होगा। यह उन्हें वेबसाईट eproc.bihar.gov.in से डाउनलोड करने / ई-टेन्डरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने की योग्यता प्रदान करेगा।12. ई-निविदा मात्र वेबसाईट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किया जा सकता है।13. विशेष जानकारी हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में कार्य अवधि में दूरभाष संख्या- 9334107013 एवं 7463889198 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है। ई-टेन्डरिंग की प्रक्रिया से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी / सूचना हेतु ई—टेन्डरिंग सेल, सिंचाई भवन पटना (0612—2235241) एवं सहायता कक्ष बैंक ऑफ इंडिया बिल्डिंग, एम/22. प्लाट न0.-25 एस0 के0 नगर, पटना से दूरभाष संख्या-07542028164 एवं 0612-2523006 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है। 14. विशेष जानकारी के लिए www.eproc.bihar.gov.in, <u>www.wrd.bih.nic.in</u> एवं www.prdbihar. gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। निदेशक gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्रय, भण्डार एवं सामग्री प्रबन्धन निदेशालय, जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना

PR No. 0001021(WRD)2020-21 नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🏧 राजा Free No.: 🕇 🛛 🛂 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

ाय सामग्री – संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु <mark>दूरभाष संख्या ०</mark>६१२-२२१७४६ पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है। किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के <mark>हेल्पलाड्न नं. 1070</mark> पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है

the under noted work:-

2. Completion period of the work:

Earnest money amount (to be deposited online)

Date & Time for submission of E-tender

and opening of tender:

No.: 120-Acs-Dy-CE-C-II-CSB Dated : 12.05.2020

6. Detailed Tender Notice &

Approx. cost of

Name of work and Location:

Budgam.

Metro Railway, Kolkata Kolkata's Pride

According to police and called for an impartial

STANDARDISATION OF GUARD RAIL IN DUM DUM-TOLLYGUNGE SECTION Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Value: ₹ 5,46,88,022.38. Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 10,000. Earnest Money: ₹4,23,500. Completion period: 9 months from the date of issue of

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2323-2020

Hiring of one Vehicle such as (Jeep, Gypsy, Tata

Sumo type of vehicles) on monthly hiring basis for three years for XEN/C/SRE working under Dy. Chief

Engineer/Const-II, Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge

Rs.15.13 Lakh (Rupees Fifteen lakh & thirteen

Rs. 30,300/- (Rupees Thirty thousand three

Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs or

04.06.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 04.06.2020.

The detailed e-tender notice is available Northern Railway web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in Above tenders document will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 12.05.2020 to 28.05.2020. All other terms and conditions in

respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be

een on the Notice Board of the above office

Railway for the following work: Name of work: Standardisation of Guard Rail in Dum Dum-Tollygunge Section of Metro Railway, Kolkata, Tender LOA. Date of closing: 19.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.-II Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for and

on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system for

36 (Thirty Six Months)

housand only)

hundred only)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

responsibility.

order

UJVN LIMITED

told The Pioneer.

Tamil Nadu.

Date Extension

Tender No.16/EE(Maint.)/Khodri/2019-20-Replacement of Control Panels of Governor Motors of all Four units at Khodri Power House. Due to unavoidable reason dates of the above tender shall be read a below. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged: Last date for submission of bids:18-05-2020 (upto 16:00 Hrs.) Date of opening of bids: 19-05-2020 (11:00 Hrs.) For downloading tender documents and other details, Kindly visit ou

portal "https:/www.ujvnl.com" **Executive Engineer (Maintenance** Ro. No. 292 Dated 12/05/2020

"AVOID WASTE FUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY



public is hereby informed that one lady namely Monu Chouhan, W/o Shri Satya Dev Singh, R/o H.No. 113, Gali No. 1, Near State Co-Operative Bank, Nangli Poona, Delhi, Age 25 years, Height 4'8" Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Thin Built, Wearing Blue colour suit

Monu Chouhan salwar, white colour legging and hawai chappal in feet has been missing since 26.04.20. In this regard DD No. 40-A dated 26.04.20 has been lodged at PS Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady may kindly inform to the following. E-mail ID:cic@cbi.gov.in

Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Swaroop Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 27811415, 27811738 Fax: 011-24368639

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

E-Tender No. 2020RSI8741TC Executive Director, Railways Stores(S), Ministry of Railway, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 73,380 Nos. AAR

approved Cartridge Taper Roller Bearings (CTRB) Class E (6"x11") complete including four items for use on Freight Stock for Indian Railways to RDSO specification No. AB/RB-39-2002 (Rev.3) of December, 2006 with Amendment No 1 of Jan. 2008, Amendment No. 2 of Nov. 2008, Amendment No. 3 of Oct. 2016 & latest amendments.

2.0 for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.

No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender. Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 17.06.2020.

Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1073/20

CASNUB bogies of freight stock.

2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website http://ireps.gov.ir for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(RAILWAY BOARD)

E-TENDER No. 2020RSI8742TC

Executive Director, Railways Store(S), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board

Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 2,68,624 Nos. Grease

Seal to RDSO Specification No. WD-50-Misc-2007 of Oct 2007 or latest

amendments, if any for AAR Standard Class 'E' (6" x 11") bearings used on

3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender 4.0 Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 24.06.2020.

Director, Railway Stores (W)

Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi. for and on behalf of the President of India. 1071/2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORKS Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, (Construction) Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara invites E-tender as per details given below:

Sr. No.	No & Date	Work & Location	Approx. Cost of Work in ₹	EMD in ₹	Submission	Extended
1	TR-C-3-20(RI) dtd 04.05.2020	Providing Passenger Escalators & Lifts at Kevadiya Railway Station Building & Platform No. 2 in connection with DB-CDD GC work & CDD-KEW Colony New Line.	₹3,72,74,153.78	₹3,36,400/-	04.05.2020	01.06.2020
2	TR-C-4-2020 Dtd:-11.03.20	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE between Dabhoi - Badoll Section on Vadodara Division of Western Railway in connection with Electrification of Existing BG line Between Dabhoi - Chhota Udepur Section.	₹17,58,36,818.00	₹10,29,200/-	11.03.2020	27.05.2020
3	TR-C-7-2020 Dtd:-12.03.20	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE between Ankleshwar Rajpipla Section on Vadodara Division of Western Railway in connection with Electrification of Existing BG line.	₹19,74,31,489.35	₹11,37,200/-	12.03.2020	28.05.2020
4	TR-C-9-2020 Dtd:-12.03.20	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of SCADA between PRTN-DB-CTD,MYG-SMLA,DB-CDD-KEVADIYA section on BRC Divn of Western Railway.	₹4,70,47,859.60	₹3,85,200/-	12.03.2020	01.06.2020
5	TR-C- 10-2020 Dtd:-20.03.20	Modification of HT overhead power line of MGVCL, Railway track crossing between Anand - Khambhat, Vasad - Kathana, AKV - Raj and KBRV - VDTL Section in connection with execution of RE work of WR. Sanction in budget 18-19 from CORE to WR.	₹1,85,80,140.60	₹2,42,900/-	20.03.2020	27.05.2020

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being recorded on a regular

Three cases each were recorded in Geetanjali Nagar, Azad Nagar and 90 feet Road

1 more death, 37 new cases in J&K

Meanwhile, panic gripped among the hos-

On the other hand, the hospital premises witnessed high voltage drama when the family members of the deceased patient were denied ambulance facility to ferry his dead body to the

but we deeply regret the same have not been considered. We request our PM to intervene and help the MSME sector with suitable relief measures," said the TANSTIA leader. But B Radhakrishnan, general secretary,

Banks should show compassion, kindness towards us: Industrialists The export units in Tirupur, head quarters of India's cotton knitwear **▼** eading industrialists and entrepreindustry, MSME units in Chennai and industrial units in South India in gen-

es are encountering a number of problems because of drying up of revenue sources, said Thiagarajan, executive director of Madurai based Thiyagarajar Mills Ltd. "Lot of export orders got cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. Whatever was cancelled has gone and there is no possibility of us getting it back in the near future. Moreover, we are burdened with the payment to the workers which we have to disburse in full. This was also the time for price negotiation with buyers for exporting the

He said it is going to be challenging Thiagarajan, head of Confederation of times for all sectors except pharmacy, insurance companies and Information Technology units.

products," said the CII Tamil Nadu chief.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)

The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website http://ireps.gov.ir

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

— PAPER WITH PASSION —— **Economic rescue**

Can the Indian economy get out of its funk? A funk made worse by the Coronavirus?



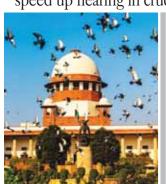
he devil always lies in the details in any announcement. While addressing the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised the country and its citizens a big economic stimulus package worth ₹20 lakh crore to boost its economy and ensure selfreliance as lockdown 4 is set to be implemented for an indefinite time from May 17. Even if India puts in 10 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to lift its economy, there will be a lot of questions that need to be answered. The most obvious one would be: Where will the money come from? Many commentators have argued that the

Government must "print" more money. Of course, this is fraught with some issues because as the Chief Economic Advisor said, "There is no free lunch." Although in these times when people are struggling to eat, any lunch, even one where a huge payment is due later, would be a smart one. India should also expand its balance sheet by issuing more Government bonds and possibly look at opening up that to the public as well. Those individuals, who have surreptitiously salted away funds in foreign jurisdictions, must be allowed to bring their money back with lower or zero penalties and be allowed to invest in Government bonds with 10 or 20 year tenures. The Government could raise a few billions like that.

The details, therefore, announced by the Finance Minister are welcome. The move to redefine medium and small scale sector enterprises and the relief offered to them is a huge positive. Whether it is the collateral-free automatic loans, the relief on employees provident fund or the support for Non-Banking Finance Corporations, there are a lot of stimulants in the announcements made by the Finance Ministry. But there has been little sign of direct spending by the Government, although some tax revenues have been foregone through lower tax deduction at source. This will give a huge sum of money to companies and individuals to spend. This is also a very positive step that might encourage additional consumption in the second half of the year. Even more tax refunds and a longer time to pay taxes are welcome. But this is just the first tranche of the Government's economic package to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made it clear that the announcements will take some time to come as she will cover all sectors of the economy over the next few days. The fact is that almost every industry has its begging bowl out for a handout. The Government will, thus, need to support large industry as well as the smaller ones. The fact is also that the Government will need to ensure job preservation across industries. It has to work towards job creation as India still adds around 10 million new youth to the market every year. Will the present Corona crisis become Prime Minister Narendra Modi's opportunity to become the next Narasimha Rao of 1991? There are huge opportunities for reforms in labour, industrial law and even taxation. But will they come through? We do not know as yet. What's sure is that the announcements made by the Finance Minister so far are a positive. Nevertheless, we will still have to wait a while to see what the rest of the details are and how the banks, the tax authorities and the Government implement these changes. A 10 per cent spending of the GDP can have a dramatic effect on the country's economic growth. The efficacy of the Prime Minister's big-bang stimulus will be judged not based on the numbers but with the details.

No summer break

After video-conferencing sessions, SC will curtail vacations to speed up hearing in crucial cases in a post-pandemic world



Coronavirus lockdown has compelled both a systemic and individual overhaul. Like everything else, the justice delivery mechanism has been on hold though the traditional courts did have video-conferencing to settle crucial matters. This has been a big change for e-services aren't exactly a favourite of one of our oldest institutions. But now limited operations have meant that case pendency has gone up. So the Supreme Court is ready to work through its summer break and close the

gap. Being the last resort of the citizenry in getting justice, the apex court is anyway too overburdened. Despite increasing the number of judges and quicker disposal of cases, 60,469 cases were pending till March 1, up from 57,785 cases pending before it in 2019 and 55,529 in 2018. From hearing 3,500 cases on an average a month, the court has just managed to take up 593 cases between March 23 and April 24 in the middle of the pandemic. Meanwhile, though the courts remain shut, new cases are continuously being filed. Which is why it is laudable that the top court may do away with the 45-day summer break and curtail holidays. Though its decision is in line with the waiver decision of several High Courts, being the highest judicial authority, its moves are being watched as a precursor of an overhaul of colonial rituals and practices. This may be an opportunity when it gets more pragmatic and in sync with the times.

Of course, once lockdown 3 ends, the judges can start hearing cases from courtrooms while lawyers can start deliberations from their chambers staying within the protocols codified by the Health Ministry. But video-conferencing is likely to stay with judges realising its time-saving potential and its ability to fast-track case files. However, adoption of technology is not without glitches and those need to be sorted out. For example, given that existing conferencing apps are being used to conduct these sessions, there is a need to keep security gateways intact. Right now proceedings can only be viewed by the lawyers and their clients and are not open for public viewing. Many legal experts argue that while technology is here to stay, it should not erode the rule of law. In the end, the credibility of the court and its authority depend upon open hearings. So how can the Supreme Court retain public confidence in a post-pandemic world where digital pathways will have to be resorted to not out of choice but as a matter of habit? One option is live streaming, which the court itself had upheld in 2018. Justice DY Chandrachud had authorised it in the Swapnil Tripathi v Supreme Court of India case, saying "sunlight is the best disinfectant". Chandrachud now heads the e-committee of the Supreme Court and could come up with codes that do not compromise the integrity of the justice system. But one thing is sure. The judiciary cannot afford any more delays. As it is, crucial hearing is awaited in cases such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the abrogation of Article 370, the entry of women to Sabarimala and the use of money Bill among others. Neither can the court afford to delay a decision on those accused in scams and other criminal cases, who may just play around with the evidence and exploit loopholes.

opānion

War of words

India and Nepal have successfully developed a cooperative mechanism to contain the Corona pandemic. They need to resolve border issues through peaceful diplomatic means as well



RISHI GUPTA

mid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, India-Nepal relations are witnessing a difficult phase as a long-time low-profile diplomatic row has now intensified between the two. Following Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's inauguration of the road section connecting Lipulekh pass Dharchula in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, on May 8, social media went abuzz with hashtags such as #GoBackIndia and #BackOffIndia, with Nepal staking claim over the Lipulekh area. The new 80kilometre link route developed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in India is aimed at cutting down travel time for Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrims by almost 80 per cent. The newly-constructed road originates from Ghatiabagarh and terminates at Lipulekh Pass, the gateway to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet.

Previously, Indian pilgrims had to undertake an arduous 90-km trek through treacherous high-altitude terrain running across the Indian State of Sikkim or through Nepal to reach the site. With the inauguration of the link road, travel time would be reduced by many days since the yatra will be carried out using vehicles. It is an engineering achievement of the BRO as the 80km road spans altitudes between 6,000 and 17,060 feet.

