

OPINION 6

BROKEN  
PROMISES, AGAIN

WORLD 8

TRUMP RIPS INTO CHINA,  
SAYS 'PLAGUE CAME OVER'

SPORT 12

MOURINHO DESPERATE FOR  
PREMIER LEAGUE RETURN

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MAY 15, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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NEW WORLD  
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10 VIVACITY

# Aid for migrants, vendors, kisan

Free foodgrains for 2 months; ₹10K to each street vendor; ₹2-L cr concessional credit to farmers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Free foodgrains to migrant workers, working capital loan to street vendors, and concessional credit to farmers are parts of the Government mega plan to mitigate the problems of the people worst hit by the countrywide lockdown triggered by the coronavirus crisis.

Also to benefit of migrant workers, the Government plans to allow inter-State portability of ration cards under public distribution system (PDS).

Addressing a news conference — her second in two days — Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said 8 crore migrant workers will get 5 kilograms of grains and 1 kilogram of pulses free for two months. At the same time, 50 lakh street vendors, who have lost their means of survival by the lockdown, would get a working capital loan of ₹10,000 each to restart their activities.

The Government will also provide ₹2 lakh crore of concessional credit to 2.5 crore farmers through Kisan Credit Cards. Also for post-harvest (Rabi) and current Kharif crop requirements in May and June, NABARD will provide ₹30,000 crore additional emergency working capital funding for farmers through rural cooperative banks and regional rural banks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the announcements made by his Government on



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a Press conference at NMC in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

Thursday to boost the economy will strengthen food security and credit to farmers as well as street vendors.

"Today's announcements by FM Nirmala Sitharaman will especially benefit our farmers and migrant workers," the Prime Minister wrote on Twitter.

"The announcements include a series of progressive

measures and will boost food security, credit to farmers as well as street vendors," he said.

The FM also announced ₹70,000 crore boost to the housing sector through one-year extension of subsidised loan for affordable houses for the middle-income group with an annual income of ₹6 lakh to ₹18 lakh.

Explaining the relief pack-

## STIMULUS

- 5kg of rice/wheat per family and 1 kg of chana to non-card holders
- Interest subvention support of 2% for Mudra Shishu loan payees
- PDS ration cards to be made portable; 100% coverage under "One Nation One Ration Card" by March 31, 2021
- ₹30,000 crore additional emergency working capital fund for farmers through NABARD
- Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) for migrant worker/Urban poor
- ₹6,000 crore employment push using CAMPA funds
- Extension of housing subsidy scheme for middle-income families till March 2021

age to the migrant workers, Sitharaman said the Central Government will bear ₹3,500 crore cost of giving free food grain and pulses while the State Governments will be responsible for implementation, identification of migrants and full distribution.

For small businesses, the Minister announced a 2 per cent interest subvention under MUDRA-Shishu loans of up to ₹50,000. This would cost the Government ₹1,500 crore. For street vendors, the working capital loan would cost ₹5,000 crore. She also announced ₹6,000 crore employment push,

using Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds.

Modi had on Tuesday announced a cumulative package of ₹20 lakh crore (nearly 10 per cent of GDP) to provide relief to various segments of the economy. This included ₹1.7 lakh crore package comprising of free food grains and cash to poor for three months announced in March, and ₹5.6 lakh crore stimulus provided through various monetary policy measures by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The

remaining of the ₹20 lakh crore package is being announced in tranches.

Sitharaman had in the first tranche on Wednesday unveiled a ₹5.94 lakh crore plan that mostly comprises of off-budget items such as ₹3 lakh crore of credit line to small businesses as support to shadow banks and electricity distributors.

Off-Budget items do not result in any outgo from the Government exchequer but these will aid in easing liquidity constraints for businesses once the lockdown is lifted.

## Sensex skids 886 points as stimulus euphoria fizzles out

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex plummeted 886 points on Thursday as concerns over the efficacy of the government's stimulus package and grim global cues hammered investor confidence.

After crashing over 955 points during the day, the 30-share index settled 885.72 points or 2.77 per cent lower at 31,122.89. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tanked 240.80 points, or 2.57 per cent, to close at 9,142.75.

Market players were disappointed as the immediate spend out of the Government's ₹20 lakh crore fiscal stimulus

package was seen to be relatively small, raising doubts about the revival of growth any time soon, experts said.

Further, global markets tanked following the WHO's comments that the novel coronavirus "may never go away".

Tech Mahindra was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, cracking 5.24 per cent, followed by Infosys, HDFC, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries and NTPC.

On the other hand, Hero MotoCorp, L&T, Maruti, UltraTech Cement and Sun Pharma led the gainers' chart, climbing up to 2.28 per cent.

Detailed report on P9

# Total 82K +ve, India adds 3,932 new cases

**With big spike in 1 day, Maha adds 1,602 with 44 deaths**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra saw another day of massive spike, reporting more than 1,600 cases during the day and 44 deaths, as the country continued to reel under the onslaught of coronavirus with a total of nearly 82,000 cases and 2,649 deaths. The day saw addition of more than 3,932 fresh cases and 97 deaths.

As India further eased lockdown allowing more business activities and States grappled with a huge flow of inter-State migrants and inter-country immigrants, the Covid-19 tally is now becoming alarming and is set to surpass China's

overall cases count which stands at 82,929.

According to reports, at the rate of compounded daily growth in this eleven-day period, the number of cases could rise to 1,00,000 by next Wednesday, three days after the current phase of the lockdown ends, posing a severe challenge for country's strained and overburdened health system.

At least 8,470 people in Delhi have been infected, of which 115 died.

The number of Covid-19 triggered deaths mounted to 49 in Mumbai's hotspot Dharavi on Thursday, even as 33 more infected cases were recorded taking the total number of positive cases in Asia's biggest slum to 1,061.

While two more persons succumbed to Covid-19 on Thursday, the authorities added seven more deaths reported earlier to the total death tally in Dharavi.

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<b>Covid-19</b>	
<b>TOTAL CASES: 81,989</b>	
<b>DEATHS: 2,649</b>	
<b>RECOVERED: 27,956</b>	

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	27,524	1,019	6,059
Tamil Nadu	9,674	66	2,240
Gujarat	9,592	586	3,753
Delhi	8,470	115	3,045
Rajasthan	4,534	125	2,638
Madhya Pradesh	4,426	237	2,171
Uttar Pradesh	3,902	88	2,072
West Bengal	2,377	215	768
Andhra Pradesh	2,205	48	1,192
Punjab	1,935	32	223

# 14 migrant workers on way home killed in 2 road accidents

PTI ■ GUNA/MUZAFFARNAGAR/ LUCKNOW

Fourteen migrant labourers were killed and nearly 60 injured in two road accidents while they were on the way to their homes in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, police said on Thursday.

In an early morning accident in Guna in Madhya Pradesh, eight UP-bound migrant workers were killed



Mangled remains of a truck carrying migrant labourers from Maharashtra to Uttar Pradesh on Thursday

PTI

and nearly 55 injured when the truck they were travelling in collided with a bus, the MP Police said.

The second accident took place in UP's Muzaffarnagar around 10.30 pm on Wednesday when six migrant workers walking to their homes in Bihar from Punjab were killed and four seriously injured after being hit by a roadways bus on the Delhi-Saharanpur Highway, officials said.

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# Work from home to be a new normal! Govt drafts guidelines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Not only private firms, but even the Government departments are set to adopt "work from home" practice soon to ensure social distancing norms till the coronavirus pandemic is checked.

A draft guideline in this regard has been circulated by the Department of Personnel Ministry to all Central Government Departments asking them to send their comments by May 21.

According to the draft, the Government may provide option for work from home to the eligible officers and staff for 15 days in a year as a matter of policy. Employees will be provided with logistic support in the form of laptops or desktops by the respective Ministries or Departments and employees will be reimbursed for internet services that they would use while working from home.

However, the draft makes it clear that papers marked "classified or secret" will not be



processed while working from home for the time being till the National Informatics Centre (NIC) evaluates existing security protocol for remote access of classified files and information in consultation with Home Ministry and propose suitable guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for handling such material on e-office.

The officials, working from home, have to be dressed properly and maintain all norms of office environment while attending video-conference during and after the ongoing

lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are 48.34 lakh Central Government employees. Preparing for life amid Covid-19, the Ministry said the steps were being initiated because the virus necessitated many Ministries to operate from home to maintain social distancing. It is quite likely that for the near future, the central secretariat will continue to go for staggered attendance and variable working hours to maintain social distancing at workplace, the Ministry said.

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## CAPSULE

**MAHA: UDDHAV ELECTED UNOPPOSED TO COUNCIL**

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and eight other candidates belonging to the ruling and Opposition parties were declared elected unopposed to the State Legislative Council on Thursday.

**HC TO DELHI: DECIDE ON ONLINE SALE OF LIQUOR**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court has asked the AAP Government to take a decision regarding online sale of alcohol by May 15. A Bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Sangita Dhingra Sehgal bound the Delhi Government to its assurance that it will take a decision regarding online sale by May 15.