Within 24 hours of the inauguration of the road, Kathmandu summoned India's ambassador to protest against its inauguration. In a statement, the Nepal Communist Party (NCP), the country's ruling party, said the road construction "violates Nepal's sovereignty. [Our] serious attention has been drawn to the 'inauguration' by India of a link road to Lipulekh of Nepal via Nepali territory." The statement was signed by the NCP's chairman and Nepali Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli. Using strong language, it said, "In light of this development, the Government of Nepal calls upon the Government of India to refrain from carrying out any activity inside the territory of

The Indian side, too, pushed back Nepalese concerns, saying that the disputed region was "completely within the territory of India." The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated, "The recently inaugurated road section in Pithoragarh district in the State of Uttarakhand lies completely within the territory of India. The road follows the pre-existing route used by the pilgrims of the Kailash Mansarovar vatra." The MEA's statement is in the same spirit as the one it made refuted Nepal's alleged encroachment claims in the Kalapani region on India.

In fact, relations between the two countries had been strained since 2015 when India opposed Nepal's newly-promulgated Constitution. What followed next was an economic blockade. Border tensions have renewed in the past six months. Particularly,

following the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special privileges to the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and following the issuance of the and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, two new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh came into existence on October 31.

With India releasing a new map, Kathmandu criticised New Delhi for prominently displaying Lipulekh in the border area of Kalapani. But despite its allegations that the new Indian map had wrongly depicted Kalapani as Indian territory, Kathmandu fell short of supporting its claims as the new map was no different than the previous one. It was the internal boundaries that were updated. No other changes were made in India's international borders. Later, it had also come in the public domain that the officials of the Pakistani embassy allegedly held talks with the Nepalese politicians and even funded anti-India demonstrations in several parts of Nepal. Time and again, Nepal has

cited the Treaty of Sugauli as a legal document to back its claim in these regions. Surprisingly, the Archaeological Survey of Nepal not been able to produce an original copy of the pact. Even after going through the document, there was no clear demarcation of the borders agreed between the then British Indian Government and the King of Nepal. It is only through the

modern-day border management exercises that the two countries have demarcated the open border. A prominent Technical Committee formed in 1981 to resolve the border issues has already clarified 76 border points out of 78 and more than 180 strip maps based on Global Positioning Systems (GPS) have been established. In fact, most of the differences were identified and resolved in 2007. On the official front, India has stated that "strip maps pertaining to 98 per cent of the boundary have been agreed to and signed in 2007.

Additionally, in 2016, the two Governments had constituted the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations with a mandate to recommend measures and institutional framework with a view to elevate existing relations to a new height. The group has concluded its task and prepared a consensus report, which is yet to be made public. While Nepal has agreed with India that technicalities of the EPG report need to be worked out before it comes in the public domain, it is unfortunate that the Nepalese Government has failed to and this is causing confusion.

In Nepal, it is a popular belief that it is a unilateral decision of India to not make the EPG report public. Meanwhile, considering the anti-India sentiment in Nepal, India is always depicted in a dark light. This may

be paying off in the ruling Government's political aspirations but is indeed not a wise act. Notably, in the last 10 years, China has been attempting to

manufacture artificial people-topeople relations with Nepal but it has failed tremendously. On the other hand, attempts are also being made to demolish the naturally existing people-to-people ties with India. In the long term, Nepal will have to realise the loss. Also, the Nepalese Government is well involved in the diplomatic exercises with India, including on border disputes. It has even gone on record to say that Nepal sees "diplomacy as the first and the last resort in mitigating any differences with India." But had this been the case, a road inauguration in India would have been welcomed by it.

The 80-kilometre road construction was not an underground work that could be completed overnight without a close neighbour knowing about it, especially when there is an open border. The construction has very much been in line with India's sovereign rights and a friendly neighbour like Nepal needs to understand this. To its right, Nepal has protested the official statement. Still, the use of a strong language does not indicate the essence of the existing "special relations" between Nepal and India. Also, the use of common phrases and language in the statement issued by the ruling NCP indicated the involvement

of the vested interest that aims to benefit politically on home

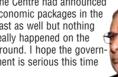
ground. To conclude, relations between India and Nepal are a product of the centuries-old deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture. They are neither artificially constructed nor based on distrust and blame-game. Hence, relations need to be cherished. And in case of differences, like every other close-knit family has, they need to be resolved through the diplomatic mechanism with a caution that even diplomacy should not hamper the demography of the "special relations" between the two countries.

It was a decade long war in Nepal which ousted centuriesold autocratic rule of the Shah kings that led to the establishment of democracy there. Therefore, as a democracy, Nepal has the best chance to interact with the biggest democracy in the world and use democratic tools to improve relations. It needs to critically introspect its diplomatic stances because in the worst of confrontations, countries have finally opted for reconciliation through diplomatic channels. With countries facing and Nepal have successfully developed a cooperative mechanism to contain it. The same needs to reflect in the border dispute mechanism as well.

(The writer is ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, Center for South Asian Studies, JNU)

The Centre had announced economic packages in the nast as well but nothing really happened on the ground. I hope the govern ment is serious this time

LJD leader —Sharad Yadav



Everyone is adapting new ways to deal with the Covid-19 situation. This is like a wake-up call for us. We've been exploiting nature every possible way. It's time to slow down.

—Urmila Matondkar



Religious leaders can play a pivotal role in their communities and beyond to deliver solutions to not only address the pandemic but to recover better.

UN Secretary-General



In today's times, there are quite a few good players — Rohit Sharma, Joe Root, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson, But Kohli is the best across formats.

Former Pakistani cricketer –Mohammad Yousuf



Opposition, Sonia Gandhi

extended her party's complete

support when the Prime Minister

announced a nationwide lock-

down. From expressing concern

over the abysmal plight of the

migrant workers to suggesting

ways for economic revival, the

Congress has not lagged behind

in playing a constructive role as

the main Opposition party. The

writer is spot on to observe that

this is an opportunity for the

Congress to revive itself. But for

that, party members need to

Fight fake news

THE LETTERS

A growing menace

Sir — The incident surrounding the chats on the Instagram group called "Bois Locker Room" by a group of teenagers discussing gangrape and objectifying girls is deplorable. This is not the mentality that school-going boys and girls should have. It is such a disgrace that young children can feel so entitled. They seem to think they can get away with such misdeeds, which is why they do not think twice before demeaning women. The messages shared online contain strong language. This is a clear violation of social media guidelines. The actions of the students cannot be justified by anyone.

However, this case has exposed only one such group: There must be many others. One hopes that the Delhi police takes serious action against all such abusive users because cybercrime can take a grim turn at any moment. Making sexually coloured remarks online is also sexual harassment. Social media laws should be made sterner to avoid such events in the future.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli Hyderabad

A scientific account of Covid-19

cientific knowledge is vital to shape our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and plan a lockdown exit Strategy. It is also crucial for the prevention of transmission, containment of spread, safe resumption of economic activities and development of vaccines and drugs. Thanks to the relentless research by scientists, our understanding of the virus is growing. For the layman, too, it is rewarding to learn about the disease — its origin, mode of transmission, infection and behaviour.

What's known as of now is that the virus enters the human body by inhalation of virus-ridden particles that are contained in droplets expelled by an infected person. It comes into contact with cells embedded with Ace-2 receptors and locks into them with the aid of a surface protein and slips its RNA into the cell. The RNA makes multiple copies of the virus within the cell's replication machinery. The infection spreads when copies of the virus burst out of the cell. Subsequently, antibodies target the virus and halt its progress in most cases. Antibodies are generated by the immune system. In some cases, the immune system goes into overdrive and causes cytokine storms. Sometimes it proves fatal. The



immune system's response to the pathogen determines the outcome of the battle. So by now, it is evident that Coronavirus is deadly for some but harmless for others. The ability of the immune system to fight off the virus varies from person to person. But no one enjoys immunity from the virus. Whether the virus will mutate to become more lethal or less virulent is also a question scientists grapple with.

G David Milton Maruthancode

Sir — The circulation of fake news through social media platforms to the pliable public is only going to act as a breeding ground for panic. It is imperative that the Government and social media companies work in tandem to prevent the spread of false information.

Sucharita

Azhar A Khan

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Seize the moment

Sir — This refers to the article, "Opportunity in a crisis" (May 13) by Kalyani Shankar. Verily speaking, what drove a wedge between Sonia Gandhi and her political responsibilities as the Congress chief was her deteriorating health

that her son, Rahul Gandhi take charge. Ironically, he, too, was disenchanted with the top job and put in his papers in the aftermath of the party's drubbing in parliamentary polls. However, to save the grand old party from dying, Sonia Gandhi took over as an

condition, which necessitated

Intriguingly, with the Corona pandemic affecting political sys-

interim chief again mid-last year.

tems across the world, India, too, witnessed a pleasantly bizarre coming together of Opposition parties, irrespective of their politīcal views/ideologies.

As a responsible head of the

Odisha



FIRSTCOLUMN

Share the good news, too

RNA-based viruses usually mutate into weaker variants, making it easy to control them. However, we are not hearing enough about this



KOTA SRIRAJ

Cientific debates pertaining to COVID-19 mutations are getting intense across the world in the midst of justifiable apprehen-Sions regarding the same. It is common knowledge that every virus mutates as it is a part of the virus' life cycle. But the uncertainties involving the outcome of the mutation of the Coronavirus are keeping the scientific research community busy as the contagion has infected 43,68,613 people worldwide and killed 2,93,782 from the time it burst upon an unsuspecting world. In India, too, the number of cases has reached 75,048 and casualties have touched the 2,440 mark. As scientists have been unable to come out with either a vaccine or drug to control the virus, it is natural for people to worry and wonder about this novel virus. But it is also equally important for people to be aware of the mutation process and understand the same in simple terms, so that there is no undue concern

The Novel Coronavirus is a Ribonucleic Acid or RNA virus, wherein the genetic information is stored in the form of RNA as opposed to Deoxyribonucleic Acid or DNA. Specifically in the case of COVID-19 the genetic material is packed inside a protein shell. As compared to the DNA-based viruses, RNA viruses are more prone to mutations. Given this fact, we are bound to see changes or mutations in the Coronavirus strain as well. However, these changes in the virus may not be of a serious nature and can take place in a very slow manner, which provides a stable time-frame for the research community to work on vaccines, while administration departments work on containment-related efforts.

The Coronavirus has been gradually changing or mutating but according to the research scientists involved in developing the COVID-19 vaccine at the Department of Pathology at Yale Medicine, the virus that is circulating in the US and other parts of the world at present is not very different from the original strain identified in China in the initial months of the outbreak last year

There are rapid studies being conducted to assess the changing profile of the Coronavirus from time to time, which is helpful in quelling unsubstantiated theories and speculation. But it is also essential that the researches being commissioned and subsequently published are cross-checked with actual peer reviews and practical data from medical facilities and actual patient records. For instance, research at the US-based Los Alamos National Laboratory has shown that the COVID-19 virus has altered and, in the process, become more contagious. These findings were eventually printed in the BioRxiv publication. However, it is crucial for these papers to be peer-reviewed so that they neither create detrimental public opinion, especially in the medical fraternity, nor cause unwanted panic in general.

In-depth research of the subject of mutation of COVID-19 is of pivotal importance to mankind. It is a well-established fact that RNAbased viruses usually mutate into weaker variants, thereby making it easy for the same to be brought under control. However, we as common people are not hearing or reading enough of the same. There is a pressing need for the scientific community to highlight this potential upside of the present predicament the world finds itself in, so that public confidence is restored and maintained. This is required, as a definitive vaccine for COVID-19 is yet to see the light of day.

Coming to the subject of vaccine research, it is pertinent to understand that a slowly-mutating virus will not have any impact on the efficacy of the vaccines, as they are usually developed keeping the original virus strain in view. And since mutated versions of the virus are not far from the original version, the vaccines do deliver the intended efficacy. On the other hand, it is also important that the vaccines have long-term and broad spectrum-based efficacy so that they provide a robust immunity cover against the known mutated versions

Lockdowns, containments and social distancing are at best temporary measures to protect the people. India's tryst with these measures over the last 50 days has proved that beyond doubt. The real weapons to decisively take down a virus are the scientific research capabilities of a nation. India has a real opportunity here to understand the mutation sequence of COVID-19 and evolve a vaccine that protects humans from current and possible future iterations of COVID-19. To enable this, it is essential to first understand the curve of changes taking place in the virus strain and match the same with research efforts. One more critical aspect is that the Indian Government must rally the research efforts for vaccines under one coordinated canopy so that all departments concerned, institutions and related individuals are aware of the developments in an organised manner.

Accurate and authentic knowledge at the disposal of the common man regarding the virus' mutation, its impact on the disease curve and vaccine development is critical in fighting ignorance and panic. Information and knowledge-based awareness can indeed have the power to flatten the curve.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

analysis

SARWAN, YOU ARE WORSE THAN THE CORONAVIRUS. YOU HAVE A BIG ROLE IN WHAT TRANSPIRED WITH THE TALLAWAHS AS YOU AND THE OWNER ARE CLOSE —WEST INDIES CRICKETER

CHRIS GAYLE





GAYLE'S CAREER HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING AND I REALLY WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE IT BROUGHT TO AN END BY THIS CONTROVERSY.

—CRICKET WEST INDIES CHIEF **RICKY SKERRITT**

The panacea for all ills

Agribusiness can be a way to solve the supply chain disruption crisis that farmers are facing due to lockdowns and give jobs to the labourers who have returned to their villages



INDRANIL DE

wo significant developments have taken place in the rural as well as the agricultural sector after the outbreak of COVID-19. One, is the massive disruption of supply chains due to the slow movement of goods and commodities and the other is the reverse migration that is currently taking place. Both of these taken together could lead us to a crisis as well as open up new opportunities in agribusiness. A large part of the world's agribusiness is controlled by a few giant firms. Some of them work as middlemen like ADM, Bunge and Cargill, Louis Dreyfus and Olam International. They harness efficiency, based on large-scale operation and thin margins. The global food production and processing network is extremely complex as the crop is produced in one country, milled in another and the food product is produced in another pation. The recent uct is produced in another nation. The recent COVID-19 outbreak has crippled this process, with transport facilities coming to a near halt across the

In India, the farmers are struggling to sell their agricultural produce like potatoes, onions and vegetables. Save for a few, most of them are perishable leaving growers with no bargaining power before sellers. One way to tide over the crisis is by encouraging water user collectives to upgrade themselves from a user group to an agribusiness one. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) through formation of Water Users Associations (WUA) has been identified as a key vehicle for increasing agricultural productivity in Índia. As many as 15 States have already formulated legislation to support PIM and form WUAs. According to the Network on Participatory Irrigation Management (NPIM), established in 1998, by the Ministry of Rural Development, there are 57,000 functional WUAs covering 13.5 million hectares across 24 States.

hectares across 24 States.

The World Bank has also promoted WUAs in different developing countries, including India. One of these is being promoted in West Bengal through a programme called the West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP). Under the WBADMIP, there are 2,349 schemes and 1,674 WUAs with a potential of covering 68,347 hectares of land and 1,07,707 farmers. These WUAs are not mere user groups of water sup-These WUAs are not mere user groups of water supplied by the Government's irrigation department but collective institutions based on principles of cumulative actions. Since these groups form institutions, agribusiness and at the same time distribute benefits to the poor and marginalised farmers.

Along with encouraging and facilitating these WUAs to engage in agribusiness, the Government may endeavour to promote them as a medium-term

Formation of WUAs: Water associations may be formed by the Government providing micro-irrigation systems like tubewells, river lift irrigation systems, surface flow minor irrigation schemes, check dams, watersheds, water detention structures, sprinklers and so on. The command area of each WUA may be around 35 acres. On average, it may cover 50 beneficiaries with one-third representation of women. The number of members of each WUA may vary between 30 to 70, depending on the command area and the size of land holding. The members could be landowners and their families. Sharecroppers may be included as the beneficiaries. Two-thirds of the members could be marginal farmers and one-third small and large farmers. The members should con-



THE FARMERS ARE STRUGGLING TO SELL THEIR **AGRICULTURAL** PRODUCE LIKE POTATOES,

WITH NO BARGAINING **POWER** BEFORE SELLERS. ONE WAY TO TIDE OVER THE CRISIS IS BY ENCOURAGING

WATER USER COLLECTIVES TO UPGRADE THEMSELVES FROM A USER GROUP TO AN **AGRIBUSINESS**



ONIONS AND VEGETABLES. SAVE FOR A FEW. MOST OF tribute land or bear some expenses of the THEM micro-irrigation structure. They should be ARE PERISHABLE, LEAVING made solely responsible for its operation and maintenance. The WUAs should form a governing **GROWERS** body or managing committee of six to eight members with two to three women

> regular activities of the associations may be mobilised through yearly membership fee and water charges.
>
> The associations should maintain maximum transparency in water distribution and fund collection by keeping the required records, documents and public display of the water distribution roster. They should organise periodic general body meetings and maintain the minutes

in it. The role of the managing commit-

tee would be to supervise the day-to-day activity of the WUAs. The resources for

of those meetings. Economic improvements: The availability of additional water, especially durwould increase the production and income of WUA members. Moreover, as agricultural production increases, demand for agricultural labour would increase as well. It may generate 1,000-2,500 additional labour days per year, per WUA. The associations may be engaged further in agribusiness, with additional manpower and skills available from labourers who have returned to their villages. They may bring back some managerial and other skills as many of them have been exposed to myriad activities. The WUAs may form a sub-group of beneficiaries who may be involved in sorting, transporting, selling, and marketing agricultural products. Associations may evolve as an aggregator and subsequently as an agribusiness organisation by selling and marking agricultural produce in local and other regional markets. In this way, farmers may be able to cope with the disruptions of transport facilities. They may deal with a specific buyer, based on contract farming. When farmers form a group, they

may pursue organic farming under the Collective Guarantee Scheme where each one would guarantee for the other's practice of cultivation without fertilisers and/or pesticides. They may develop their own brand of product or may work based on a contract with some other private company dealing with organic products. Apart from agribusiness, the WUAs may earn by simply renting out their agricultural implements such as tractors and harvesters to other farmers who are not

part of the WUAs.

The members may engage in other income-earning activities such as fishery, rearing livestock, orchards and horticulture. Being a collective, they would be able to get better prices in the market. They may produce processed food such as dried members of the WUAs may be engaged in horticulture, vermicomposting, hatchery and polyhouse farming. Women may be engaged in making milk products, pickles, jam, jellies and so on. In general, food processing should be brought nearer to the farm. The men and women engaged in these activities should be given their due returns out of the surplus generated from

The institution of collective organisation would enable them to get their fair share. Women of the WUAs may form self-help groups (SHG) for developing saving behaviour and for easy access to credit. The collective initiatives of women would develop trust and confidence among themselves. They would be able to engage in other non-farm activities such as stitching and embroidery. This would empower women and improve expenses on health and education.

Role of the Government: The Government should support the WUAs by providing an enabling environment. If the associations are not formed, then the Government should provide one-time expenses for micro-irrigation systems and form WUAs in areas where monocropping is practised. They should provide guidance for at least one year for conducting the operation of the association, including financial and non-financial record keeping. The Government should facilitate the WUAs with an should facilitate the WUAs with an appropriate legal environment and other kinds of support to sell their agricultural produce through the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) and in other agricultural markets. The State agricultural departments should support WUAs by imparting training and knowledge on farming ing training and knowledge on farming with less water and skills in agribusiness management. They should provide qualreduce the incidence of farmers selling their produce at cheaper rates to the input suppliers. The Government should organise and encourage the members to visit agricultural fairs and other WUAs for cross-learning of agricultural and agribusiness activities. Credit should be made available to the group of farmers at low

interest rates. All these initiatives are more effective if made for a group of farmers intertwined by institutional norms rather than for individual farmers. The money raised for assistance and relief, such as the PM CARES Fund, may be used to incur expenses for these initiatives. This would relax not only some of the immediate strains but also generate long-term gains.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat. Views expressed are personal)

Antisocial behaviour on social media

It is time users put pressure on all stakeholders, including the legislature, to ensure stricter control on platforms to protect the copyrights of users



PRIYADARSHINI

, a stand-up comic, creates a story and posts it on her Instagram page. Within hours, her story is viewed and shared by millions of people on the internet. Soon, she discovers that somebody has converted her story into a short film and it is available on YouTube. Livid, M wants the short film to be removed and seeks damages against her copyright infringement.

A lot of questions flow from here. Does M have the copyright over the film? How will she get it removed? What if the producer of the film claims copyright on the same? What can be done if the film was shared by the producer on several other platforms? Copyright is that division of

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) which deals with literature and art. The Copyright Act gives economic and moral rights to an author. While economic rights broadly include the right to authorise any person to reproduce, store, issue copies, perform in public, translate and adapt with respect to a literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, cinematographic work; rights related to a computer programme additionally include the right to sell and rent.

Moral rights include the right to paternity and integrity i.e. the author's claim to authorship and right to claim damages if the work is mutilated, distorted, modified and if such an act is prejudicial to his/her reputation.

Originality is the base of copyright rotection. The apex court in Eastern Book Company and Ors. vs. DB Modak and Ors has held that, "The word original does not mean that the work must be the expression of original or inventive thought. Copyright Acts are not concerned with the originality of ideas but with the expression of thought, and in the case of literary work, with the expression of thought in print or writing. The originality which is required relates to the expression of the thought. But the Act does not require that the expression be in an original or novel form, but that the work must not be copied from another work — that it should originate from the author; and as regards compilation, originality is a matter of degree depending on the amount of skill, judgment or labour that has been involved in making the compilation." Hence, the word original cannot

be interpreted in its literal sense, a derivative work can also qualify for a copyright work subject to the skill, labour, capital and other factors depending on the facts of the case.

Copyright subsists on its creation. However, the owner of the copyright is distinct from the author to whom the copyright belongs on its creation. The author is normally the first owner of the copyright unless it is created under the circumstances enumerated under Section 17 of the Act, which provides for the first owner of the copyright in different situations. In compliance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), most social media platforms like Facebook have included a copyright policy in their terms and conditions.

Facebook: Its copyright policy is formulated under and in compliance with the DMCA which is a UN Copyright Law. Its terms of service and community standard clearly state that a user cannot post anything which violates someone's IPR. Ownership of a content lies with the creator. An internal notice-and-take down procedure set out under the DMCA Act is followed by it, under which, a content infringing copyright can be reported to Facebook. Upon receiving a complaint Facebook may remove the content without informing the alleged infringer. However, Facebook will send an e-mail and notification to the infringer, giving the complaint and details of the complainant. The infringer may choose to resolve the issue with the plaintiff or file a counter-notification. If the complainant does not respond to the counter-notification and intimate that s/he has approached court seeking an order to keep the content down,

Facebook will restore it. YouTube: It has a strict copyright policy and provides content ID which manages and identifies content of the owners on YouTube. A video uploaded on YouTube is scanned against the database of files that have been submitted by content owners. An owner has the option to block such videos, monetise them by running ads or by sharing revenue with the uploader and track the viewership statistics. The take down process of YouTube is similar to that of Facebook in many ways.

Instagram: It provides an online form for reporting copyright infringement to the designated agent appointed under the DMCA Act. The copyright claim should have information reasonably sufficient to permit Instagram to locate such content. The claim must be accompanied with a declaration that the plaintiff in good faith believes that the content complained about is not authorised by the copyright owner, its agent, or the law; that the notice is accurate and that the complainant is copyright owner or authorised to act on behalf of the owner of an exclusive copyright that

is allegedly infringed. Twitter: It also responds to the copyright claim under the DMCA Act. Before making a copyright infringement complaint, Twitter advises the claimant to directly contact the person who has posted the content. Twitter has some prerequisites for parody, commentary and fan accounts. The account name and bio should clearly indicate that it does not have any affiliation with the subject of the account. Non-affiliation can be indicated by incorporating words such as (but not limited to) "parody," "fake," 'fan," or "commentary."

Non-affiliation should be stated in a way that can be understood by the intended audience. Besides moral duty, these social media platforms are under statutory obligation to take necessary steps for avoiding any copyright conflicts. However, these policies are subject to exemption under the copy-

right law. For instance, fair use of copyright material is permitted and one which falls in public domain can also be used freely.

Though these social media plat-

forms provide a detailed mechanism dealing with copyright infringement, it cannot be confused with the judicial procedure. These platforms do not have adjudicatory powers. The actions taken by them are merely precautionary, in order to avoid any copyright infringement.

A person aggrieved by such action can approach the competent court/tribunal for remedy and damages. However, despite precautionary steps copyright infringement is not rare. Having evolved as platforms for sharing ideas and showcasing artistic skills, with a massive upsurge during the recent lockdowns, it is time users put pressure on all stakeholders, including the legislature, to ensure stricter control on social media platforms to protect the copyrights of

(Ray is partner and Priyadarshini is associate, TRS Law Offices)



Around the Globe

- Ride-hailing app Uber has laid off nearly 3,700 employees or about 14 per cent of its workforce via multiple Zoom calls and each call lasted less than three-minutes, with a common message: "Today will be your last working day with Uber". In video footage obtained by Daily Mail, a company manager said: "Today will be your last working day with Uber," as he informed some of the axed customer-
- support employees. German Chancellor Angela Merkel voiced frustration Wednesday that Russia was targeting her in hacking action saying she had concrete proof of the "outrageous" spying attempts. "I can honestly say that it pains me. Every day I try to build a better relationship with Russia and on the other hand there is such hard evidence that Russian forces are doing this," she told parliament. Germany's intelligence service has repeatedly called out attempts by Russian hackers to spy on lawmakers or leading
- China on Wednesday provided medical equipment to Nepal's Army to fight the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected around 219 people in the Himalayan nation. The medical supplies reached here from Beijing in an aircraft of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)
- In the global hunt for coronavirus treatments, a Japanese antiviral medicine known as Avigan has won plaudits from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and \$128 million in Government funding. But it's not the only game in town. Camostat, a 35-year old pancreatitis drug made by Osaka-based Ono Pharmaceutical Co, has captured the interest of scientists in Japan and overseas with little fanfare or state assistance. The two compounds are among dozens undergoing testing around the globe and illustrate how the race to develop treatments and vaccines is still wide open despite politicians such as Abe and US President Donald Trump promoting the potential benefits of certain drugs.
- The young migrants and asylum seekers swim across the Rio Grande and clamber into the dense brush of Texas. Many are teens who left Central America on their own; others were sent along by parents from refugee camps in Mexico. They are as young as 10. Under US law they would normally be allowed to live with relatives while their cases wend their way through immigration courts. Instead the Trump administration is quickly expelling them under an emergency declaration citing the coronavirus pandemic, with 600 minors expelled in April alone. The expulsions are the latest administration measure aimed at preventing the entry of migrant children, following other programs such as the since-rescinded "zero tolerance" policy that resulted in thousands of family
- Greece will allow the reopening of some beaches Saturday when a heat wave is expected to hit the country. The Civil Protection Agency says the measure would affect 515 beaches in Greece, where shade umbrellas must be planted at least 4 meters (13 feet) apart, and a maximum 40 people will be allowed per 1,000 square meters of beach.

NEW CLUSTERS POP UP

Europe debates summer tourist season

New coronavirus clusters have appeared as nations struggle to balance reopening economies with preventing a second wave of infections and deaths, while in Europe, a debate erupted over the summer travel season.

Authorities in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the pandemic first began late last year, reportedly were pressing ahead Wednesday to test all 11 million residents for the virus within 10 days after a handful of new infections were found.

In Lebanon, authorities reinstated a nationwide lockdown for four days beginning Wednesday night after a spike in reported infections and complaints from officials that social distancing rules were being ignored.

Despite the risk that loosening restrictions could lead to infection spikes, European nations have been seeking to restart cross-border travel, particularly as the summer holiday season looms for countries whose economies rely on tourists flocking to their beaches, museums and historical sites.

The European Union unveiled a plan to help citizens across its 27 nations salvage their summer vacations after months of coronavirus lockdown and resurrect Europe's badly battered tourism industry. The pandemic has prompted border closures across Europe and shut down the lifeline of cheap local flights.

The EU's executive arm, the European Commission, laid out its advice for lifting ID checks on hastily closed borders, helping to get airlines, ferries and buses running while Heiko Mass said his country



A quiet Waterloo Bridge in London on Wednesday

ensuring the safety of passengers and crew, and preparing health measures for hotels to reassure clients.

It's not clear whether EU nations will follow that advice, since they, not Brussels, have the final say over health and security matters.

Some European countries have sought bilateral agreements with their neighbors. Austria said its border with

Germany would reopen fully on June 15, and that border checks would be reduced starting Friday. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said Austria was aiming for similar agreements with Switzerland, Liechtenstein and its eastern neighbors "as long as the infection figures allow."

But he said it's too early to talk about such measures with Italy, one of the world's hardest-hit countries, with more than 220,000 infections and 30,000 deaths.

'There's no perspective for opening the border soon," Kurz told reporters Wednesday.

German Foreign Minister

will lift a blanket warning against foreign travel for European destinations before other places, but didn't specify when. Germany's warning against all non-essential tourist travel abroad runs until at least June 14. The border shutdowns have hit the travel industry hard. The Germany-based tour and hotel operator TUI said Wednesday it expects to cut thousands of jobs due to the pandemic.

Norway said it was opening its borders to people from other European countries who have a residence there or family they want to visit.

Tension in balancing people's safety from the virus against the severe economic fallout is playing out across the world.

Italy partially lifted lock-down restrictions last week

only to see a big jump in confirmed coronavirus cases in its hardest-hit region. Pakistan reported 2,000

new infections in a single day after crowds of people crammed into local markets as

Around 2,95,157 people have died from Covid-19 while almost 4,389,082 infections have been confirmed in more than 185 countries and territories. More than 1,632,915 people have recovered to date

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	
USA	1,417,398	84,141	_
Spain	2,71,095	27,104	_
Russia	2,42,271	2,212	
UK	2,29,705	33,186	_
Italy	2,22,104	31,106	_
France	1,78,225	26,991	_
Germany	1,73,824	7,788	
Brazil	1,80,737	12,635	

No immediate plans to return to strict social distancing ules in South Korea: Minister

On a day when Covid-19 cases soared, healthcare supplies were scarce and an anguished doctor warned ne was being sent to war without bullets, a cargo plane anded at the Los Angeles International Airport, supposedly loaded with the ammo doctors and nurses vere begging for: some of the first N95 medical masks to reach the US in almost six weeks

US SENATE INTRODUCES CHINA SANCTIONS BILL OVER COVID-19 ACCOUNTING

S Republican senators proposed legislation that would empower President Donald Trump to slap sanctions on China if Beijing does not give a "full accounting" for the coronavirus

"The Chinese Communist Party must be held accountable for the detrimental role they played in this pandemic," said Senator Jim Inhofe, one of the sponsors of the "Covid-19 Accountability Act."