**FAILED STUDENTS OF IX, XI TO GET ANOTHER CHANCE**

**New Delhi:** Students of classes IX and XI, who failed in the exams this year, will get a one-time opportunity to appear in school-based tests and improve their performance in view of the Covid-19 situation, the CBSE has announced.

# RSS-backed BMS to protest against labour laws freeze

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

— ruled by non-BJP parties.

Continued on Page 2

The labour wing of the RSS — Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) — on Thursday called for a nationwide protest on May 22 against the dilution of labour welfare by three BJP-ruled States, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

The BMS announcement comes on the heels of similar protests earlier announced by other Central trade unions affiliated to the Congress, Left parties and trade unions not affiliated to any political parties.

The BMS condemned the total withdrawal of labour laws in UP, MP and Gujarat and criticised the move of increasing working hours from 8 to 12 by States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha

## PIL in SC against dilution of labour welfare laws

**New Delhi:** A PIL was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday challenging the decisions of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to exempt industrial units from labour welfare statutes and allowing them to take steps such as increasing "daily and weekly working hours" and depriving workers of their right to move courts on the ground of Covid-19 pandemic.

## AYUSH's corona medicine trial to begin in week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Trials of four traditional coronavirus drugs developed by the AYUSH Ministry and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will begin within a week.

Union Minister Shripad Y Naik on Thursday tweeted that the AYUSH Ministry and CSIR are working together on validating four Ayush formulations against Covid-19. He said trials will start within one week.

"The @moayush & the @CSIR\_IND are working together on validating four Ayush formulations against #COVID19Pandemic and the trials will start within one week. These formulations will be tried as an add-on therapy and standard care for COVID-19 patients. I am sure and quite hopeful that, our traditional medicinal system will show the way to overcome this pandemic," Naik tweeted.

Continued on Page 2

## Additional 6K children could die daily due to Covid: UNICEF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Covid-19 pandemic weakening the health systems and disrupts routine health-care services across the world, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said that an additional 6,000 children might die daily from preventable causes in the next six months.

The UNICEF has now requested US \$1.6 billion to support its humanitarian response for children impacted by the pandemic. The health crisis is "quickly becoming a child rights crisis. And without urgent action, a further 6,000 under-fives could die each day," it said.

In India, the UNICEF said its plan to reach the most vulnerable women and children currently has a funding gap of US \$19.3million.

Continued on Page 2

## DU may go for 'Open Book' UG, PG final exams from July 1

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University may opt for "Open Book" mode examinations for its final year postgraduate and undergraduate students from July 1 if the Covid-19 situation doesn't normalise, the university said on Thursday.

Under the "Open-Book" mode of examination, the student will be able to refer books, notes and other study materials to answer the questions. Students will sit in their homes and will download question papers for their respective course from the portal. They will upload the answers in a span of two hours.

All examinations shall be conducted in three sessions in a day, including Sunday.

Continued on Page 2

# Mallya's extradition within a month as UK SC rejects plea

PTI ■ LONDON

In a major setback, embattled Liquor baron Vijay Mallya on Thursday lost his application seeking leave to appeal in the UK Supreme Court, setting a 28-day clock on extradition proceedings.

It marks a big legal blow to Mallya, who last month lost his High Court appeal against an extradition order to India on charges of fraud and money laundering related to unrecovered loans to his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

The 64-year-old businessman had 14 days to file his plea to seek permission to move the SC on the High Court judgment from April 20, which dismissed his appeal against a Westminster Magistrates' Court extradition order certified by the UK Home Secretary.

The latest decision, referred to as a "pronouncement", means that under the India-UK Extradition Treaty, the UK Home Office is now expected to formally certify the court order for Mallya to be extradited to India within 28 days.

"The court having signified its intention to refuse to certify a point of law of general public importance with a view to an appeal to the Supreme Court," notes the pronouncement by Lord Justice Stephen Irwin and Justice Elisabeth Laing, the two-member bench at the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

It sets the 28-day "required period", as defined by Section 36 and Section 118 of the UK Extradition Act 2003, within which the extradition must be carried out.

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## ON REQUEST OF PARENTS

# Another chance for failed students of Classes IX, XI

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Students of classes 9 and 11, who failed in the exams this year, will get a one-time opportunity to appear in school-based tests and improve their performance in view of the Covid-19 situation, the CBSE has announced. The board had last month announced promoting all students up to class 8, irrespective of their performance in the exams.

"In view of requests from parents and students, as a one-time measure in an extraordinary situation, the CBSE has decided that all failed students of classes 9 and 11 will be given an opportunity to appear in a school-based test again. The opportunity will be extended to students irrespective of whether their exams have been completed and results announced or have not been completed. The facility will be extended irrespective of the number of sub-

jects and attempts," CBSE Exam Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said. The board has clarified that the one-time opportunity is being extended only in the current year in view of the unprecedented conditions of COVID-19 and the benefit will not be extended in the future. "Schools, by providing remediation to such students, can conduct online, offline or innovative tests and may decide on promotion on the basis of the test. The test can be taken in all subjects in which the students have failed. Before holding the test, the schools will give sufficient time to the students to prepare," Bhardwaj said.

The board reiterated that this exemption is to be extended to all students, even if they were given the opportunity prior to the notification. "This is an unprecedented situation. Children are confined at home. Their schools are closed. They are experiencing mental stress

and anxiety. Parents are worried about salaries and the health of the family. In this difficult time, children who have not been able to clear school examinations will be even more upset.

"In such a difficult time, all of us will have to make joint efforts to relieve students from stress and help them mitigate their anxiety," Bhardwaj said. HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank also addressed a live webinar dedicated for teachers and educators from across the country. Pokhriyal expressed his gratitude towards the teachers' community, who had risen to the occasion and taken up the challenging task of imparting education to the students even during times of such crisis. He also added that millions of students are benefiting from the online classes that are being held by the teachers during the Covid-19 lockdown.

## RSS-backed BMS to protest...

**From Page 1**

"It is learnt that many other States are readying to follow the trend. This is unheard in history and is rare even in most undemocratic countries," the BMS said in a statement.

The Sangh said its State units have written to State Chief Ministers but only Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has shown the courtesy to meet its delegation. The Mazdoor Sangh said that migrant worker's issues have aggravated mainly because there is gross violation of Migrant Labour Act by most of the States.

"Hence we are pushed to

the wall and there is no other way out except going for agitation. Hence the BMS decided nationwide agitation in solidarity with the fight against the anti-worker Ordinances in UP, MP, Gujarat as well as increase of working hours in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha," BMS general secretary Virjesh Upadhyay said.

This comes just days after UP, MP and Gujarat - all BJP-ruled States - exempted a chunk of labour laws for firms willing to invest in these States. The move was taken to create jobs for those leaving big cities in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. Corporate and Industry, according to observers, wants Governments to 'simplify' labour laws if they want global firms to come and invest.

## DU may go for 'open...

**From Page 1**

A detailed date sheet is likely to be notified by the end of this month.

"In case the situation does not appear to be normal in view of Covid-19 and to maintain social distancing, safety and health of the students, the university will adopt alternative mode of examinations i.e. Open Book Examinations (OBE) for final semester/term/year UG and PG students of all programmes and streams along with arrears (ER) of previous semesters/term/year," the notification said.

# Will allow essential staff to cross borders: Haryana to Delhi HC

**New Delhi:** The Haryana Government on Thursday gave an undertaking in the Delhi High Court that movement of people engaged in essential services, including Government and private doctors, nurses, officials of police, courts and municipal bodies, will be allowed between Delhi and Haryana on production of e-passes during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Haryana Government also assured the high court that movement of trucks carrying essential and non-essential goods between Delhi and Haryana as well as transiting through the neighbouring state shall be allowed.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Sanjeev Narula, which conducted the high hearing through video

conferencing, noted that in view of the undertaking given by the counsel for the Haryana government, the petitioner does not wish to press the Public Interest litigation (PIL) and the court disposed of the petition.

The court was hearing a PIL by petitioner O P Gupta, through advocate Nitin Garg, seeking direction to the Centre to take action against the Haryana government for adopting a restrictive policy and not allowing the movement of people involved in essential services like doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitation workers, staff of Delhi Police, Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi Jal Board, Municipal Corporations and courts between Delhi and Haryana. **PTI**

# Mallya's extradition within a month...

**From Page 1**

The UK Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said Mallya's appeal to certify a point of law was rejected on all three counts – of hearing oral submissions, grant a certificate on the questions as drafted, and grant permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. The government of India response to the appeal application had been submitted earlier this week.

Earlier on Thursday, Mallya took to Twitter to reiterate his plea for the Indian government to take the money owed to the Indian PSU banks. "Please take my money unconditionally and close," he said. The leave to appeal to the Supreme Court is on a point of law of general public importance, which according to experts is a very high threshold that is not often met.

As a further step, in principle, Mallya can also apply to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) to prevent his extradition on the basis that he will not receive a fair trial and that he will be detained in conditions that breach Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which the UK is a signatory.