'Their outright deception of the origin and spread of the virus cost the world valuable time and lives as it began to spread," he said in a statement. The legislation will give Trump 60 days to certify to Congress that China has provided a full accounting on the Covid-19 outbreak to an investigation that could be led by the United

States and its allies, or a United Nations body like the World Health Organization. Trump must also certify that China has

closed its highest-risk wet markets and released Hong Kong activists arrested in post-Covid-19 crackdowns. Without certification, Trump would be

authorised under the legislation to impose sanctions like asset freezes, travel bans and visa revocations, as well as restricting Chinese businesses' access to US bank financing and capital markets.

"China refuses to allow the international community to go into the Wuhan lab to investigate," said Senator Lindsey Graham, another sponsor of the bill.

They refuse to allow investigators to study how this outbreak started. I'm convinced China will never cooperate with a serious investigation unless they are made to do so.

SCO Foreign Ministers call for coordinated multilateral efforts to fight against Covid-19

Beijing: Expressing serious concern over the "dangerous spread" of coronavirus and the mounting death toll, Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states said on Wednesday that the fight against Covid-19 requires coordinated and inclusive multilateral efforts under the UN system

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was among the Foreign Ministers of the eightmember SCO who attended an extraordinary video confer-

ence on Wednesday to discuss the cooperation to fight against Covid-19.

A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic requires strong, coordinated and inclusive multilateral efforts with the central role of the UN system.

The Ministers called for effective interaction of the SCO with the WHO and other international organisations and associations in the fight against coronavirus infection, it said.

In order to ensure epidemiological well-being and bio security in the region, the ministers consider it appropriate to adopt a comprehensive action plan of the SCO member states at the upcoming SCO summit in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The plan includes building the capacity of laboratories, improving the skills of specialists, conducting joint scientific research, developing vaccines and effective methods of treating diseases, the joint

US says Chinese hackers likely targeting virus researchers

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The FBI and the Department **⊥** of Homeland Security's cyber division warned on Wednesday that hackers backed by the Chinese Government may be attempting to steal the work of researchers dealing with the response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Both the FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency said that health care and pharmaceutical researchers need to be alert to potential attacks and should take measures to protect their data. Neither organisation

released names of any specific institutions that had been tar-

The Department of Justice said institutions that have received media attention for efforts related to Covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, should assume that they would be targeted and should take precautions.

"The potential theft of this information jeopardizes the delivery of secure, effective, and efficient treatment options," the Department of Justice said

Disease control strategies impact evolution of spreading viruses: Study

PTI NEW YORK

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Therapeutic

Wednesday.

Administration

Disease control strategies employed by Governments can dramatically alter the evolution of pathogens like the novel coronavirus, according to a study which says such measures can change the extent of symptoms a spreading virus causes in infected individuals.

The study, published in the journal PNAS, examined the pros and cons of silent transmission on the long-term survival of a virus

church in Australia has

Abeen fined for unlawfully

advertising a purported "mir-

acle" coronavirus cure that

contains a bleach product, the

The medical regulator said MMS Australia had received 12 fines to all ing

Aus\$151,200 (US\$98,000) for promoting its "Miracle Mineral

Solution" (MMS), which the TGA said contained a high

concentration of sodium chlo-

According to the researchers, including those from the Princeton University in the US, the rapid spread of SARS-CoV-2 throughout the world is fuelled in part by the virus' ability to be transmitted by people who are not showing symptoms of infection.

The findings, they said, could inform how public health experts plan control measures such as quarantines, testing, and contract tracing, adding that such strategies themselves may alter the evolutionary

MMS Australia is a chap-

ter of the US-based Genesis II Church of Health

and Healing, which is subject to a US Justice Department

injunction preventing it from selling or distributing

its own version of MMS con-

taining the bleach product

A website purportedly linked to the Genesis II Church

has listed testimonials claiming

— without evidence — that

MMS can cure everything from

fined the church because it was

Australia's TGA said it had

Alzheimer's to malaria.

chlorine dioxide.

Australia church fined

for selling bleach as

'miracle' virus cure

Goods

course of pathogenic viruses. In the current study, the scientists sought to understand if viruses transmitting without symptoms enable the pathogen to infect greater numbers of people, or if the lack of symptoms lessen transmission and

term survival

"An asymptomatic stage for various reasons could provide certain benefits to the pathogen," said Bryan Grenfell, study co-author Princeton University

reduce the pathogen's long-

the importance of this asymptomatic phase has become extremely relevant," Grenfell said. He said that viruses, like more complex organisms, can also evolve by natural selection. Mutation of the viral

"With the Covid-19 crisis,

genome generates new variants of the pathogen, and if these changes benefit their transmission, then that strain of the virus will spread, the researchers explained. As mutants spread across a

population, they said, the

AROUND THE WORLD IN PICTURES

strains with strategies that contribute to their success survive, while those with infection methods that don't promote their transmission - such as killing the host before the virus can transmit to new susceptible individuals - will eventual ly die out. "Viral evolution involves a tradeoff between increasing the rate of transmission and maintaining the host as a base of transmission. said Simon Levin, another coauthor of the study from Princeton University.

Built for a global economy, Dubai now threatened by virus "Dubai is destined to be a

Dubai built a city of sky-scrapers and artificial archipelagos on the promise of globalization, creating itself as a vital hub for the free movement of trade, people and money worldwide — all things that have been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Now, with events canceled, flights grounded and investthe United Arab Emirates is threatened both by the virus and a growing economic crisis. Under pressure even before the outbreak, Dubai and its vast web of state-linked industries face billions of dollars in looming debt repayments.

And though it was bailed out a decade earlier, Dubai may not be able to count on another cash infusion, given the crash in global oil prices.

"They facilitate the transport and the buying of things and the movement of people," said Karen E. Young, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute who studies Gulf Arab economies. "That's not the world we're living in right now." Dubai's dedication to global trade is memorialized in the first sentence of the first article of its 50-Year Charter, something created last year by its ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who has overseen much of the city's

crossroad between East and West, and between North and South," the charter says. Prior to the pandemic, it

reached that status. Dubai International Airport for years has been the world's busiest for international travel. Its vast Jebel Ali Port ranks high globally for its cargo operations.

That economic diversity of Dubai's story. After discovering oil reserves, but none nowhere as large as those in neighboring Abu Dhabi, thenruler Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum warned it would be a finite resource to the city-state.

To protect against that, Dubai became a company town. The state-owned longhaul carrier Emirates flies in foreign workers and tourists alike, who buy alcohol from state-owned duty-free shops, live in housing largely built by state-linked developers and hold credit cards from statebacked banks.

The wider nexus webs out into something U.S. diplomats have called "Dubai Inc." Much of it worked, up until the pandemic. "The aggregate of all those crises we faced in the past doesn't equal this one," said Tim Clark, president of Emirates airline, on an April 29 conference call.

Death toll from attack on Kabul maternity clinic rises to 24

Kabul: Officials on Wednesday raised the death toll from a militant attack on a maternity hospital in Kabul to 24, including mothers, nurses and two babies. A day after the shooting rampage, 20 infants were under medical observation, lying swaddled in blankets in hospital cribs.

Terrorists had stormed the hospital Tuesday, setting off an hours-long shootout with police. As the gunfight raged, Afghan security forces carried out babies and frantic mothers. The clinic in Dashti Barchi, a mostly Shia neighborhood in Afghanistan's capital, is supported by international aid group Doctors Without

"concerned about the harmful a chemical used as a textile bleaching agent and effects that can be caused by the disinfectant. ingestion of MMS". Flynn case boosts Trump's bid to undo

Russia probe narrative **AP** ■ WASHINGTON

When Michael Flynn was forced from the White House, Vice President Mike Pence said he was disappointed the national security adviser had misled him about his talks with the Russian ambassador. President Donald Trump called the deception

Now Pence says he'd be happy to see Flynn back in the administration, calling him a "patriot," as Trump pronounces him exonerated.

What a difference three years makes. The Justice Department's move to dismiss the criminal case against Flynn marks another step in his transformation, in the eyes of Trump and his allies, from rogue adviser to victim of runaway law enforcement.

The dismissal rewrites the narrative of the case that Trump's own Justice Department had advanced for the last three years in a way that former law enforcement officials say downplays the legitimate national security concerns they believe Flynn posed and the consequences of the lies he pleaded

Despite virus, Pompeo talks West Bank annexation in Israel

AP JERUSALEM

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss the country's plans to annex parts of the West Bank, as Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian teen in a clash with stone-throwers in the occupied territory.

Pompeo's brief visit to Israel came at a tense time, as Israeli troops searched for the killers of a soldier killed a day earlier by a rock dropped from a rooftop during an army raid of a West

With President Donald Trump facing election in November, Netanyahu and his nationalist base are eager to move ahead quickly with annexing portions of the West Bank. Annexation is expected to appeal to Trump's pro-Israel evangelical supporters, but is also bound to trigger widespread international condemnation. It would crush already faint Palestinian hopes of establishing a viable state alongside Israel, on lands Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Pompeo landed in Tel Aviv early Wednesday, donning a red,

white and blue face mask, and headed directly to Jerusalem, receiv-

ing an exemption from Israel's mandatory two-week quarantine

for arrivals due to the coronavirus outbreak. He is the first for-

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

eign official to visit Israel since January, before the country largely shut its borders to curb the pandemic. Standing alongside Pompeo, Netanyahu said the eight-hour

isit is a "testament to the strength of our alliance."

The two said their talks would focus on shared concerns about Iran, the battle against the coronavirus and Israel's incoming

Iran trying to 'foment terror' during pandemic: US Secy

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Iran on Wednesday of using its resources to "foment terror" even as its people face the Middle East's deadliest coronavirus outbreak.

"Even during this pandemic the Iranians are using the ayatollah regime's resources to foment terror across the world, even when the people of Iran are struggling so mightily," Pompeo said. "It tells you a lot about the soul of those people who lead that

Ocasio-Cortez among top Dems promoting **Biden-Sanders unity**

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Toe Biden and the last rival he bested to become the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Bernie Sanders, on Wednesday announced the members of joint task forces their campaigns will use to promote party unity by hammering out

consensus on six top policy issues.

They include New York Rep.
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who will provide input on combating climate change and potentially become a key conduit between strong progressives who supported Sanders and backers of the more centrist Biden.

Each committee has eight members and will be focused on health care, immigration, education, criminal justice reform, climate change and the economy, which has taken a sharp downturn amid shutdowns to slow the spread of the

Markets back to winning ways on stimulus lift

Sensex reclaims 32k-mark

PTI MUMBAI

Snapping a two-session losing streak, the BSE Sensex vaulted 637 points on Wednesday as investors cheered the Government's ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit economy.

After rallying 1,474.36 points during the day, the 30share benchmark surrendered some gains to settle 637.49 points or 2.03 per cent higher at 32,008.61. Similarly, the NSE Nifty jumped 187 points, or 2.03 per cent, to finish at 9,383.55. Indices retreated from intra-day highs as participants awaited details of the stimulus package from the finance minister, traders said.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurting 7.02 per cent, followed by UltraTech Cement, L&T, ICÍCI Bank, SBI, M&M and Bajaj Finance.

Only four index constituents' ended in the red -Nestle India, Sun Pharma, HUL and Bharti Airtel, shedding up to 5.38 per cent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Tuesday announced the new financial package on top of the previously announced measures for a combined stimulus of ₹20 lakh crore to revive demand and jumpstart growth.

"The much-awaited stimulus package announced by the PM cheered the investors on Wednesday which triggered a decent up move in the bench-

"The index witnessed a huge gap up opening and it remained range-bound thereAxis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, **spurting 7.02%**

Most sectoral indices, barring defensive, participated in the move and posted handsome gains," said Ajit Mishra, - Research, Religare Broking Ltd. BSE capital goods, industrials, bankex, realty, finance and basic materials indices rallied up to 5.08 per cent, while healthcare, FMCG and telecom closed lower.

Broader midcap and smallcap indices climbed up to 1.97 per cent. Giving details of the stimulus package in a postmarket hours press briefing, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced ₹3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loans for businesses, including MSMEs, as well as ₹30,000 crore liquidity facility for NBFCs, among other measures. Meanwhile, global markets were mixed as investors took stock of the gradual reopening from coronavirusrelated shutdowns.

Bourses in Shanghai and Seoul ended with gains, while Hong Kong and Tokyo closed in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe started off with significant losses. On the currency front, the rupee appreciated by 5 paise to provisionally close at 75.46 against the US dollar. International oil benchmark Brent crude futures slipped 1.30 per cent to USD 29.59 per

Clear pic of GST mop-up in April to come by June end: Fin Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey on Wednesday said the clear picture regarding GST collections for April would emerge only by June 30 - the deadline by which businesses with up to ₹5 crore turnover can file returns without any late fee and interest.

The Government had in March extended the deadline to file GST returns for taxpayers with turnover of over ₹5 crore by 15 days till May 5 from the due date of April 20 without payment of any late fee and interest.

However, a reduced rate of 9 per cent interest will be levied if the return is filed after May 5 till June 30. For taxpayers with turnover up to ₹ 5 crore, there would be no interest and late fee would be waived if filed within the stipulated deadline set in June.

Conventionally, the government releases GST revenue mop up numbers on the basis of collections in a particular month.

Hence, the collection in April was due to be released on May 1.

To a query on why the April GST number has not been released, Pandey said, "You know that the GST filing dates has been extended. If it will be extended, we have said that returns can be filed till June, people who have turnover of more than ₹5 crore they also got more time."

"So after giving these extensions, a clear picture about the revenue collection we will get only by June 30. That's why we have not yet released the figure. People who are able to file returns have paid

GST and rest have time till June 30. It is only after June 30 that we will have a clear idea of the revenue collected," he said.

Bid Security

Govt unveils ₹30,000 cr special liquidity scheme for NBFCs, HFCs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to provide funds to the stressed NBFC sector, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday extended a ₹30,000 crore special liquidity window for entities that are finding it difficult to raise money from the market amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Under this scheme, investment will be made in both primary and secondary market in investment-grade debt papers of non-bank finance companies (NBFCs), housing finance companies (HFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs).

"We have been hearing that NBFCs were not able to get enough resources despite efforts from government and RBI, especially those which were particularly not highly rated," the Finance Minister said. She was addressing a press briefing here to provide details of the Government's ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit economy.