The extradition process would be held up if such an application is made to the ECHR and until it is decided. However, the threshold for an ECHR appeal is also extremely high, with very limited chance of success in Mallya's case because he would also have to demonstrate that his arguments on those grounds before the UK courts have been previously rejected.

# Virus claims 44 new lives in Maha

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Maharashtra continued to be country's Achilles' heel in its fight against coronavirus as 44 more persons died of Covid-19 and a record 1,602 people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State on Thursday.

The total Covid-19 death toll in Maharashtra crossed 1000-mark as the fatality tally rose to 1019 on Thursday.

The 1602 infected cases reported on Thursday, is the highest-ever day's infection tally in the state. With the latest positive cases, the total number of infected cases has gone to 27,524. "Of the total infected cases, the active cases account for 20441," a state health bulletin said.

Of the 44 deaths reported

on Thursday, Mumbai accounted for 25 deaths, while there were ten deaths in Navi Mumbai, five in Pune, two in Aurangabad and one each Panvel and Kalyan-Dombivli. Ten deaths reported from Navi Mumbai on Thursday were from the period between April 14 and May 14.

Of those dead, 31 were men while 13 were women. "Twenty one of them aged over 60 years, 20 were from the age group 40 to 59 years and 3 were aged below 40 years. Thirty four out of 44 patients (77%) had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease," the health bulletin said.

With the fresh fatalities and infections, the total number of deaths in Mumbai rose to 621 and infected cases to 16,738.

## Supply gap...

**From Page 1**

In Mumbai, prices of pulses have witnessed an increase of ₹10-20 per kilogram during the lockdown. For instance, arhar dal is being sold at ₹115 per kilogram, an increase of ₹96 per kilogram since February 15. In Chandigarh, it is selling for ₹95 per kilogram, up from ₹76 a kilogram on 20 March. The retail price of urad dal in Gurugram jumped by ₹30 a kilogram due to panic buying, short supply due to bottlenecks in transportation and hoarding by the unscrupulous traders.

## Work from...

**From Page 1**

"Many of the Ministries and departments in Government have successfully managed and rendered exemplary results in fight against the ongoing pandemic outbreak during the lockdown period by leveraging e-office and video conferencing facilities of NIC. This was the first of its kind of experience in Government of India," it said.

The draft has given broad SOPs that will ensure smooth and seamless functioning of the Government for continuity of the office works besides imparting resilience in the ecosystem even in post-lockdown situation.

## Additional 6K...

**From Page 1**

With a dramatic increase in the costs of supplies, shipment and care, the agency appeal is up from a USD 651.6 million request made in late March - reflecting the devastating socio-economic consequences of the disease and families' rising needs.

"Schools are closed, parents are out of work and families are under strain," UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said, adding, "As we reimagine what a post-Covid world would look like, these funds will help us respond to the crisis, recover from its aftermath, and protect children from its knock-on effects."

The estimate of the 6,000 additional deaths from preventable causes over the next six months is based on an analysis by researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, published on Wednesday in the Lancet Global Health Journal. UNICEF said it was based on the worst of three scenarios analysing 118 low and middle-income countries, estimating that an additional 1.2 million deaths could occur in just the next six months, due to reductions in routine health coverage, and an increase in so-called child wasting.

**NAGAR NIGAM HARIDWAR**  
**Corrigendum**  
In Tender Notice No 217 published in this newspaper on **14.05.20** Last sentence should be read **"No Physical Documents needed"** instead of physics documents. Other terms & conditions remain the same.

**noida**  
**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
**Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)**  
**Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.  
**Rs.25.00 - 70.00 Lacs**

S.N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
A	1	19/GM(R)/SM(WC-5)/2019-20 M/o Road (Providing & Laying C.C. Paver Blocks on Patri of internal road in Pocket-12A, Sector-34), Noida	₹ 45.51
	2	03/GM(R)/SM(WC-5)/2020-21 M/o Road (Repair of Damaged Footpath on Road between Sector-33A-35 (Side of Sector-33A), Noida	₹ 25.13
	3	07/GM(R)/SM(WC-5)/2020-21 M/o Drain (Repair of Damaged Drain along with Plot No. A-12 to A-14 and Internal Drains in Sector - 68), Noida.	₹ 48.28
	4	03/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2020-21 M/o Road (Repair of RCC Central verge at different location on DSC Road from Sector-18 under pass to Sector - 15 Metro Station), Noida	₹ 34.02
	5	03/GM(R)/SM(WC-1)/2020-21 M/o Drain (Strengthening of Drain, culvert and P/L Interlocking tiles in A-Block in Sector -56), Noida	₹ 63.04

**Which can be uploaded by Date: 28.05.2020 upto 5.00 PM.**  
**Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 29.05.2020 at 11.00 AM.**

B	6	11/GM(R)/SM(WC-5)/2019-20 M/o Road (Providing & Laying D.B.M. and B.C on road infront of B-96 to B-81, Sector-60), Noida	₹ 26.33
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**Which can be uploaded by Date: 21.05.2020 upto 5.00 PM.**  
**Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 22.05.2020 at 11.00 AM.**

**General Manager (R)**  
**Noida**

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No.001-04/P&W/NIT/424 Chachai dtd. 04.05.2020

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
"Through E-tendering only"  
M.P. Power Generating Co. Ltd. Invites electronic tenders from experienced contractors/vendors for the works/ supplies as detailed below for ATPS, MPPGCL, Chachai:-

Tender ID.	Name of works/Material	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Duration of work/ Quantity/ Period	Tender cost including GST	EMD Rs.	Last date of submission of tender	Due date of Technical opening of tender
2020_MPPGC_86574	Work contract for assistance in operation of equipment & auxiliaries of CHP-210 MW (Part-A) ATPS. Chachai consisting of conveyor No. 25 to conveyor No.28 A/B, including secondary crusher, stacker /reclaimer & belt feeders etc.	52,86,899/-	12 months	2000/-	1,32,200/-	08.06.2020 Up to 15:00 HRS	11.06.2020 From 15:30 HRS onwards
2020_MPPGC_86577	Work contract for Daily cleaning, sweeping & dusting work of Turbine area & associated buildings, Service Building & E.C.R. of 210 MW of unit No.5, PH-III, ATPS, MPPGCL, Chachai.	28,12,500/-	12 months	1000/-	70,300/-	08.06.2020 Up to 15:00 HRS	11.06.2020 From 15:30 HRS onwards
2020_MPPGC_86579	Work contract for assistance in operation of equipment & auxiliaries of CHP-210 MW (Part-A) ATPS. Chachai consisting of conveyor No. 21 A/B to conveyor No.24 A/B, including rotary breakers, roller screen Magnetic separators, plough feeder reject conveyor A,B,C,D and BFD-1 A/B etc.	51,94,418/-	12 months	2000/-	1,29,900/-	08.06.2020 Up to 15:00 HRS	12.06.2020 From 15:30 HRS onwards

**Note:-** For details please visit the website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in). For any change in specification/technical data please visit regularly our website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in). Any addendum/corrigendum shall not be published in news paper.

**SE (P&W)**  
**ATPS MPPGCL Chachai**

**OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA**  
Letter No. 1921 /14M-AC/2020 **NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER** Dated : 04-05-2020

1. The Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra invites the Percentage rate bids on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, PWD in respective category. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the Instructions to Bidders of Bid document to qualify for the award of the contract.

2.

Sl. No.	Di-strict	Name of Work	Esti-mated cost (Rs.in Lac)	Bid Secu-rity (Rs.in Lacs)	Cost of Docu-ments (+GST= (In Rs.))	Time of Com-pletion	Address of Executive Engineer, executing the work	Address of Superin-tending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Cate-gory of Con-tractor
1	Agra	Construction of 32 Capacity Hostel / Barrack and 01 Vivechana Room in Thana Pidora.	113.44	7.67	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	11 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A & B
2	Agra	Construction of 32 Capacity Hostel / Barrack and 01 Vivechana Room in Thana Bah	114.35	7.72	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	11 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A & B
3	Agra	Construction of 32 Capacities Hostel/ Barrack and 01 Vivechana Room in Thana Khura Rathor	137.37	8.87	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	11 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A & B
4	Agra	Construction of 15 Capacity Hostel/ Barrack and 01 Vivechana Room in Thana Fatehpur Sikar.	73.36	5.67	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	10 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class B & C
5	Agra	Construction work of Hostels/barrack for capacity of 48 person and 01 Vivechana room in Thana Kotwall of Distt. Agra	137.50	8.88	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	11 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, (TTZ) P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A, B
6	Agra	Construction work of Hostel/ Barrack for capacity of 32 person and 01 Vivechana room in Thana Fatehabad of Distt. Agra	112.00	7.60	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	11 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, (TTZ) P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A, B
7	Agra	Construction of Hostel / Barrak for 48 Employees & One Investigation Room in Police Station Lohia Mandi in Distt. Agra	132.35	8.62	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	11 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A, B
8	Agra	Constructio of Hostel / Barrak for 16 Employees & One Investigation Room in Police Station Iradat Nagar in Distt. Agra	85.00	6.25	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	11 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A, B
9	Agra	Construction of Hostel / Barrak for 16 Employees & One Investigation Room in Police Station Kheraga in Distt. Agra	76.60	5.83	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	10 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A, B
10	Agra	Construction of Hostel / Barrak for 16 Employees & One Investigation Room in Police Station Kheraga in Distt. Agra	70.80	5.54	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	10 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A, B, C
11	Agra	Construction of Hostel/Barrak for 16 Employees & One Investigation Room in Police Station Basai Jagner in Distt. Agra	80.50	6.03	STC+TC +GST= 2340.00	10 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Agra	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	Class A, B

3. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from **20.05.2020 to 26-05-2020 upto 12:30 Hours**. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before **12:30 Hours on 26.05.2020**. Technical Bid received online will be opened on **27.05.2020 at 12:30 Hours**. 4. The bidder are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as GO. No. 317 / 23-7-2018-176 Sa./2006 TC-1 dated 10.04.2019 follows as : 1. Online Tender cost towards the bid document (as per Col. No-6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable). 2. Online Bid security (as per Col. No.-5) in favour of designation of Column 8 by internet banking of E-Tender portal Account. 3. Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB as per G.O. No. 3070/78-2-2018-42 I.T.2017(22) I.T. and Electronics Anubhag-2 Lucknow Dt. 03.01.2018. 5. Above works D.P. Valid up to two year from the date of handover to the user agency. Work will be executed according to the specifications prescribed for the building work of Public Works Department / Central Public Works Department NBC and as per direction of engineer in charge of work. 6. To participate in the aforesaid tender process, contractor registered in building work in UP PWD will be eligible as per the limit prescribed in registration of respective category. But contractor should have experience (as per building work T-2) in similar nature of work certified through experience certificate issued by executive engineer or above rank.

**(G.S. Verma)**  
Executive Engineer  
P.D. P.W.D. Agra

**(Nareesh Kumar)**  
Executive Engineer  
C.D.-1(TTZ), P.W.D. Agra

**(J.P. Singh)**  
Executive Engineer  
C.D.-2, P.W.D. Agra

**(Yogesh Panwar)**  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
AGRA CIRCLE, PWD, AGRA

**U.P.: 151305, Date : 11.05.2020, विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।**

## Total 82K +ve, India...

**From Page 1**

"The seven deaths which we have added to the tally today are the ones of persons who had died earlier on different dates, but the information about their deaths conveyed to ward office concerned subsequently. With the two fresh deaths and seven deaths added to death tally today, the total number of deaths in Dharavi has mounted to 49," a senior officer of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

A maximum five infected cases were reported from Kumbharwada. Matunga Labour Camp, from where a maximum number of coronavirus cases have been reported in recent weeks, reported four positive cases on Thursday. Two positive cases each were reported from Chanda Bazar and Jeevanjyot Rahiwas Sangh area.

Maharashtra is followed by Tamil Nadu with 9,624 cases (447 new cases) and Gujarat (324 new cases) with 9,592 cases and 586 deaths. Tamil Nadu, in comparison, has reported less fatalities at 66. Maharashtra has also reported the highest number of deaths at 1,602.

**OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Letter No. 1895 /14M-AC/2020 Dated : 18-04-2020

1. The Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, PWD, Road and Bridge work. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	Di-strict	Name of Work	Esti-mated cost (Rs.in Lac)	Ear-nest Money (Rs.in Lacs)	Cost of Docu-ments (In Rs.)	Time of Com-pletion	Address of Executive Engineer, executing the work	Address of Superin-tending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Cate-gory of Con-tractor
1	Mathura	Reconstruction of Bridge at Chhata Sherghar Nauheel Bajna Gomat Road in km 27 in District Mathura.	267.00	15.35	Rs. 200.00 STC+ 300.00 TC +GST= 2336.00	18 Months	Executive Engineer, CD-1, P.W.D. Mathura	Superin-tending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D. Agra	A

2. Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season.

3. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from **20.05.2020 to 26-05-2020 upto 12:30 Hours**. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before **12:30 Hours on 26.05.2020**. Technical Bid received online will be opened on **27.05.2020 at 12:30 Hours**.

4. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.

5. Contractor should Quote their rates without G.S.T. which shall be paid extra as per applicable at the time of payment.

6. The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No.-742/78-2-2018-42 I.T.2017 T.C., I.T & Electronics Section-2 Dated-03-12-2018 follows as :  
(1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable).  
(2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 8 by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account.  
(3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB as per G.O. No. 3070/78-2-2018-42 I.T.2017(22) I.T. and Electronics Anubhag-2 Lucknow Dt. 03.01.2018.

7. Labour Cess @ 1.00% will be Deducted from contractors bill at the time of payment.

8. The Defect liability period will be Two Years Calculated from the Completion date.

9. Bidder Should have Experience for construction of Bridge work.

**(Brijesh Kumar Deepak)**  
Executive Engineer  
Construction Division-1,  
P.W.D., Mathura

**(Yogesh Pawar)**  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
AGRA CIRCLE, PWD,  
AGRA

**U.P.: 151180, Date : 08.05.2020, विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।**



**LOCKDOWN 4.0 RELAXATIONS**

# Meet over easing curbs held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, along with Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), reviewed health preparedness and relief measure to contain Covid -19.

It may be noted that this review meeting was held a few days before submission of proposal for lockdown 4.0 relaxations keeping the corona fatalities in top priority.

According to Lt Governor Bajjal, the health department has been tasked to ramp up medical facilities keeping in view Delhi's present statistics and case scenario. "DDMA presented relief measures being taken for distressed population including migrant workers," L-G tweeted.

All stakeholders informed meticulous arrangements for their movement, shelter homes and rehabilitation as per directions of Government of India should be ensured.

Lt Governor advised to intensify surveillance of IIL and continued focus on surveillance micro plan, proper delineation and efficient perimeter control with active case search and contact tracing.

In the meeting Districts Magistrates and DCPs have been tasked to ensure seamless movement of essential goods/ services.

Principal Secretary (Health) presented Covid-19 statistic of Delhi, where it was informed that upto 14th May, 2020 there are 8,470 cases in Delhi out of which 3,045 have recovered and



total active cases are 5,310, total cumulative testes till date are 1,19,736. It was informed that Delhi's doubling rate is more than 12 days, recovery rate 32.88 per cent, fatality rate 1.13 per cent, tests conducted per million 4,968 and positive confirmation rate is 6.9 per cent.

Delhi Government officials also informed that distribution of free of cost PDS ration with 50 per cent enhanced allocation has benefited 71 lakh beneficiaries.

"Free Dry Ration has also been distributed to over 2 million people not having Ration Cards," a Government official said.

On migrants workers , it was informed that as per directions of Government of India movement of the stranded migrant labour has been permitted since April 29, 2020 strictly as per GoI protocol.

GNCTD has appointed Nodal Officers for each State to coordinate the movement of migrant labourers.

"Workers housed in the Shelters belonging to Bihar, MP, J&K have already been moved to respective States by GNCTD.

Out of over 12,000 migrant labourers in shelters over 3,500 have moved and safely reached their homes. DDMA is collecting information of the distressed , stranded people of other States in Delhi. Till now over, 60,000 people have registered on this portal," an official said.

Interacting with officials, the appointed officials said that for movement of Indians stranded abroad, 2300 rooms have been requisitioned and more have been identified for quarantine in Delhi. "Districts and other agencies are working tirelessly to cater to the increasing demands for quarantine centres and Covid Care Centres."

For corona patients, the Delhi Government has made arrangements in Government buildings.

"DUSIB Flats, School Buildings, Hotels etc. have requisitioned to be used for quarantine and Covid care. 20 Covid care centres have been established in Delhi with the capacity of 5,949," a Government officer said.

To revive economic activities GNCTD authorised the DMs to issue e-passes in ratio-

nal manner for seamless movement of essential goods and services and facilitate E-commerce Operators. Industrial estates are allowed to open as per directions of GoI, they are being facilitated. Other activities including in-situ construction activities, standalone shops, self-employed work have also started.

Lt. Governor directed DDMA to ensure screening of stranded people moving out of or entering the national capital from other states strictly as per the SOP. Govt. of India be requested for more trains as per requirement. He also instructed to constitute dedicated teams comprising doctor, nurse, nodal officer and pharmacist for screening people with all the necessary equipment.

During the meeting Lt Governor stated that our frontline workers i.e. doctors, nurses, paramedical staffs, policemen, sanitation workers, administrative officers and teachers are tirelessly working 24X7 to contain the Coronavirus to keep us safe and it is because of them we are able to put up a brave fight to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. It should be our endeavour that there should be no compromise on the safety and security of frontline health workers.

Lt. Governor appreciated the solidarity of the residents of Delhi during the lockdown period and urged people to imbibe the core mantra advised by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji "Do Guj Doori" & "Jaan Bhi Jahan Bhi" and use Arogya Setu App to keep safe from Covid-19.

## Overwhelmed by Delhiites' suggestions: CM

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that his appeal to the people for lockdown relaxations in Delhi post May 17 has received an overwhelming response.