The scheme will supplement the Reserve Bank of India and Government measures to augment liquidity by providing guarantee to investment grade securities, she

These NBFCs are mostly those which are financing

MSMEs, she said, adding this will provide liquidity support for NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs and mutual funds and create confidence in the market. Further, a ₹ 45,000 crore partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0 was also unveiled for NBFCs, HFCs and MFIs with low credit rating to help them extend loans to individuals and MSMEs.

Even prior to the coronavirus crisis, the NBFC sector had been under stress. Immediately after the IL&FS crisis in September 2018, NBFCs faced severe liquidity crunch as mutual funds (MFs) stopped refinancing their loans.

The Government had announced a series of measures including partial credit guarantee scheme (PCGS) in the last two Budgets.

The earlier scheme had certain restrictions which the Government has decided to do away with as NBFCs, HFCs and MFIs with low credit rating require liquidity for fresh lending to MSMEs and individuals. The scheme announced in Budget 2019-20 covered the liability side. The existing PCGS scheme will be extended to cover borrowings such as primary issuance bonds/commercial papers (liability side of balance sheet) of such entities, she said.

their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

PFC, REC to infuse ₹90K liquidity into cash strapped discoms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced ₹90,000 crore liquidity infusion into cashstrapped discoms, facing demand slump due to the lockdown to contain COVID-19. At present discoms have a total outstanding of ₹94,000 crore towards power generation firms (Gencos).

The Finance Minister said there would be ₹90,000 crore liquidity injection for discoms noting that revenues of power distribution companies (DISCOMs) have plummeted and witnessing unprecedented cash flow problem accentuated by demand reduction. The power demand during the lockdown dipped by more than a third on many times. The State-owned shadow banking firms Power Finance Corporation or REC would infuse liquidity of ₹90,000 cr to discoms against receivables. The liquidity in the form of loans to discoms would be given against State guarantees for exclusive purpose of discharging liabilities of discoms to Gencos, it added. This scheme would link to specific activities/reforms by the discoms like digital payments.

profit falls the day at exactly ₹5,000 up by 0.98 per cent for the day, but far

Maruti-Suzuki

revenues and

Country's largest carmaker saw net profits fall by almost a quarter

PNS NEW DELHI

The country's mager maker Maruti-Suzuki The country's largest carannounced their annual financial results earlier today after a torrid few months. The company sold 1,563,297 vehicles globally including 1,461,126 vehicles in the domestic market, registering a decline of 16.1 per cent and 16.7 per cent respectively. Net sales stood at ₹17,690 crore down 13.7 percent and net profits were down to ₹5650.6 crore a decline of 24.7 per cent which was driven by lower sales and higher marketing costs even though the Government's announcement of a lower corporate tax rate was beneficial to the company. All tis led to the company

deciding to conserve more cash and give out a dividend of ₹60 per share.

The Maruti scrip ended

below the gains the scrip had shown earlier in the day.

Speaking to journalists over a video-conference, RC Bhargava, Chairman of Maruti-Suzuki said that the company has not taken any decisions on what to do with their cash but is supporting vendors and dealers wherever necessary.

He also said that production had been restarted at the company's Manesar and Gurugram facilities to a limited extent.

But believed that it would take time for the company to ramp up production and also hinted that the labour shortage might impact some of the company's smaller suppli-

He also said that Maruti-Suzuki has opened several hundred showrooms across the country, albeit mainly in rural areas as well as over 1,900 workshops in the last few days. With most bookings coming through online channels the company even said that they have received over 5,000 bookings and have delivered 1,700 cars ever since the nationwide lockdown began to be eased.

Rs.77,76,145/-

Rs.74,68,586.99/- 2019

Authorized Officer

03-Mar-2020.

2019

2019

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Kunal Chawla, Shikha Chawla, A- 5 B/380 SFS Flats Shanti Kunj, Paschim Vihar West Delhi, West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBNOD00004280566	Flat No- 004, Ground Floor,tower B3, Avalon Rose Wood Situated At Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi	15-Feb-2020, Rs.50,95,145/-	31/10/ 2019
2.	Rajesh Singh, Rohit Chand, H No-112 Agwanpur Sec-91 Faridabad, Haryana, Faridabad, A/c:- LBNOD00004350287	Flat No 003, Ground Floor, Tower A-15, Avalon Rose wood, Sector- 16, Bhiwadi	15-Feb-2020, Rs.37,43,132/-	31/10/ 2019
3.	Adesh Jain, Rekha Jain, House No 191 Sharda Niketan, Pitampura Sarswati Vihar Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBNOD00004580976	Flat No 1204, 12th Floor, Avion Rose Wood, Tower B4, Situated At Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi	15-Feb-2020, Rs.45,11,430/-	31/10/ 2019
4.	Srijith Gupta, Shree Devee Gupta, H 56 Mig Colony Behind Mig Police Thana, Indore, Police Thana, Indore, Madhya Pradesh A/c:-LBNOD0004695351	Flat No 106, Floor No 1, CHD Developers Ltd, Tower 9, 106 Golf Avenue, Sector 106, Gurgaon	15-Feb-2020, Rs.1,59,22, 479.96/-	30/11/ 2019
5.	Vineet Sharma, Amita Sharma, G- 1506 Prateek Wisteria, Sector-77, Gautambudh Nagar, Noida 201301, Gautam Budha Nagar, Noida, A/c:- LBNOD00004745285	Flat No 2303, Cleo County, Tower A1, Floor 22nd, Plot No- Gh- 05, Sector-121, Noida- 201301	15-Feb-2020, Rs.82,96,888/-	30/11/ 2019
6.	Vaid Awana, Nisha Awana, D-70, Sector- 20, Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c:- LBDEL00001413319	Flat No. 84- A, Ground Floor, Block- C, Sec- 62, Rajat Vihar, Noida	14-Mar-2020, Rs.9,30,891.85/-	31/12/ 2019
7.	Satish Chand, Ved Kumari, House No- 22, Ground Floor, Block-B, Pocket- 3, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi, Delhi A/c:-LBDEL00001758042	22, Ground Floor, Block- B3, Sec- 16, Rohini, Delhi	14-Mar-2020, Rs.76,665/-	31/12/ 2019
8.	Rahul Sikka, Garima Joshi Sikka, 283, State Bank Nagar, Outer Ring Road, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00001796369	Block No A3, Floor-11, Unit Number-1104, Vistas Sector-70, Gurgaon	03-Mar-2020, Rs.28,41,664.7/-	30/11/ 2018
9.	Vaid Awana, Nisha Awana, D-70, Sector- 20, Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c:- LBDEL00001929497	Flat No. 84- A, Ground Floor, Block- C, Sec- 62, Rajat Vihar, Noida	14-Mar-2020, Rs.53,406/-	31/12/ 2019
10.	Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Pratibha Gupta, House No-103, Orchid Tower, Green Valley Sec- 41- 42 00 In, Faridabad, Haryana, Faridabad, A/c:- LBDEL00001996460	Flat No 103 Orchids, Tower 1st Floor, Green Valley, Sec 41- 42, Faridabad	03-Mar-2020, Rs.2,82,284.4/-	31/10/ 2019
11.	Aishvary., Rajender Kumar Gupta, C/o Sujata Das, 198 D S/f Pvt, Flat No-3/ F, Patparganj, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:-LBDEL00002185984	Flat No 1202, 12th Floor, Tower C, Village Shahpur Bhamheta, Aditya Urban Home, Ghaziabad	03-Mar-2020, Rs.12,10,893/-	31/10/ 2019
12.	Mandeep Kumar, Neetu Kumar, A- 4/400, First Floor, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002304100	Property No 400 1st Floor, Without Roof Rights, Block A4, Paschim Vihar, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.6,54,050.6/-	30/05/ 2019
13.	Harjeet Singh, Madhu Bala Devi, Rohit Sharma, 8a/225, Block- 8a, Dda Janta Flat, Trilokpuri, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002375271	Flat No 34 Lig, Block F3, Sector-34, 3rd Floor, Rohini, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.7,29,752.8/-	31/10/ 2019
14.	Ankur Kumar Goyal, Raj Kumari, Ankur Kumar Goyal Huf, Neeta Goyal, Vijay Prakash, V.P. Goyal & Sons Huf, Vijay Cotswin Pvt Ltd, 131 Surya Niketan, Vikash Marg, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002875352	Vs-5/bunglow No. G, Vertical Street 4 Skyrise Bunglows, Vertical Street Tower Vs 5, Plot No Gh- 2, Village Sarai Khawaja, Sector- 41, Faridabad	14-Mar-2020, Rs.1,17,16,176/-	31/12/ 2019
15.	Ankur Kumar Goyal, Raj Kumari, Ankur Kumar Goyal Huf, Neeta Goyal, Vijay Prakash, V.P. Goyal & Sons Huf, Vijay Cotswin Pvt Ltd, 131 Surya Niketan, Vikash Marg, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002875355	Vs-5/bunglow No. G, Vertical Street 4 Skyrise Bunglows, Vertical Street Tower Vs 5, Plot No Gh- 2, Village Sarai Khawaja, Sector- 41, Faridabad	14-Mar-2020, Rs.1,18,04,089/-	31/12/ 2019
16.	Bhawna Sood, Sneh Sood, A 29 Parwana Appt, Mayur Vihar Phase 1, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002968155	Flat No- 402, 4th Floor, Tower 9, Sunworld Arista, Phase II, Plot No Gh 01/C, Sector 168, Noida Expressway, Noida	03-Mar-2020, Rs.58,09,372/-	31/12/ 2019
17.	Taniya Waghwani, Raj Kumar Waghnani, F 501 Trasure Park, Sant Nagar, Parvati, Pune, Maharashtra A/c:- LBDEL00003058507	Flat No 902, 9th Floor, Tower 9, Sunworld Arista, Phase II, Plot Num Gh 01/C, Sector 168, Noida	03-Mar-2020, Rs.74,46,094/-	31/12/ 2019
18.	Kirti Rastogi, Nitin Rohatgi, House No- 2184, 2nd Floor, Gali Hanuman Prasad Masjid, Khazoor Kinari Bazar, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00003164374	Flat No. 904, Tower- B, Misty Heights, 9th Floor, Greater Noida	14-Mar-2020, Rs.39,29,045/-	30/04/ 2019
19.	Kirti Rastogi, Nitin Rohatgi, House No- 2184, 2nd Floor, Gali Hanuman Prasad Masjid, Khazoor Kinari Bazar, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00003225622	Flat No. 904, Tower- B, Misty Heights, 9th Floor, Greater Noida	14-Mar-2020, Rs.88,959/-	30/04/ 2019
20.	Baani Dhamija, Manandeep Singh Dhamija, 51/88, Second Floor, Old Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:-LBDEL00003257666	Flat No- 806, 8th Floor, Tower A, Project Oxirich New Delhi Extension, Plot No. Gh- 07a, Koyal Enclave Yojna, Ghaziabad	03-Mar-2020, Rs. 26,14,717/-	31/12/ 2019
21.	Sushil Sharma, Ramnesh Sharma, 157, Janta House, Basant Gaon, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004081659	DDA Janta Flat H No 157, Ground Floor, Basant Gaon, Delhi	14-Mar-2020, Rs.4,90,352/-	31/10/ 2019
22.	Sushil Sharma, Ramnesh Sharma, 157, Janta House, Basant Gaon, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004081660	DDA Janta Flat H No 157, Ground Floor, Basant Gaon, Delhi	14-Mar-2020, Rs.4,58,402/-	31/10/ 2019
23.	Sushil Sharma, Ramnesh Sharma, 157, Janta House, Basant Gaon, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004081662	DDA Janta Flat H No 157, Ground Floor, Basant Gaon, Delhi	14-Mar-2020, Rs.19,00,807/-	31/10/ 2019
24.	Krishan Kumar, Manju Rana, Kaur & Singh Projects & Constructions Pvt Ltd , Harish Chhikara, House No 178/52 Siraspur, Samaipur, North West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004160608	Plot No 61, Third Floor Block G, Pocket 1, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.27,17,848/-	31-12- 2019
25.	Pankaj Pradhan, Nirmala Sharma, E-735 E- Block Dda Flat, Pocket- 3, Bindapur West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004432033	Flat No. 735, Block E, Type A, Pocket 3, Bindapur, Dwarka, New Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.30,10,281.64/-	31/05/ 2017
26.	Satish Chand, Ved Kumari, House No- 22, Ground Floor, Block- B, Pocket- 3, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi, Delhi A/c:- LBDEL00004581237	22, Ground Floor, Block- B3, Sec-16, Rohini, Delhi	14-Mar-2020, Rs.9,40,649/-	31/12/ 2019
27.	Manju Grover, Harish Grover, B -3/14, 2nd Floor, Sector- 17, Rohini, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004918248	Property No 14, 3rd Floor Without Roof Rights, Block- B, Pocket- 3, Sector- 17, Rohini, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.22,20,865.8/-	30/11/ 2019
28.	Jai Bhagwan Dodwal, Davinder Kaur Dodwal, Flat No C 601 M2k, Victoria Garden, Delhi, A/c:-LBDEL00004918774	Pent House No 01, 22nd Floor, Tower No 2, CHD Avenue, Sector 71, Gurgaon	03-Mar-2020, Rs.1,99,07, 872.79/-	31/12/ 2019
29.	Meena Rani, Amit Kumar, Plot No K 70, Bal Udhyan Road, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00004932620	Plot No- L- 85, Ground Floor Front And Rear Side, Without Roof Rights, Pratap Vihar Ghaziabad	03-Mar-2020, Rs.43,62,830/-	31/12/ 2019
30.	ABU Zafar, Mohd Abullais, Jia Interiors And Contractor, H No-634, First Floor, Sector 91, Surya Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana A/c:- LBFDB00004309531	Plot No- 634, First Floor, Surya Nagar, Phase- 2, Sector 91, Faridabad, Haryana	29-Feb-2020, Rs.9,83,833/-	31/12/ 2019
31.	Satish Chand, Ved Kumari, House No- 22, Ground Floor, Block-B, Pocket- 3, Sector- 16, Rohini, Delhi, Delhi A/c:- LBGUR00001742293	22, Ground Floor, Block- B3, Sec-16, Rohini, Delhi	14-Mar-2020, Rs.8,86,697/-	31/12/ 2019
32.	Neil Prasad, Neelima Prasad, Prithvi Farm, Silver Oak Lane , Savillage, Satbadi Chattarpur, Delhi, A/c:-LBGUR00001926808	KGT 0080101, Knights Court, Jaypee Greens, Sector 128, Wish Town, Noida	03-Mar-2020, Rs.1,14,40,941/-	31/12/ 2019
33.	Sanjeev Bahl, Rashmi Pawha Bahl,131, Ground Floor, Golf Links, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBGUR00002073092	Plot Number 10/131, FF, Golf Link, Delhi	03-Mar-2020, Rs.89,89,878/-	30/11/ 2019
34.	Rajiv Jain, Anita Jain, B 703 Pearl Heights, Ramprastha Greens, Sec 7 Vaishali, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBGUR00002362115	Unit No T151805, 17th Floor, Tower 15, Greenparc II, Sector 92, Gurgaon	03-Mar-2020, Rs.63,64,045/-	31/12/ 2019
35.	Shane Prakash Masih, Raksha Rai, B-24 Vaasto Coop Gh Socity, Plot No 70 Sec 55, Gurgaon, A/c:- LBGUR00002379121	Flat No 1401, 14th Floor, Tower P4, Sare Crescent Parc, Green Parc-II, The Petioles, Sector 92, Gurgaon	03-Mar-2020, Rs.9,627,688/-	31/12/ 2019
36.	Keya Sen Mitra, Pinaki Mitra, B-197, C R Park, G- Floor, Delhi, Delhi, A/c:-LBGUR00002796166	Flat No 1, 1st Floor, Vertical Street, Tower Vs 9, Sky Rise Bunglows, Vertical Street, Vill Sarai Khawaja, Plot No Gh 02, Sec- 41, Faridabad	03-Mar-2020, Rs.1,28,62,540/-	31/10/ 2019
37.	Sandeep Aggarwal, Sakshi Aggarwal, H No 1686 R K Puram, Sec 5 South,	Flat No T160101, 1st Floor, Tower 16, Green Parc II, Sec 92, Gurgaon	03-Mar-2020, Rs 77 76 145/-	31/12/

Pproperty No 1/6426, Seriel Number Of Colony 1507 Ward Number 89, Category Of Locality F, 1st & 2nd Floor Without Roof Rights, East Rohtas Nagar, Sahadhara, Delhi- 110032 The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Flat No Q- 0001, Today Ridge Residency, Tower Q, Gh-001, Sector-

West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBGUR00003067817

A/c:- LBGUR00004564161

38. Adesh Kumar, Shilpi Goyal, 11/26 First Floor Gali No 2, Near Gurudwara Old Gobind Pura, Extension Parwana Road Krishna, Nagar, Delhi, East Delhi

39. Lata., Deepak Choudhary, Flat No- G- 004 Plot No- 66, Agarsen Awas IP, Extenson Patparganj, Delhi, Delhi A/c:- LBGUR00004931127

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINNER (NW) II H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-110089 PH: 27851040 (E-MAIL eenw2.djb@gmail.com) PRESS NIT No. 08 (2020-21) **Press Notice Tender** Name of Work Last date/time of Date of release amest Mone ceint of bid through of tender solution/I.D. No Sifting of damaged sewer line at Jail Road in AC-13 Rohini under EE (NW)-II Rs. 32.03.193 Rs. 64.100/ 11.05.2020 ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) SUDHIR KUMAR Executive Engineer (NW) II Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited Request for Proposal for Empanelmentof contractor WATER SUPPLY, DRAIN, SEWERAGE AND ALLIED CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF VERY URGENT/EMERGENT NATURE WITHIN STATE OF BIHAR FOR FINANCIAL YEAR No. BUIDCo/Yo-1712/2020-152 (Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) 1. Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (BUIDCo), a nodal agency for executing urban infrastructure projects in the state of Bihar, invites Bid forWATER SUPPLY DRAIN, SEWERAGE AND ALLIED CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF VERY URGENT/EMERGENT NATURE WITHIN STATE OF BIHAR FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21. 2. The preferred bidder would be selected through a single-stage two-part competitive biddir process based on evaluation of technical bid. The bidders are expected to submit their

(Beltron) WATER SUPPLY, DRAIN, SEWERAGE AND ALLIED As per valuation of CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF VERY Rs. 10,000/work at the time applicable of financial bid BIHAR FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21 From 18.05.2020 to 27.05.2020 up to 03:00 F Through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in 20.05.2020 at 03:00 PM in BUIDCo Office Date of Pre-bid meeting Date 28.05.2020 up to 03:00 PM Last date and time for receipt of bids Through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in Date 29.05.2020 up to 03:30 PM Last Date and time for Submission ofhard copy of bid Time and date of opening technical bids To be communicated later on Time and date of opening of financial bids : Through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in Place of opening of bid : 120 days : Chief Engineer (PDM

proposals in accordance with the instructions provided in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

processing

Document

Name of work

12. For participating in E – tendering process, the contractor shall have to get themselves registered to get user ID, Password and Digital signature. This will enable them to access the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in and download/participate in E - tender. All tender queries related to this tender shall be communicated at tenders@buidco.in13.(i) Bid processing fees to be paid throug online mode i.e. Internet payment getaway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS. ii) Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-procurement porta

www.eproc.bihar.gov.in before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department does not take any responsibility for the delay/Non availability of internet connection, Networ Traffic/Holidays or any other reasons". BUIDCo reserves the right to accept or reject any or all $proposals\ without\ incurring\ any\ obligation\ to\ inform\ the\ affected\ applicant/s\ of\ the\ grounds.$ 14.The detailed NIT and RFP can be obtained through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in and

www.buidco.in 15.Any addendum/corrigendum can be seen on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in an

www.buidco.in.
For further details please visit website www.prdbihar.gov.in
Chief Engineer, Planning, Design & Monitoring, BUIDCo, Patna Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation, Near RajapurPul, West Boring Canal

Road, Patna-800001 (Tel: 0612-2558412 Fax: 0612-2558412, pdhqbuidco@gmail.com) PR. No. 001037(Ni.Ni.) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🧽 TOII Free No.: 🕇 🛛 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

खाव सामग्री– संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या ०६१२-२२१७४५ पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है। श्रमिकों के सहयोग एवं सहायता हेतु श्रम संसाधन विभाग का Toll Free No.: 18003456138



Social media has its pros too: Pankaj

Actor PANKAJ TRIPATHI. who remained elusive on social media for the longest time, says during the lockdown he realised the medium has its pros, too.

"It's difficult to not get taken in by the hustle-bustle of social media. But during the lockdown, I realised it has its pros too. I was always wary that being too active on social media will occupy too much of my mind and I will start focusing on things that don't add value to my craft as an actor," Pankaj said. Pankaj has

always believed that learning is boundless

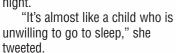
On the acting front, he will next be seen in Kabir Khan's 83.



'I kind of like the fact that not only there are very welldone versions of the character

(Batman) which seem pretty definitive, but I wondered that there are multiple definitive playings of the character, too. You've seen this sort of lighter, jaded or animalistic version. But where's my opening? It's a legacy part, right? I like that.' -Robert Pattinson

Actor MANISHA **KOIRALA** tweeted that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed her sleep pattern and that she finds herself wide awake even after mid-



Reacting to her tweet, netizens offered her a few suggestions. One user requested her to explain the same to his mom because he gets scolded for getting up late every day. Manisha responded saying that she also gets scolded by her mom for waking up late.

Reese returns to rom-com genre

Actor REESE WITHERSPOON is all set to return to the romance genre with Your Place or Mine and The Cactus on Netflix.

Along with starring in the films, she will also produce the projects through her banner, Hello Sunshine company.

Witherspoon has starred in several romantic hits throughout her career, including Sweet Home Alabama, This Means War, Pleasantville and Home Again. Your Place or

Mine is about a couple of long-distance best friends who change each other's lives when one decides to pursue a lifelong dream. The other friend comes forward to help by looking after her teenage son.

GIVE ART A CHANCE

Online performances have been leading the way in elevating humans from feeling hemmed in during this time. By Suman Doonga



seems like the collective fight against COVID-19 is here to stay for a while now. We need to be more patient within the comfort of our homes to flatten the curve of the spread. With most of us spending so much time online, as we follow the lockdown rules, one can't miss the trend of art presentation and appreciation on the digital platform. There is more of new music presentations, dance performances, painting works, poetry renditions, storytelling, memes, comics, graphic works, animation skits, photo stories and short documentaries prepared to create awareness on health and wellness.

The majority of us across the world are trying to add positivity to our lives by occupying our minds with new interests, experiencing sharing and new learnings along with the much-needed daily dose of yoga and meditation sessions. To add an element of leisure, many artists are coming online from all over the world and streaming their live performances for the audience globally while overcoming technological and aesthetic issues.

In these times of social distancing, Spic Macay (Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Among Youth) has launched the Spic Macay Rendezvous Series for all age groups to interact online with some of the greatest exponents of Indian classical music, dance, arts and crafts, cinema and yoga.

The society has already hosted online sessions with bansuri guru, Pt Hari Prasad Chourasia, Indian classical vocalist, Pt Jasraj, Mohiniattam dancer, Dr Neena Prasad, carnatic vocalist, Sudha Raghunathan, cinema and theatre actress-producer, Nandita Das and MK Raina, as well as an interaction with social activist Vandana Shiva on the Earth Day theme. Spic Macay has been posting announcements of the forthcoming online programmes under the series via its website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter handles along with WhatsApp alerts for inviting more people to get inspired and appreciate the

clean air to our metro cities, granted us changed earth.





the freedom to re-imagine our lives and engage with our personal interests. However ironic as it may sound, it has provided us the freedom to rediscover relationships that were almost forgotten. It has given us the freedom to pause and rewind so that we can be human again. Everything appears more organised. This lockdown has brought back unplanned grand experiment has

One of the oldest and well-known **Sankat-Mochan** festivals of Indian classical music, which, over the years has been inviting some eminent artistes of India to Varanasi, is now streaming digitally for the first time

We have taken up an initiative calling to 'Save the Artist' with digital social networking. Artistes from Indian classical music, dance and folk arts are uploading their videos that share their perspectives on how they think we can save various art forms. In unique ways, one can also support young artistes in this difficult time of deadly pandemic. The time is now to encourage people to use this period for their personal development.

One of the oldest and well-known Sankat-Mochan festivals of Indian classical music, which, over the years has been inviting some eminent artistes of India to Varanasi, is now streaming digitally for the first time.

Índian classical dancers abroad are taking online classes to beat lockdown blues. Arunima, a trained Kuchipudi dancer from UK, plans to take performances online too, under her banner 'Dance Karona'. While entertaining people all over the world with their digital and online concerts, artistes are also workers. The initiative is to supply them with masks, hand sanitisers and PPE

Another encouraging story comes from the Hyderabad Art Society, lead by artist Ramana Reddy, which has launched a new initiative to paint their perspective on ongoing COVID-19, a positive step to motivate youngsters to express their thoughts. He shares, "As an activity, arts give strength where they can reveal their inner feelings and respond to the current situation."

Globally, many popular museums are inviting people to explore their shows and exhibits virtually. Administrations and governments are also announcing support to the artistes' community. The Rajasthan state government has announced support to the folk artists with the 'Chief Minister's Folk Artist Encouragement Scheme'. The scheme intends to encourage the solo folk artistes living in rural areas of the state to shoot a 15-20 minutes video performance at their homes and send the same to the government, so that it can be appreciated through the digital

(The writer is the Director, Media,

Playing it out

Movie-related products still hit stores despite film delays

Hollywood pressed pause major films in theatres to combat the Coronavirus outbreak but that hasn't necessarily been the case for toys and merchandise related to those films.

Despite film delays, toy production and gaming companies are often staying on schedule, releasing a variety of products tied to major titles from Black Widow to Minions: The Rise of Gru in hopes of weathering through the pandemic. Most products are already in retail stores, appearing on shelves and being sold online several months to a year ahead of the film's new release date.

Some believe toy-makers made the right choice to sell products now rather than later. Especially, since many of the products have already been manufactured and packaged

"The train had already started moving on these toys and there was no way to stop it," said James Zahn, senior editor at The Toy Insider. He doesn't expect those products to sell as quickly when there's no film to support them, but he believes putting them on sale now is possibly the best option instead of being stored away in a warehouse, which he thinks is the

worst-case scenario. Zahn said quickly selling the toys and merchandise on clearance could be another

"It can become very cost-



ly," he said. "You're basically paying rent, monthly rent to a warehouse. You need to turn that product quickly. Everything is on schedule. Now, that schedule is out of sync. It's not just toys. It's a full marketing program that has multiple moving pieces between different licensing partnerships." Cinemas across the world

have been closed since mid-March with many film releases postponed for a later date. Some states are looking to soon reopen theatres.

With most theatres closed, studios opted to funnel their new or recently released films on home viewing platforms. That happened with Pixar's Onward, which played in theatres for weeks before it was forced onto a digital platform, making more sense for toy companies to continue to release their product to coincide with the animated film. Marvel's Black Widow has

been postponed until November, but products related to the film including toys and books along with characters from the film highlighted on a free-to-play mobile game. A collection of dolls are at retail stores for the live-action remake of the animated classic Mulan, which was delayed until July 24.

Mattel said products for Top Gun: Maverick, which had an original July release, will begin rolling out this summer and continue to launch throughout the fall leading up to the new release date on December 23.

Films such as Minions: The Rise of Gru and F9 from the Fast and Furious saga have been postponed for a full year, and Ghostbusters: Afterlife was delayed by several months. But products for those films can be found online.

LEGO has a particular plan in place for next year's Minions movie. "We recently launched two LEGO Minions building sets that are inspired by the property and characters, but we are holding back the rest of the collection that is directly linked to the upcoming film to coincide with the new premiere date," said Mike Ilacqua, head

of marketing for LEGO Group. Zahn said the early release of products could be damaging for F9 and Minions. He also said there's a risk that the emotional connection could be harmed for the child or adult if they are unable to see the actual film. He

calls the film "a commercial for the product," especially for characters being introduced in the new films such as Taskmaster and Red Guardian in Black Widow.

In many cases, viewers of the film may want to act out what they've seen. "Certain characters may become peg warmers, as they call it, where kids are buying the Black Widow, but they're not buying the other characters that they're just not familiar with on a collector standpoint," he said.

Teiko Duplessis, a mother of two, agrees to a certain extent. "If you grew up watching Marvel films, it's a win-win to purchase the merchandise, especially if you can't see the film," said Duplessis, an Illinois resident who bought a Scooby Doo T-shirt while store shopping for her daughter. The shirt was tied to the Warner Bros. film "Scoob!" which will go straight to digital on May 15.

Duplessis said she's grateful for her purchase, and thinking about buying more. "My kids are familiar with Scooby Doo," she said. "The film is a bonus. Whether they have it out or not, it's not a deal breaker for them."

Know mental repercussions of COVID-19

Aglobal team led University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney aims to track the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the mental health of thousands of people from the womb to old age. The team will explore for the first time what they describe as this pandemic's toxic combination of two extreme psychological stressors: existential threat and social

isolation. They are hoping to recruit around 3,000 people from Australia, the UK and US to evaluate their mood before and after the onset of the pandemic and to track their cognitive function and social networks over the coming months. It has a special focus on two subgroups thought to be, especially vulnerable to the shock of enforced isolation: adolescents and pregnant women.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has changed people's lives so drastically that it is difficult to know how protracted the effects may be," said study's chief investigator Dr Susanne Schweizer from UNSW's School of Psychology.

"We're particularly interested in younger people because they are at a time of social reorientation away from the family towards their peers, which is all of a sudden being disrupted by social distancing," Schweizer added.