More than 5 lakh responses have been received through WhatsApp, e-mails, and calls in just 24 hours. "I want to quote some of them here to put forward the views of the people on whether schools, colleges, and other educational institutions should open. Maximum people have suggested that educational institutions shall remain closed until after the summer break," said Kejriwal.

He also said that responses were received on various sections, such as transport, industries, businesses, etc.

All the suggestions given by the people of Delhi discussed in the meeting with the Disaster Management Authority (DMA ) and Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal.

Interacting digitally with media, Kejriwal said, "Two days back, I had asked for suggestions from the people on the lockdown relaxations in Delhi post May 17. I had asked whether the lockdown should be extended or lifted, and the extent to which the relaxations can be given.

On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of all the states and had asked all the CMs to send suggestions to the PMO before May 15 on the level of lockdown relaxations in their states. We are going to send our sug-



gestions today."

"Based on the suggestions received by all the states, the Central government will decide on the lockdown relaxations at various locations. But, suggestions on such an important decision cannot be drafted inside an air-conditioned office. People from all walks of life including citizens, doctors, and experts must be included. Hence, I decided to appeal to the people to send in their suggestions for the same in the next 24 hours, which was till 5 PM yesterday. In only 24 hours, we received more than 5 lakh responses, including around 4,75,000 messages on WhatsApp, 10,700 e-mails, and 49,000 calls," he added.

Sharing suggestions, Kejriwal said maximum people have suggested that hotels should not resume their facilities for now, but restaurants must open barring the dine-in arrangements and take-away or home-delivery of food must resume. "Maximum have also suggested that barbershops and hair salons must not resume due to the high risk of contact. In the same way, cinema halls and swimming pools, and other such gathering places must not

open for now," he added.

"A lot of people have also asked the logic and explanation behind not going out after 7 PM, as they are of the view that the timeline should be relaxed. However, every suggestion that I saw says that senior citizens and people with other serious ailments, such as heart problems, asthma, diabetes, cancer, are exposed to higher risk and should stay indoors, including children below 10 years of age and pregnant women. Everyone has suggested that proper social distancing must be ensured, and strict fines must be imposed on those not wearing masks. People have suggested the opening of parks for increasing immunity," he said.

"Many people have given their suggestions for the resumption of transport services, including auto-rickshaws and taxis, with only one passenger allowed in autos and two passengers in taxis and disinfection of these vehicles after each ride." "A majority of people are in favor of the resumption of bus services, but with strict social distancing norms in place and not more than 25

people traveling on a single bus because not every person owns a private vehicle to get to their offices, which were opened during lockdown phase 3. People have also suggested that metros should be open in a limited manner."

Kejriwal said, "Many market associations have also given us suggestions, with a majority of associations suggesting that market places and complexes should open based on Odd-Even rules. Some people have suggested that even malls should be allowed to resume, with only 1/3rd or limited shops allowed to operate."

"We have also received suggestions from and video conferences were also held with industry associations. They have suggested the complete resumption of industries and arrangements for employing labourers living in nearby areas in Delhi. No activities in the containment zones must be allowed," he added.

Kejriwal said, "The nation went into a lockdown one and a half months back on 24th March. It was easy to put the country and Delhi into lockdown, but lifting the lockdown and reviving the economy will be much more difficult."

CM Kejriwal said, "The Disaster Management Act allows the central government to give directions to the state governments on its operations. Based on what the central government decides, various activities will be resumed in Delhi from Monday. Please follow social distancing, wear masks, and please take care of senior citizens, pregnant women, and people with co-morbidities."

## Govt sets deadline for hospitals to report coronavirus deaths

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has instructed all the hospitals to submit death summaries under the Disaster Management Act.

On mandatory testing of Government officers, Delhi Health Minister Satyender Jain said mandatory testing of Government officers has some issues. "The Centre has made a protocol for these tests. In these protocols, there are set guidelines in place." "The only way to do more testing is via rapid testing kits — which the Centre has not sanctioned as of yet. On the other hand, the RT-PCR test has a complicated procedure and not many are



willing to get this test done. No one even comes forward to get an RT-PCR test done."

Health official said that the doubling rate of cases in Delhi is 11-12 days. "We would be in a more comfortable position if the doubling rate is 20 or more than 20 days," Jain added.

He further said that plan for lockdown 4.0 is being formulated, keeping social distancing and other protocols in mind. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had sought suggestions from the public, we got around 5 lakh suggestions and are all being processed and policy is being made. In a day or two, you will know what will be opened. Social distancing will be strictly followed.

"We have to live with Covid-19. There are five most important points we all should remember, maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask, washing hands, being extra cautious for senior citizens and for people with comorbidity," he added.

## Taking all precautions for nationals' arrival: Cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Since the Union Government launched 'Vande Bharat Mission' to evacuate Indians stranded abroad in other countries, the Delhi Police on Thursday said that for the seamless immigration with coordination from other authorities, all necessary precautions are being taken and people including officials are strictly maintaining the rule of social distancing.

Following the announcement of Vande Bharat Mission, Sanjay Singh, Special CP, Transport Range had coordinated with various agencies including Ministry of External Affairs, Bureau of Civil Aviation, GMR Ltd, Immigrations, Customs, CISF & Medical authorities. "Hotels and Guest



Houses were lined up and Transport authorities were also coordinated to ensure smooth transportation of arrived immigrants to the quarantine centres," said Rajeev Ranjan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport.

SN Shrivastava, Delhi Commissioner of Police supervised the whole exercise, resulting in proper facilitation of all such passengers without

inconvenience.

"During the "Vande Bharat Mission" the arrival of Indian Nationals had commenced on 08/05/2020 through flights operated by Air India. Local Police is deployed at Terminal-3 of IGI Airport to bring the passengers from Immigration to medical Screening Hall. In order to prevent the spread of deadly virus, the medical screening of the passengers is being conducted in the designated halls of Airport.

After medical screening; the passengers are being kept for a period of 14 days quarantine at different designated places in Delhi," said the DCP.

"After this with the approval of Nodal officer, ADM/New Delhi, passengers are being taken to the buses keeping in mind the enforcement of the directive of social distancing. After this, the buses with passengers are being escorted by police personnel to their destination, in order to prevent any slipping of passenger from the bus. The passengers are taken to different quarantine facilities spread over the city including the hotels of Aerocity," the DCP said.

"At designated quarantine centres Police force is being deployed round the clock to ensure that nobody goes out; so

that the Corona virus could not be spread. Till date total 1186 passengers have arrived from abroad and out of them 685 have been kept in quarantines at designated centres in Delhi. The passengers of other states have also been assisted and they are being received by the representatives of concerned state in the manner explained above; for their medical screening," he said.

"So far, a total number of 174 passengers have been sent in the hotels of Aerocity. About 55 Police personnel from IGI Airport are being deployed at Aerocity round the clock to secure them in order to stop the spread of the Virus. In addition 80 police personnel are deployed at terminal-3 of IGI Airport for the above arrangement of medical screening," the DCP added.

## Work for 4 underground reservoirs begins

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has started constructing four 'underground reservoirs' (UGR) and Booster Pumping Stations (BPS) which will improve water supply to the residents of West Kamal Vihar, Bijwasan, Mahipalpur, Rangpuri, Mundka, Karawal Nagar, Mustafabad, parts of Vikaspuri and Nangloi Jat constituency.

With 39.18 MGD supply capacity, these UGR-BPS and expected to be completed by the end of September, a senior DJB official said.

A 26.80 Million Litres (ML) capacity UGR will be constructed at Sonia Vihar,



29.50 ML capacity UGR at Mundka, a 3.0 ML capacity UGR at Mahipalpur and another UGR at West Kamal Vihar will be constructed with each reservoir will also have a booster pumping station, he said.

DJB Chairman Raghav Chaddha said that intensive patrolling and repairs of leak-

ages in the transmission and peripheral water mains are planned and will be executed before onset of summers.

"This will minimise shutting down of the system from the water treatment plants during summer. Old water pipe lines have been replaced to reduce physical losses and contamination of water. Preventive maintenance works and rational distribution of water would result in improved supply of water in areas during the upcoming summer season," he said.

Moving ahead with its commitment of constant endeavor to develop planned water supply to meet the growing demands of Delhi, Chaddha said that with com-

missioning of these projects lakh of residents of these constituency will be benefitted.

"As an immediate measure to meet water demand and to cover more areas, DJB is leaving no stone unturned in providing succour to people. As per its mandate, DJB is bringing more areas into its water network and has set 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 cater the need of consumers during the summer, the DJB has targeted water production of about 925 MGD in its summer action plan by optimising all its resources.

## Covid death: SDMC gives ₹10L to sanitation worker's family, job to son

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) sanctioned ex-gratia amount of ₹10 lakh to family of sanitation worker Vinod who died of coronavirus while performing his duties as a corona warrior.

South Mayor Sunita Kangra also handed over an appointment letter to his younger son, Sumit.

"The family of deceased Safai Sainik submitted the claim form in prescribed format. After verification of claim and recommendation of the competent authority, the welfare benefits will be extended to the family of deceased. The



amount of ₹10 lakh is sanctioned as per the policy announced by SDMC for its employees. The cheque will be handed over to the family by Deputy Commissioner, central zone shortly," the SDMC said in a statement.