The research team are concerned that the long-term effects of social isolation in this group may come at a cost to their cognitive development due to schools being

closed as they are in the US and the UK or drastically changed as in the case of Australia.

According to the researchers, initial-, participants will be asked to complete an hour-long survey online in a laptop or smartphone browser to assess mood before and after the pandemic. They will be asked to evaluate their connections to people in their social network and will also be invited to complete tasks that assess working memory — the ability to store information in memory for short amounts

After three months — and then again after six — participants will again be asked to fill in a shorter survey to track progress in mood, cognitive function and social net-

"We hope that by the end of the study, we will have reliable and accurate data so that we can qualify the long-term effects of this pandemic. By working together with other research teams at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the UK and Oregon and Pittsburgh in the US, we are able to ask these questions across different populations," Schweizer said.

"By investigating the impact of the pandemic on mental health and what happens when the protection of a social support network suddenly disappears, we will be much better positioned to respond to the future health care needs of our national and global populations," she noted.

the pioneer NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | MAY 14, 2020

BE THE CHANGE

Dr AJAY MURDIA, founder, Indira IVF Group of Fertility Clinics, talks about his idea behind opening the centre, its four pillars and ninth foundation day

▼ VF man of India Dr Ajay Murdia establised Indira IVF group of fer-tility Clinics on May 2, 2011. Through his facebook post he shared that IVF won't celebrate its ninth foundation day this year. He also requested his Indira IVF family to be a part of candle of hope activity at 7 pm on May 2 to send out a positive message across.

Talking about Spanish flu and plague, he said that with patience and strength we will get

Coronavirus. He also talked about how this is an emotional moment for couples without children and can bring harmonal disbal-

Dr Ajay also thanked his team, which includes 200 IVF specialists,

more than 135 embryologist and staffs more than 2,000. "It is the collective effort of all of us, we should celebrate it together," said he.

The group ensures the parents that since infertility has challenged you, we are here to change all that for you and you are going to come out stronger from it.

It is equipped with updated technology and state-of-the-art infra-structure, which caters for a host of infertility treatments like IVF (In vitro fertilization), Laser Assisted Hatching, Cryopreservation, ICSI, IUI, Blastocyst culture and transfer, Laparoscopy, Hysteroscopy including donor programs. It is armed with the state-of-the-art infrastructure, advanced equipment and a pool of renowned physicians.

How well is Indian market treating the IVF treatment? Dr Ajay says, "Fertility or IVF treatment in India has undergone a sea of change since the first baby was born by this technology in India back in 1986. Even after almost 42 years after the world's



first test tube i. e Louise Brown born by IVF technique still the accessibility, affordability for acquiring IVF treatment still remains an issue to address. Almost 1 in every 8 couple have infertility issue. Changing lifestyle & Co morbidities associated with it other than medical conditions has increased the incidence in infertility. Despite this the percentage of infertile couple seeking the treatment is very low. Fertility clinics in India still have to penetrate the 2 tier & 3 tiers cities let alone the Metro cities properly. Affordability & lack of awareness about the available treatment options for infertility is a major cause for couple seeking IVF by treatment. While in rural areas infertility is still considered a social stig-

gious concerns.

How did he come up with the idea of opening a fertility centre? "Amidst social taboos, male dominance and stigmatisation, there was a time in the year 1988, when people were concerned about anything but women and infertility. All who were blamed for the misfortune and infertility were women regardless of the reality of both can equally be the reason of the same and always punished the women by remarrying, isolating and even considering them ill-fated. A time when everything was biased, I let go of the perks of a comfortable government job and unlike any other man of that

ma other than conservative & reliarle after my wife Indira," said Dr Ajay.

The group works on four pillars:

The group has been working to bring down the cost of IVF treatment for the masses. The cost of IVF cycle has been brought down significantly. It has made the treatment affordable for various sections of the society.

The group has been actively spreading awareness using scientific methods to deal with infertility. Under the banner Nisantanta Bharat Chodo, they have organised many infertility checkups and free awareness time, named my two room clinic camps throughout the nation.

To provide advanced fertility set up across India, they have established many IVF centres throughout the nation. With an aim to make infertility treatment available, it plans to provide its services within walking distance from their home

The success rates speak for themselves. The group is equipped with the latest technology and a hardworking team, who are dedicated to bringing happiness in the lives of every couple at different Indira IVF centers.

On a daily basis, they see almost 60 success stories across 20 states, with the number growing with its presence

SHORT **SALE OF KISAN FERTILIZERS** In April Month (Year Wise)

National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has recorded 71 per cent growth in fertilizer sale in the month of April compared to same period last year. It recorded fertilizer sale of 3.62 Lakh MT in April 20 compared to 2.12 Lakh MT in April 2019. This was despite restrictions in April due to lockdown. NFL marketing team made fertilizers available to farmers during this period, CMD, NFL Manoj Mishra appreciated the efforts of marketing team for achieving highestever growth in sales in the month of April.

IP University Organises online FDP University School of University of UK; Professor Deepak Tandon, IMI Delhi;

(USMS), IP University organises FDP for a week on Global Economy in COVID-19: Opportunities and Challenges from May 11 to 15. The Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Mahesh Verma inaugurated it online on the first

According to the Dean-USMS Professor Neena Sinha, the FDP is designed to enhance the participants' understanding of the theme by bringing academia, industry and researchers from diverse backgrounds together. It will explore the strategies for managing the emerging opportuni-ties and challenges and the recent developments in the

light of the pandemic.
Experts like Professor Himanshu Rai, Director-IIM, Indore; Atul Gupta, President-ICAI; Dr Narayan Pendse, Principal Consultant-Strategy & Operations at Kings Hospital, Sri Lanka; Professor Wayne Visser, AMS, Belgium; Professor Kiran Momaya, IIT Mumbai; Professor Madu Vij,

Professor K K Aggarwal, Chairman-NBA & founder VC of IP University connect online as a mentor or resource person for this week long FDP.

The FDP deliberates upon topics like Global economy and the Corona crisis:Towards protectionism or integration? Adapting HRM in the time of Corona, remote work during this crisis, performance management, building mental well being and resiliency, corporates response, role of ICT, digitalisation, digitalisation in higher education, industry 4.0, mathematical modelling, sustainable development, managing technology and innovation, CSR, media view, impact of entrepreneurship, managing global recession, final markets and institutes: the road ahead, safeguarding investments, PPP, anti-virus drugs, marketing strategies, digital marketing, social media, urban planning,

The FDP is open to research scholars & faculty members of any college or uni-



Tips for productive work from home

As the world gears up to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 WFH:

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

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, business management etc. could help you keep busy and

Family time: A lot of

times working from home results in 12-14 hours of working. When you are in your comfortable space the work timings are bound to go beyond the normal 9-6. 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 utilized 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 vour 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.

(This is an authored article Chulamas Jitpatima, Director, MQDC India.)

The team of next-tech lab of SRM University, Andhra Pradesh, has brought laurels to the institution by winning three hackathons in a row.

SCALING NEW HELDING TO THE HACKATHONS IN A PROBLEM TO THE HACKATHONS IN A PROB

During the lockdown, while some devoted their time to newfound hobbies, the young researchers successfully developed a fresh multi-player virtual reality game called 'Whack A Mole' and a cloud-based multiplayer FPS in Virtual Reality called 'Desert Shooter'. The threemember team has successfully bagged the second prize in International SKYHacks2020; Best echoAR Hack at Silicon Valley Hacks; and Best AR/VR hack at HackNow, organised by Cal Hacks, a non-profit organisation at the University of Berkeley, California.

When asked how the idea of making such a game crossed their minds, Epperla Karthik, a second year student of Computer Science and Engineering, said, "My family loves attending tradeshows. Every time we attend any, my father and I challenge each other to win a game of Whack A Mole. But due to the strict



quarantine that we are following, it's been a while now that we exchanged such challenges. My teammates and I, being gaming and virtual reality enthusiasts, decided to develop a VR version of the game." 'Whack A Mole' is a mul-

tiplayer virtual reality game that allows users to play

against the computer or their families or both. One can use it both on iOS and Android. It is built on Unity3D, on top of Photon PUN and GoogleVR SDK. It is also integrated with Google Firebase. "This is the first time we have worked on developing virtual reality Engineering. "We completed

games and networking. As we had to run the game on our phone to record the gameplay, the output video on YouTube is a bit blurry," explained Khushboo Sharma, another member of the team and a second year student of Computer Science and

the development of the game in approximately 20 hours, beginning from the scratch. We developed a few of our own UI elements and game assets. I feel the User-Interface of the app and the effects are pretty cool. VR development is real fun. Moreover, there are a lot of API and SDK that

unity supports," exclaimed Koushik Bhargav, a third year student of Computer Science and Engineering and the third member of the team. The team has plans to make this game to be a cross-

platform game. Therefore, their next plan of action is to develop its web version and give the users an immersive experience. 'Desert Shooter' is anoth-

er multiplayer virtual reality game developed by the team that allows users to play against the computer or their families or both. You can conplay together. The game consists of a swarm of robot ships moving towards you and you have to protect yourself from them. "The interesting part is that all of this happens in mixed reality, which makes the game immersive. We built it on Unity3D, on top of Photon PUN and GoogleVR SDK, Echoar. It is also integrated with Google Firebase and the assets are stored in echoar cloud. This project won the best AR/VR hack at 'Hack: Now' which is organised by the University of Berkeley, California," said Epperla.

To deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, deal with the the government of India is undertaking strict measures of social distancing and quarantine. People suspected of been exposed to the infection are isolated and the rest have been asked to practice social distancing. Although these measures are in the benefit of the community at large, the psychological effects of lockdown on children cannot be ignored. With restricted mobility and social distancing, children will experience social isolation and loss of connectedness with peers leading to subjective alienation. As children have limited resources to understand the complexities of social situation, their incapability to understand the present scenario during

lead to frustration and outburst of temper tantrums. The pandemic has also led to children missing out their school and classes which will directly affect

the pandemic and the

necessity of measures like

social distancing, lock-

down and quarantine may

their physical as well as mental health. Disrupted daily routine with no sense of structure and environmental stimulation may make them feel anxious, depressed and lonely. Moreover, with the change in their regular routine, children may become clingier, learn to seek negative attention and become increasingly dependent on their parents. During this period of lockdown, children are physically less active, have longer exposure to screen time, irregular sleep patterns and unhealthy diets which in

turn can lead to unhealthy weight gain and poor cardiorespiratory fitness. In this scenario, children need special attention. During the formative years of life, the role of parents is very crucial. Any disruption during this phase can have long term effects on the perceived attachment of the child. However, this does not discount the significant role of parents throughout the life. Conflict and poor attachment with the primary caregivers can make a child more vulnerable and can pose a threat to their mental health. Children exposed to negative emotions are at a higher risk of developing acute stress disorder, adjustment disorder and feelings of sadness and grief. In times of stress, poor parenting can have long-term adverse effects on the mental health of children making them

more vulnerable to devel-

practice Attuned Parenting.' Attunement refers to state of awareness where parents pay attention to the feelings of the child and become responsive. In times of stress, especially due to the ongoing pandemic, children may find it difficult to express verbally and their underlying feelings may manifest itself physically, behaviourally and/or cognitively in the form of anger outburst, defiance, sleep problems and psycho-somatic complaints.

op mood disorders, psy-

chosis and suicide in adult-

od of uncertainty, parents

act as significant protective

factors. Therefore, it

becomes increasingly

important for all parents to

With the ongoing peri-

foster positivity and a sense of well being. (This is an authored article by Psychologist Gunjan Joshi.)

Thus the parents' role is to

observe for sign of distress and related feelings. With

the help of few activities

parents can address nega-

tive feeling of the child and

K Vinayak Rao takes over as finance member at AAI

KVinayak Rao, Indian Railways Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of 1987 batch has taken over the charge of Member (Finance) from May 13 on the Board of the Airports Authority of India. Prior to this appointment, Rao was serving as Member (Finance) in Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

As Member (Finance) of AAI, Rao will be the overall in-charge of finance, accounts and financial operation of the organisation. He will also be responsible for evolving, formulating policies and strategies related to entire gamut of finance operation, including resource mobilisation and statutory compliances. He will also play a leadership role and provide effective support in achieving sus-tained growth of the organisation's business

During his tenure in Indian Railways, he has served in various capacities in zonal railways, construction projects, and production units. He has worked as Executive Director (Finance Expenditure) in Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) from 2009 to 2014. He was also on the Board of Pipavav Railway Corporation Limited (PRCL) and Railway Energy Management Company (REMC) Ltd.

Apart from this, he also has a wide experience in power sector as



he has served as Member (Finance) in the erstwhile Maharashtra State Electricity Board and Director (Finance) in the four restructured companies from 2003- 2009. He played an instrumental role in restructuring of Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB).

Babar takes lead role

Azam replaces Sarfaraz as Pak white ball captain; Azhar remains Test in-charge

PTI KARACHI

tar batsman Babar Azam on Wednesday took over the reins of Pakistan's white-ball cricket after being appointed as the ODI skipper. Azhar Ali will continue to lead in Tests, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced.

Babar, who was one of the world's leading batsmen across formats last year and already the T20 skipper, replaced wicketkeeper batsman Sarfaraz Ahmed as the ODI captain for the 2020-21 season. Pakistan is scheduled to play six ODIs and 20 T20Is, besides the Asia Cup and the T20 World Cup this season.

"I want to congratulate Azhar Ali and Babar Azam for getting captaincy extensions," chief selec tor and head coach Misbah-ul-Haq said in a PCB statement.

"This is absolutely the right decision as they also require certainty and clarity on their future roles. I am sure they will now start looking to the future and start planning so that they can build sides that can perform at the

expected levels."

"We have kept in mind who can serve us in the long run. We have kept the 2023 World Cup in mind while picking Babar as ODI captain. He is the captain of T20 side, he is a top-class performer and this is the right time to

groom him," Misbah said.
"He is taking the challenge head on. Since he became our T20 captain his Test performance has also improved. So why not, if he can take responsibility," said the former Pakistan captain.

Pakistan are scheduled to play two T20Is in Ireland in July and after that they are slated to travel to England to play three Tests and as many T20Is.

However, a decision on the England tour will be made by mid-June amid the ongoing coro-navirus pandemic, PCB chief executive Wasim Khan has said.

The officials of both the PCB and England and Wales Cricket Board will be having an online meeting on Friday.

Pakistan also announced an 18-player men's central contract list for the 2020-21 season, which will come into effect from July 1.

Hasan Ali, Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz missed out, while Imam-ul-Haq, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Yasir Shah slipped one category each.

'The selectors have made the tough decisions to leave out Amir, Hasan and Wahab but considering Hasan missed most of the season due to an injury and Amir and Wahab decided to focus on whiteball cricket, this was the right move," Misbah said.

"However, Amir and Wahab



Babar Azam raises his bat after he scored hundred against New Zealand during 2019 WC AF are senior and experienced cricket team and also mentor our bowlers and they remain in conyoung battery of fast bowlers."

tention as we believe they can still

On former skipper Sarfaraz, Misbah said: "I feel Sarfaraz can

"We have kept in mind who can serve us in the long run. We have kept the 2023 World Cup in mind while picking Babar as ODI captain. He is the captain of T20 side, he is a top-class performer and this is the right time to groom him."