Kangra said that SDMC is committed to provide all possi-

ble assistance to those who are fighting in the forefront against the deadly virus.

Chairman of the Standing Committee Bhupinder Gupta said that it is our responsibility to care for the employees who were risking their lives while performing their duties and extend every help to them.

Leader of House Kamaljeet Sehrawat said that in this national pandemic, SDMC is supporting and helping all the frontline workers and employees who are working selflessly to fight against Covid-19. The civic body will also bear all the medical expenses on the treatment the corona warriors, she added.

## Kejriwal, Cantt MLA Virender take oath as NDMC members



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and MLA Virender Singh Kadian took oath as members of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Thursday.

According to NDMC Act 1994, MLAs from New Delhi and Delhi Cantonment constituencies automatically become members of the NDMC once the Union Home Ministry notifies the NDMC of the appointment, the members are officially sworn in. Kejriwal and Kadian took oath in a special council meeting held at conference hall of NDMC Convention Centre on Thursday.

"In the exercise of the power conferred by the certain provisions of the NDMC Act, Ministry of Home Affairs, issued a notification for nomination of two elected members in NDMC. As per act every new member before taking his seat, is required to make and subscribe at a meeting of the Council an oath of affirmation in the prescribed format," a senior MDMC official said.

The official said that the NDMC act was amended in January, 2012. "In accordance with the NDMC (Amendment) Act, 2011, a thirteen member Council headed by a Chairperson governs the council," he said.

## Rlys to issue limited waiting list tickets for special trains, no RAC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways will start issuing limited waiting list tickets for different classes for special trains introduced from May 12. The Ministry said that as many as 20 waiting lists will be allowed for 1st AC and executive class, 50 for 2nd AC, 100 for 3rd AC and chair car each and 100 in sleeper coach.

The Ministry said that it has decided that there shall be no RAC (Reservation against cancellation) in special trains restored on May 5. Also, it was decided that waiting list tickets shall be issued subject to maximum limits.



"The refund rules i.e. cancellation up to 24 hours with refund of 50 per cent of fare and NIL refund within 24 hours of train departure shall be discontinued and extant refund rules i.e Railways cancellation and refund rule 2015 shall be made applicable," it said in a statement.

## Immunity drink distribution drive by police society ends

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Police Families Welfare Society (PFWS) immunity drink distribution programme concluded on Thursday at Sarai Rohilla Police Colony in the national Capital. The PFWS has started immunity drink distribution on May 4.

PFWS, President, Pratima Shrivastava, along with Mamta Gupta, Sapna Kumar and Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, were present during the occasion.

"Nearly 9,000 members of police families had the opportunity to take the drink and learnt its recipe. TV Madan Kumar, the President of Legal



Rights Council and Secretary, Raj Lakmi Mandal and were handed over appreciation letters on behalf of Pratima Shrivastava alongwith a gift containing masks and sanitiser being made by PFWS along with the memento mug and koshis-ek-asha magazine," said a PFWS official.

"In an escalation to its commitment the PFWS, in association with Legal Rights

## 10L migrant workers ferried since May 1 in Shramik trains: Rlys

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the nationwide lockdown, the Indian Railways on Thursday said that it has ferried more than 10 lakh stranded people since May 1 to 14 in over 800 Shramik Special trains.

As on 14th May, a total of 800 "Shramik Special" trains have been operationalised from various states across the country and more than 10 lakh passengers have reached their home State, the Ministry said in a statement.

"These 800 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 Bengal," it said.

Proper screening of passengers is ensured before boarding the train, it said, adding that during the journey, passengers are given free meals and water. Indian Railways had decided to operate "Shramik Special" trains subsequent to the Ministry of Home Affairs order regarding movement of migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places by special trains.



Surplus foodgrain comes handy to feed the poor

8 CR NON-RATION CARD HOLDERS TO GET BENEFIT NOW

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

India's surplus foodgrains is coming handy to feed the poor during the coronavirus pandemic. The Government on Thursday added 8 crore non-ration card holders as beneficiaries who would be given free foodgrains – 5 Kg of wheat/rice and 1 kg chana (gram) for the next two months. As per the Government's earlier decision, 80-crore ration card holders are already being provided free foodgrains and pulses.

Put together, the 88-crore beneficiaries will be provided with 608 crore kg of foodgrains (rice/wheat/gram) till June this year.

The move comes even as ration cards are being portable to allow migrant workers to access foodgrains across states. The 'one nation one ration card' scheme will be fully operational by March 2021.

According to the Food Ministry, they hold 24.7 million tonnes of wheat this year, which is more than three times the buffer stock requirements of 7.46 million tonnes. Similarly, stock of rice, including unmill paddy, was 49.15 million tonnes, against the buffer norm of 13.58 million tonnes. So, on April 1 2020, the country had about 74 million tonnes of wheat and rice as against the buffer stock norm of 21 million tonnes – more

than thrice the buffer stock norms require.

Announcing the second tranche of economic stimulus package for migrants, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, eight crore migrant workers migrants who do not have state beneficiary cards where they are, will get five kg of wheat and rice each, and a kg of chana per family per month and Rs 3,500 crore for this would be borne by the government. The central government will fully bear the cost, while state governments will be responsible for implementation and identification of migrants for distribution of dry ration. The government has earlier announced a package of Rs 1.70 lakh crore through which free rations were given for three months to 80 crore poor. The ration card holders were given additional two kg foodgrain per persons due to the nationwide lockdown.

Currently, free 5 kg food-grains per person and one kg pulses per household is being given for three months till June to PDS (ration) card holders under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Anna Yojana (PMGAY), benefitting over 80 crore poor. This is over and above the 5 kg grains given at a subsidised rate to per beneficiary under NFSA. For those migrants walking on foot, the Minister said that cooked meals are being provided by state governments. They are allowed to buy foodgrains on credit from the central pool at a subsidised rate for this purpose, the minister said. Even NGOs

and charitable bodies engaged in serving cooked meals to migrants are allowed to buy at a reduced rate of Rs 24 per kg for wheat and Rs 22 per kg for rice from the central government. The Finance Minister also clarified that the total number of migrants at 8 crore has been arrived at by counting those living in shelter camps by state governments.

At present, nearly 90 per cent of 23.5 crore ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar numbers of ration card holders (i.e. at least one member of family); nearly 85 per cent of all 80 crore beneficiaries have also seeded their Aadhaar numbers with their respective ration cards.

"This will enable migrant beneficiaries to access PDS grains from any fair price shop (FPS) in the country. About 67 crore beneficiaries in 23 states covering 83 per cent of the PDS population will be covered by national portability by August 2020," she said.

She further said 100 per cent national portability will be achieved by March 2021. All states and union territories will complete full FPS automation by March 2021, she added.

Already 17 states/UTs are ready with FPS automation. These include Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand, Tripura, Bihar, UP, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Daman and Diu.

Govt's 'jumla package' way short of what PM had promised: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing its attack against the BJP-led NDA Government on Day 2 of the announcement of economic packages by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Congress on Thursday termed it as a 'jumla package', deeply disappointing and way short of what Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised the nation. It also criticised the Finance Minister alleging her address on both the days was classic display of arrogance, ignorance and insensitivity.

On their part, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the party will ensure that the screams of migrant workers reach the government and described them as the ones carrying the country's flag.

Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements were nothing but a 'jumla package' while former Commerce Minister Anand Sharma said the country believed that Prime Minister was serious when he made the "dramatic" announcement of giving 10 per cent of the GDP as a package to revive the economy and support workers and migrant labourers, and that expectations had soared. "The finance minister's announcement dashed all hopes," he added.

Sharing a video of migrant labourers walking on the roads of the country in an attempt to reach their native places amid the coronavirus-induced lockdown, Rahul said: "There is a dense darkness and these are difficult times, have courage, all of us are standing for the safety of all of them. We will ensure that their screams reach the government and they get the help they deserve. They are not the ordinary public of the country, they are the flag bearers of the country's self-respect. We will never let them bow down."

Priyanka too took to Twitter to urge the Government to at least run busses or any kind of transport to ferry the poor people undergoing so much pain during the entire lockdown period.

Senior party leader Ahmed Patel said, "It is not an economic package. It is an empty package wrapped with speeches since the last three days." And former Union Minister Manish Tewari termed it as "unfortunate" that the entire press conference (of Sitharaman) was a "classic display of arrogance, ignorance and insensitivity".

"We expected that the finance minister would come out with what the government is doing to ferry the migrants who are walking on the roads back to their homes safely. But nothing like that happened," Tewari said.

Prez takes 30% salary cut for a year, defers limo purchase

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of Covid-19 crisis, President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday decided to take a 30 per cent salary cut for the whole year and announced a slew of other austerity measures, including deferment of purchase of the Presidential Limousine (at an estimated cost of around ₹10 crore) to be used for ceremonial occasions.

The domestic tours and programmes of the President will also be substantially reduced in order to follow social distancing restrictions and minimise expenditure, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique.

Announcing the several measures, the communique said in the President's estimation this will be a 'small but significant contribution to realise the government's vision of making India self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) and energise the nation to take up the challenge to fight the pandemic and continue our journey for development and prosperity simultaneously."

The President gets a monthly salary of ₹5 lakh. It is estimated that these measures will save nearly 20 per cent of the budget of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the current financial year, the statement said.

According to the officials, these measures will result in the saving of around ₹40-45 crore annually by the Rashtrapati Bhavan, which has an yearly budget of more than ₹200 crore including an outlay of ₹80.98 crore allocated for "staff,



household and allowance of the President".

The consumption during ceremonial occasions such as At-Home ceremonies and state banquets will also be minimised by keeping smaller guest lists, reducing the food menu and lessening usage of flowers and other decorative items, it said.

On Kovind's decision to defer the purchase of the Presidential Limousine, the communique said, "The existing resources of the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the government will be shared and used for such occasions."

The repair and maintenance work in the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be minimised to only ensure proper upkeep of assets. The Rashtrapati Bhavan will also not take up any new capital works (building and engineering works) in the current fiscal and only the ongoing works will be completed, it

said. There will be substantial reduction in the use of office consumables and a greater emphasis would be laid on using e-technology to cut down the use of paper to avoid wastage and make the office eco-friendly, the communique stated.

The President has given instructions to the Rashtrapati Bhavan to set an example by economising the expenditure, making optimal usage of resources, and dovetailing the saved money to combat Covid-19 and mitigate the people's economic plight, the communique said.

"Meanwhile, it will be ensured that such austerity measures would have no adverse impact on support given to outsourced (or) contractual workers. Other activities taken up by the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the welfare of poor people will not be affected either," it added.

Navy gets patent for PPE, to go for mass production soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The national effort to ramp up production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to fight the coronavirus pandemic has got a boost. The Navy has successfully filed a patent for its indigenously-designed PPE. The low-cost PPE will shortly go in for mass manufacturing and the Navy is looking for local producers.

development on the PPE, Navy officials said here on Thursday the patent was filed by the Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC) of Ministry of Defence, in association with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), an enterprise under the Ministry of Science and Technology. This process brings it a step closer to mass production, they said. The low-cost PPE has been developed by a Doctor of Indian

Navy, posted at the recently created Innovation Cell at Institute of Naval Medicine (INM), Mumbai. A pilot batch of PPEs has already been produced at Naval Dockyard Mumbai, a statement by the Navy said. Efforts are now on to commence mass production of this low-cost PPE and eligible firms are being identified for taking up licensed production, officials said.

The PPE developed by the

INS Jalashwa returns to Male to bring back 700 more Indians

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After evacuating 698 Indians last week, the Indian Navy warship INS Jalashwa has returned to Male, Capital of Maldives, to bring out 700 more Indians. The 17, 000-ton amphibious ship, technically known as landing platform dock (LPD), will enter the Male port on Friday morning for the rescue effort. Another ship, INS Magar, on Sunday brought out 200 Indians from there. Both the ships docked at Kochi, Kerala for disembarkation of passengers.

Giving details of the mission to bring out Indians from foreign shores by sea known as 'Operation Samudra Setu, officials said here on Thursday the second phase of this operation is now on with INS Jalashwa about to enter Male. Embarkation of Indian citizens,



who have already registered with the Indian Embassy in Maldives, will commence on Friday morning. The ship will depart for Kochi by Friday night.

Earlier, after successfully bringing home 698 Indian nationals to Kochi on May 12, INS Jalashwa proceeded for preparatory activities towards Phase II of the evacuation operation which included disinfection and sanitisation of the entire ship with special attention

to the areas occupied by the previous set of repatriated citizens.

The ship is now anchored off Male and will undertake embarkation of the second set of Indian nationals on Friday. Nearly 700 Indian nationals, including 100 women and children will be repatriated. The Indian nationals evacuated will be screened medically, allotted IDs and their baggage sanitised before boarding the ship, officials said.

Navy is made of a special fabric which affords high level of protection along with high 'breathability' as against other PPEs available in the market and is, therefore, more suitable for use in hot and humid weather conditions as prevalent in India. The technology has also been tested and validated by the

Indian Council of Medical Research approved testing laboratory.

Concerted efforts are now ongoing by a core team of Navy, IPFC and NRDC to commence mass production of this low-cost PPE. The patent filing process came days after the PPE cleared mandatory certification

by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences. It is part of the Defence Research and Development (DRDO) and is tasked with the testing and certification of PPE.

The Navy product was 'certified to be mass produced and used in clinical COVID situations', officials said.

ITBP records 12 new Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ITBP on Thursday recorded 12 new Covid-19 cases even as a similar number of patients recovered from the pandemic. The BSF posted 10 new cases and 21 recoveries during the last 24 hour. Seven cases of coronavirus infection have been reported in CRPF and three in SSB. The CISF did not register any positive case in the last 24 hours.

The number of infected personnel in the paramilitary ranks reached nearly 850 and six personnel have lost their lives to Covid-19.

Out of the 158 corona virus hit men, as many as 24 infected ITBP personnel are admitted at AIIMS, Jhajjar, Haryana followed by one at LNJP Hospital, New Delhi and 129 at CAPF Referral Hospital, Greater Noida.

Besides the ITBP personnel, 28 BSF men, five from the CRPF and one from the NSG besides a civilian are lodged at the CAPF Referral Hospital. Four family members of the ITBP are also admitted at the referral hospital.

A total of 13 ITBP personnel have recovered from the disease.

All ITBP infected men are from the national capital.

In the BSF, eight personnel from Delhi and one each from Kolkata and Tripura have tested positive for Covid-19.

All of them are under treatment in Designated COVID19 Health Care hospitals.

"Since yesterday, 21 BSF personnel (Tripura- 14, Kolkata-6, Delhi- 1 who had) earlier tested COVID-19 positive have been discharged from hospitals after being tested negative. They have been put under quarantine as per the protocol," a BSF spokesperson said.

These 21 are in addition to earlier three (Tekanpur-2 and Delhi-1) cured cases. All six BSF personnel discharged from Kolkata were part of an escort team of IMCT in Kolkata, the spokesperson added.

Likewise, in the CRPF seven new cases have been reported, taking the tally of infecte personnel to 254 out of which five have recovered and one had died due to the infection. Presently, there are 248 active cases in CRPF.

The SSB has a tally of 21 infected personnel out of which one has recovered till so far.

NOIDA New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

S.No.	Job No./Work Name	Amount
1	15/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21 M/o Park with two year maintenance Sector -143 B	Cost Rs. 25.05 Lacs
2	17/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o Park Sector -132, Loop	Cost Rs. 26.46 Lacs
3	18/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Green Belt, Hindon River Front Khasara No. (31) 2 (30) 4 Sector-150 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 26.46 Lacs
4	20/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-91, Panchseel Balak Inter Collage (Sh: Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.98 Lacs
5	21/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-93 , Sk-II (Sh: Open Gym ) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.98 Lacs
6	22/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o R.S.P , Along with yakutpur & Badoli Sector -151 & 154 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 25.11 Lacs
7	23/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P, Sector -144 ( Dust Free Zone ) with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 32.23 Lacs
8	24/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o R.S.P Sector -80, Two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 26.89 Lacs
9	25/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o R.S.P Sector -135, Two year maintenance	Cost Rs. 31.06 Lacs
10	26/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Green Belt in front Mayur Public School Lotus Valley 2 Km to 3.60 Km RHS and Master Green Belt 0 to 1.2 Km (RHS ) along Noida Gr. Noida Express Highway with two year maintenance	Cost Rs. 35.33 Lacs
11	27/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Green belt , Express Highway (RHS) in front of Village Gulawali and in front of Sector -160 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 25.31 Lacs
12	28/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Green belt along with Yamuna Pusta Sector -151 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 42.13 Lacs
13	29/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o Green Belt Sector -137	Cost Rs. 42.90 Lacs
14	30/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o R.S.P Sector -91 , Two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 31.08 Lacs
15	31/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Park with two year maintenance Sector -137	Cost Rs. 44.66 Lacs
16	32/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o R.S.P , 75 mtr wide road Sector -142, 143, 143 A, Two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 37.59 Lacs
17	33/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o Park, Village Mohiyapur, Jhatta, Gulawali, Kondli, Shahdra, Chapurouli , Badoli , Yakutpur.	Cost Rs. 47.93 Lacs
18	34/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Green Belt Express Highway (LHS) 10 Km to 13.50 Km with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 39.43 Lacs
19	35/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector -155 (24 mtr wide road ) with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 32.84 Lacs
20	36/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector -157 (45 mtr wide road ) with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 33.43 Lacs
21	37/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector -156 with two year maintenance (45 mtr & 24 mtr wide road both side)	Cost Rs. 33.68 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by Date: 28.05.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 29.05.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office Director (Hort.) Sector-39 Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Cong shielded fugitive Nirav Modi: Law Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday charged the Congress with trying to save fugitive jeweller and designer Nirav Modi and his maternal uncle Mehul Choksi, both key accused in a massive banking fraud in India. Diamond trader Modi and

Choksi allegedly siphoned off over ₹10,000 crore from the Punjab National Bank with fraudulent letter issued by the bank. Modi and his relatives escaped India in early 2018, when BJP was in the saddle at the Centre.