— MISBAH UL HAQ

"I feel Sarfaraz can play all three formats. He has been valued. He is not captain so he has been demoted. But he is very much in our plans. Mohammad Rizwan is there but he will be considered. He is still a valuable player."

— MISBAH UL HAQ (on Sarfaraz' future)

play all three formats. He has been valued. He is not captain so he has been demoted. But he is very much in our plans. Mohammad Rizwan is there but he will be considered. He is still a valuable player.

Naseem Shah and Iftikhar Ahmad are the two new faces in the contract list.

The 17-year-old Naseem had become the youngest Test bowler to take a five wicket haul and a hattrick in consecutive Tests against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Karachi and Rawalpindi, respectively, while Iftikhar had played two Tests, two ODIs and seven T20Is in the 2019-20 season.

Shaheen Shah Afridi, who took 18 Test and two T20I wickets for Pakistan in the 2019-20 sea-

son, moved up in Category A.
Abid Ali, Mohammad Rizwan
and Shan Masood have been awarded Category B.

PCB also created a new Emerging Players' Category and included Haider Ali and pacers Haris Rauf and Mohammad Hasnain as initial inductees.

"I am thankful to the PCB Chairman for supporting our recommendation to give emerging player contracts to Haider, Haris and Hasnain. This is part of our forward-looking strategy and investing in the future, while also encouraging potential future national team players," Misbah

PCB CENTRAL CONTRACT LIST Category A: Azhar Ali, Babar

Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi. Category B: Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Shan Masood, Yasir Shah.

Category C: Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Imam-ul-Haq, Naseem Shah, Usman Shinwari.

Emerging Players' Category: Haider Ali, Haris Rauf Mohammad Hasnain.



'Need to develop mental toughness of Australians'

NEW DELHI: The Indian women's cricket team needs to develop the mental toughness that the mighty Australians possess to end its drought of winning a world title, feels veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami.

Like the men's team, Indian women have been consistently reaching the knock-out stages of ICC events of late but have failed to lay their hands on the trophy. In fact, they are yet to win a world title.

'Óbviously, it is a mind issue but it doesn't mean the players don't have it in them go all the way. We have been playing well in the last three years, just not been able to win world titles. Australia are far ahead because they know how to win big games," Jhulan, the leading wicket-taker in women's ODIs, said. India had beaten Australia in the league stage of

both the tri-series and T20 World Cup but lost to them in the final on each occasion.

"You know you can come back after losing in the group stage but you can't in knock-outs. Mindset plays a big role in that scenario, more than the skill. "It shows how mentally strong you are, how you

control your nerves. If you can do that, you will be ahead of the other teams," said Jhulan. "Not just the women's team, you see men's and U-19 team also losing finals recently," the 37-year-old

said referring to India's loss in the men's U-19 World Cup final. The Indan men's team too has not won a global trophy since 2013. Jhulan feels the Australian women owe their

unmatched success to the women's Big Bash League, which has given their players exposure and stiff com-

"The current women's Australian team is like the Australian men's team of the past (which won three ODIs World Cups from 1999-2007). There is a reason why they are such a superior side. Their set-up is much bigger and Big Bash has given them a lot of opportunities and exposure," said Jhulan.

She said Indian women's cricket too needs a T20 league to get better. 'You see how Indian men's cricket improved after

the IPL (in 2008). Earlier there was a gap between an Indian cricketer and domestic player but it changed after the IPL. The youngsters look more confident and know how to handle the big stage.

"We don't have a competitive league at the moment. First-class structure is also important but leagues like WBBL and IPL prepare you for the big stage," Jhulan, who only plays 50-over cricket, reck-

Calls for a women's IPL have been growing but some argue that the local talent pool is not enough for a full-fledged event.

The womens team is in need of more power-hitters like Shafali Verma and world-class medium pacers like Jhulan and Shika Pandey, especially in the T20

Jhulan said it takes time to produce pacers and insisted that there is enough talent available.

"It is the not that we don't have enough medium pacers in domestic cricket. It takes time to groom them. You can't produce them overnight. It is a process and we have all gone through that. Shikha is also not an overnight product," she said.

contribute to the Pakistan men's Dhoni most powerful batsman I have ever seen: Chappell

 $F^{\rm ormer\ India\ coach\ Greg\ Chappell\ said\ that}_{\rm MS\ Dhoni\ is\ the\ most\ powerful\ batsman\ he}$

Chappell was coach of the Indian team for two controversy-riddled years between 2005 and 2007 in which he clashed with several senior members of the team, especially then-captain and current BCCI President Sourav Ganguly. His time, however, was also known for the

rise of several younger players in the squad including Dhoni and Suresh Raina.

"I vividly remember that I was left awestruck when I saw him batting for the first time. He was definitely the most exciting cricketer in India at that time. He used to hit the ball from the most unusual positions. He is the most powerful batsman I have ever seen," said Chappell during a chat session on the Facebook handle of the Playwrite Foundation.

Bumrah top contender for BCCI's

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is expect-

Led to be the BCCI nomination for the prestigious

Arjuna Award this year after missing out on senior-

in on nominations for the men's and women's cat-

egories later this month but the Gujarat pacer's stupendous performance in the last four years makes

men's category, senior opener Shikhar Dhawan

could also be preferred as he missed out in 2018

tion — Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed

years in international cricket while the criteria of

selection requires performance of at least three years

of international cricket last year, missed out to Jadeja,

who is senior as well as a consistent performer for

104 wickets from 64 ODIs and 59 wickets from 50

T20Is, making for a phenomenal four years in India

ICC's No 1 ranked ODI bowler. He is the only Asian

bowler to pick up five-wicket hauls in South Africa, England, Australia and West Indies," the source said.

Mohammed Shami's name this time around as the

police case filed against him by his estranged wife

alleging domestic violence and adultery means that

In case of Dhawan, his seniority

is a factor as all his contemporaries

(Virat Kohli, Ravichandran Ashwin, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya

Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and

Jadeja) have got the award.

out of action for a con-

In the women's

section, all-rounder

Deepti Sharma, for

her consistent

show over the past

four years includ-

ing India's highest ODI score of

188, is one of

the names

pacer Shikha

along with

Pandey.

siderable period last year after sustaining

multiple injuries.

Dhawan was, however,

despite the Board sending his nomination.

The BCCI office-bearers are expected to zero

If BCCI decides to send multiple names in the

"Last year, we had sent three names in men's sec-

Bumrah lost out as he had completed only two

"That's why Bumrah, who completed three years

The 26-year-old has 68 wickets from 14 Tests,

"He certainly has the best credentials. He was

It is highly unlikely that BCCI will send

Arjuna award nomination

ity to Ravindra Jadeja in 2019.

him the most worthy candidate.

Shami," a BCCI source said.

many years," the source added.

at the highest level.

he won't be eligible.



Greg Chappell and MS Dhoni in a file picture

"I remember his knock of 183 against Sri anka and how he tore them apart. It was power hitting at its very best. The next match was in Pune. I asked MS, 'why don't you play along the ground more instead of trying to hit every ball to the boundary'. We were chasing 260 odd and were in a good position and Dhoni was playing a contrasting innings to the one he had played just a couple of days before. "We still needed 20 runs to win and Dhoni

asked me, through 12th man RP Singh if he could hit sixes. I told him not until the target was in single digit. When we needed six runs to win, he finished the game with a six," he said.

In later years, Dhoni would become one of the most successful captains of all time, leading India to the 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 World Cup titles. He would also become known for the efficiency with which he managed to successfully finish run-chases with his innings structured in the manner Chappell spoke about.

"I always used to challenge him if he could

finish the game. There used to be a booming smile on his face, whenever he used to score the winning runs. He is definitely the best finisher the game has ever seen," said Chappell.

Klopp picks Messi over CR7



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp recently had his say on the age-old debate as to which footballer is better between Argentina maestro Lionel Messi and

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo. Over the years, the two have broken

multiple scoring records and set new ones

and have set unbelievable standards for others to follow.

two many-a-times with Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool, stated he finds Messi a notch higher than Ronaldo.

"For me Messi, but I couldn't admire Ronaldo more than I do already. The explanation is the following. We've played against both already and both are almost impossible to defend. But Messi has much lower physical requirements from birth on," Klopp told Freekickerz in a video uploaded on their YouTube channel

"If you could paint yourself a perfect player, it would have Ronaldo's height, he could jump and run as high or quick as Ronaldo can do.

"And what is then even added to that is his total attitude, it is absolutely perfect and professional, it couldn't be any better," the 2019-20 Champions League winning coach added.

"And on the other side there is the small Messi who makes everything look so simple. And therefore I like him maybe a little bit more as a player on the pitch," he

Split captaincy won't work for India: Hussain (Joe) Root, two likeable, laid-

PTI NEW DELHI

n "imposing character" like An "imposing character like Virat Kohli will not be comfortable sharing power and hence split captaincy is not something that will work in Indian cricket, feels former England skipper Nasser Hussain. However, he does feel that

the Indian team management often messes up selections as they did in that World Cup semi-final against New Zealand and split coaching

might be a good idea.

Asked if split captaincy can work in India, like it did in England, Hussain didn't sound confident.

"It depends on

the character, Virat (Kohli) is such an imposing characing, it would be difficult for him to hand over, he wouldn't want to hand anything over. Whereas England, we have (Eoin) Morgan and

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka

Cricket on Wednesday

said it will take a call on

India and Bangladesh's

upcoming tours to the island nation later this

boards (BCCI and BCB)

wanted time till May 15 to

assess the situation and we

have given them that. We

will arrive at a collective

decision at the end of this

"The two cricket

back (characters)," Hussain said during a podcast on

However, split coaching is not a bad idea, said Hussain, a respected voice in world cricket. ..Coaches have so much to do, whether you should have a split coach, they have so much on their plate. Just to give you a fresh per-

"He cracked white ball for England, we didn't really crack Test match cricket. So maybe two different coaches would be the right way to go," he opined.

spective like Trevor Bayliss for

"One thing they don't do well is selection like they couldn't get a number 4 despite having so many great batsmen. Unlike New Zealand, who have only that choose from, India have so much of tal-

ent, that after two failures, a new player comes in and then a

week," said SLC chief third home series of Sri

tour.

SLC to decide fate of Ind, B'desh tour this week

executive Ashley de Silva.

India was sched-

uled to tour Sri

Lanka in June-July

for three ODIs and as

many T20Is while

Bangladesh was due

to visit in July-

World Test C'ship.

August for a three-Test

series as part of the ICC

materialise, it will be the

If the tours didn't

Max rules out Ricciardo move to Ferrari

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Max Verstappen suggested on Tuesday that Carlos Sainz would replace Sebastian Vettel at Ferrari after saying he didn't think Daniel Ricciardo would move to the Italian Formula One outfit next season.

Ricciardo and Spaniard Sainz

are the favourites to move to the Scuderia following Vettel's announcement on Tuesday that he would be leaving at the end of the 2020 campaign.

Italian-speaking, Australiaborn Ricciardo is in the last of a lucrative two-year contract with

Asked by former F1 racer David Coulthard whether the seat would go to an Italian sounding name or a Spanish sounding name, in reference to Ricciardo and McLaren driver Sainz, Verstappen said: "I think it's not going to be the Italian sounding

"Let's see. At the end of the day, it's just a guess. We'll have to wait and see," he added during the Instagram Q&A.

name.

Ricciardo, 30, has won seven Grand Prixs during his F1 career, while 25-year-old Sainz is yet to win a single race.

Verstappen also ruled himself out of moving to Ferrari, saying that he "definitely" would not be leaving Red Bull at the end of a season whose start has been delayed until July.

"I'm at Red Bull. I saw some questions coming along if I was going to Ferrari, but I'm not," he

Hodgson has no fears over PL return

AFP ■ LONDON

rystal Palace manager CRoy Hodgson is ready to take part in the Premier League's proposed restart during the coronavirus crisis despite being in the vulnerable age group. Hodgson is the oldest

manager in Premier League history at 72, potentially putting the former England coach in danger if he contracts the virus. But Hodgson said he

had no fears about getting back to work if the Premier League stick to their plan to let clubs start training next Asked if he would be

able to return, Hodgson told beIN SPORTS: "Yes. No concerns. Age is age. It's how you feel really. Your age doesn't necessarily relate to your fitness or how you're feeling, or your capacity to do a job."

Hodgson, whose long managerial career has included stints at Liverpool and Palace chairman Steve Parish



used the enforced break since to work on his fitness.

"So I have no qualms whatsoever," he said. "When I'm called back to work I shall be very happy to go back to work? Several Premier League

players have expressed concern about putting themselves and their families at Hodgson said he and NORWICH: Norwich City mote some teams who sporting director Stuart haven't finished the season," Webber has called for Championship sides to be

'Scrap promotion if C'ship

season cannot finish'

not promoted to the Premier League if the football season is not completed in both "In my opinion, it needs to be settled on the pitch, not

off the pitch," he told Sky Sports on The Football Show. "What we could not accept is a situation where

we play all our games and get relegated, but the Championship can't play, and they automatically pro-

would not have a problem if any of his players did not want to return to work before they felt completely safe. "This is going to be a matter for the individual

and a matter for the club at

the end of the day," Hodgson

Webber said. "For anyone who has got promoted from the

Championship, it is a 46 or 49-game slog. It needs to be settled on the pitch, both coming up and going down." Norwich are bottom of

the Premier League table at the moment, six points from safety with nine games to play. In the Championship, which is England's second tier, Leeds and West Brom are in the automatic promotion places.

"I would be very surprised, knowing my club and Steve Parish as I do, that he would not be sympathetic to a player that came and said: 'Look, I have serious reservations about playing."

Serena eager to return **AFP** ■ LOS ANGELES

US superstar serse Williams says she's "-col tennis" ready to play "real tennis" after the enforced rest of

"I really look forward to getting back on the court," the 23-time Grand Slam champion said in a chat with elder sister Venus during an Instagram Live workout on Tuesday.

"It's what I do best. I absolutely love playing." Tennis is on hiatus until at least mid-July thanks to the pandemic, with the French Open postponed until autumn and Wimbledon cancelled for the first time since World War II. Serena said she'd come to see the break as "a nec-

essary evil.
"I felt like my body needed it, even though I did-

n't want it," said the 38-year-old, who last won a Grand Slam title at the 2017 Australian Open. "And now I'm feeling better than ever. I'm feeling more relaxed, more fit. Now I can go out and play real tennis."

Elder sister Venus, a seven-time Grand Slam winner, began posting workouts on *Instagram* eight weeks ago and this week she invited Serena, "the greatest tennis player to ever exist - my little sister" to share a yogainspired stretching session.



Lanka to be cancelled in a

row because of the

Covid-19 pandem-

to Sri Lanka for a

three-Test series

was cancelled in

mid-March after the out-

break of the pandemic in

the middle of the second

warm up game of the

England's tour