Senior BJP leader alleged that Congress leader and retired Mumbai High Court

judge, Abhay Thipsay, was trying to "influence the judicial process" in the United Kingdom where Modi undergoing an extradition trial.

Prasad alleged that Modi was always a favourite of the Congress and got all benefits before the BJP government came to the power.

"Congress has always

tried to save Nirav Modi or Mehul Choksi. Now that he (Nirav Modi) has been arrested and extradition proceedings against him is underway, a Congress member who is a retired judge himself (Abhay Thipsay), is defending him in the court," the Minister said.

Addressing a video press conference, Prasad said the retired Mumbai High Court judge, Thipsay, appeared on behalf of the PNB scam-tainted Modi as a 'defence witness' on saying that there was no case against the businessman and it cannot stand the scrutiny of the court. Prasad said his party condemns this stand of the Congress.

"There is no case against Nirav Modi, neither fraudulent nor cheating case would stand the scrutiny of law in an Indian court," argued Thipsay Wednesday before the court, the Minister cited him as saying.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Kunal Taldar s/o Late Dinesh Taldar residing at D-14/123-124 Sector-3 Rohini -110085 declare that name of my Mother has been wrongly written as Arti Taldar in my educational and birth certificates. The actual name of my Mother is Vandana Taldar respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Lakshmi Devi Arora wife of Shri Kishan Lal had entered into Agreement to sale for the purchase of Freehold Residential Property No. 886, measuring 83.6 Sq.Mtrs, Sector-7, Urban Estate, Gurgaon, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana from Mr. M.K.Chawla and Mr. Vishal Chawla by virtue of Sale Deed dated 10.06.2010 and Original Sale Deed dated 04.04.2000 in favour of Smt. Raj Rani has been lost/misplaced and our client is mortgaging the above property to LIC Housing Finance Ltd, if any body found the same may return to the undersigned, if anybody misuses the same, the same shall be at his/her/their own risk. If anybody has any claim, right, interest in the said flat shall also inform within 15 days to the undersigned on Telephone No:- 011-24324137, 9953683363 & 9811163363. Karnail Singh, Advocate Ch. No.153, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110014.



# Central team to study BSF troopers' cases

IAN S ■ AGARTALA

A three-member central team arrived here on Thursday to study the coronavirus infection among the Border Security Force (BSF) troopers and their kin, as the positive cases in Tripura climbed to 152.

The central team, led by G.K. Medhi, Professor and Head of the Department of Community Medicine of the Shillong-based North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional



Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), will study the source and other aspects of the coronavirus infection among troopers, officials and their family members. "Soon after arrival, the

team held discussions with officials of the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) through video link," a senior Tripura Health Department official told IANS.

On Friday, the central team would visit two BSF battalions headquarters in Ambassa, the district town of Dhalai, 82 km north of Agartala. The NCDC and the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) officials would help the team, he said.

# Maha council polls: Uddhav, 8 others elected unopposed

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that went on expected lines, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and eight others were declared elected unopposed to the State Legislative Council on Thursday.

Uddhav, who was not a member of either of the Houses of the State Legislature when he was sworn in as the Chief Minister on November 28 last year, was elected unopposed to the State Legislative Council 13 days prior to the six-month deadline prescribed by the

Constitution for his becoming a legislator.

Apart from Uddhav, eight others who were elected the State Council unopposed were: Council Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe of the Shiv Sena, four candidates from the BJP - Ranjitsinh Mohite Patil, Gopichand Padalkar, Praveen Datke and Ramesh Karad, NCP's Shashikant Shinde and Amol Mitkari and Congress' Rajesh Rathod.

An informal announcement about the election of Uddhav and eight other candidates to the Upper House of

the State Legislature came a day after BJP's Sandeep Lele and Ajit Gopchade NCP's Kiran Pawaskar and Shivajirao Garje — withdrew their nominations, while the papers of Independent candidate Shehbaz Rathod were rejected as invalid during the scrutiny. Ahead of the withdrawal of nominations, the Opposition BJP faced an embarrassment of sorts as it had to replace its officially declared candidate Ajit Gopchade with Ramesh Karad, who had also filed his papers as a "dummy" candidate.

# 447 new cases in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Tamil Nadu got a small reprieve on Thursday in the number of persons tested positive for coronavirus. For the first time since last week, the number of persons tested positive for the pandemic stood at 447 and this took the number of patients so far tested positive in the State to 9,674. With two more persons succumbing on Thursday, the death toll reached 66 in the State.

Chennai continued to lead the table as the district with maximum patients.

The day saw 363 persons testing positive for Covid and this took the number of

patients in the capital city to 5,274. The question being asked is whether the State would breach the 10,000 mark on Friday.

What brought relief to the department of health officials was the small decrease noted on Thursday in the number of positive cases for the first time in the last one week.

While on May 7, the State saw 580 patients testing positive for corona virus. This increased to 600 the next day, came down to 526 on May 9, shot up to 669 on May 10 and touching an all time high of 798 on May 11. The numbers came down to 716 on the next day and 509 on May 13.

# Bengal says no to ‘1 nation 1 ration card’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government will not adhere to the "one nation one ration card" scheme as it already has a "unique policy" in place, State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Jyotipriya Mullick said on Thursday.

Soon after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's declaration that the entire country would be covered under the ONOR within a specific period of time, Mullick said "One thing is for sure that Bengal is not going to be a part of this scheme because we already have a different scheme in

place."

The Minister said "our State had taken this decision more than six months ago because we are already running a scheme called Khadya Saathi that ensures food for all," adding "at least for the time being we can say that Bengal's response to the central scheme is in the negative."

If Bengal chooses to disregard the ONOR then it will be yet another scheme that the State Government will not fall in line with as Bengal had earlier refused to implement schemes like Ayushman Bharat.

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury too

slammed the Centre for doing too little and too late for the starving millions, "particularly the migrant workers who became the victim of the Centre's unplanned implementation of lockdown."

Attacking the Narendra Modi Government for making the "rendering migrant workers into migrant beggars," he said "these people who have become jobless and walking back home because of the unplanned implementation of the lockdown are not begging for food... they only want an alternative employment so that they can earn their food themselves... The government is

making them migrant beggars."

He also said that the OCOR was nothing new or for that matter providing of free ration to the poor also a scheme that was already in place for many decades as was the country's public distribution system.

"There is no credit in making announcements of things which were already there. Instead of making futile declarations the Government should have taken steps to reach cash in the pockets of these people who are also consumers so that they can survive in these hours of crisis and the country's economy too gets some kind of fillip," he said.

# TN on way to reach 5-digit mark

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

When officials including doctors of the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine informed Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami that the number of Covid-19 patients in Tamil Nadu breached the 9,000 mark and was on an upward journey, there were three persons in the State who were not at all shocked, amused or surprised by the development.

All three along with the doctors of the Department of Preventive Medicine were in the know of things and were expecting the disaster to happen much earlier.

On May 7, Tamil Nadu had 5,409 patients and within one week, on May 13, the figure breached the 9,000 mark and stood at 9,227. This means that the number of coronavirus cases jumped by 3,818 in six days. On every day starting May 6,

the number of coronavirus patients increased by an average of 637 patients.

Edappadi Palaniswami who had a video conference with district collectors and revenue officials said that the increase of coronavirus cases was on expected lines. "We had asked traders at Koyambedu fruits and vegetable market in Chennai to shut down their operations because of the infection reported from that area. But the traders were adamant that they would not move out from Koyambedu citing the massive loss they may have to face," said the Chief Minister.

The CM had deputed his second-in-command O Pannierselvam to convince the traders about the need to relocate the market to one of the city suburbs, the leaders stood their ground and were adamant in their conviction that they would not budge an inch.

# Plaint against news portal for defaming Maha Governor

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The officials at Raj Bhavan here on Thursday lodged a police complaint with the Cyber Crime Police Station at Bandra Kurla Complex in north-Central Mumbai against a news portal over the publication of "defamatory news" about Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari allegedly facilitating the travel of a model from Maharashtra to Dehradun via New Delhi.

"The contents of the news are false, fabricated and based on nefarious design with an intent to malign the unblemished image of Governor," Raj Bhavan said here in statement released here in the evening.

# Raj sent 1,200 labourers from Barmer to Bihar free of cost

**Jaipur:** Twelve hundred labourers who were sent from Barmer to Motihari in Bihar did not have to pay any train fare. The fare of 600 labourers was borne by State Government while the fare of the remaining 600 labourers was paid by various companies and contractors directly to the railways.

The District Collector Barmer Shri Vishram Meena informed that as per the guidelines issued by the Central Government and subsequently by the State Government, the stranded migrant labourers, tourists, pilgrims, students and others were allowed to be transported to their home states. As a follow of these guidelines, it was decided to send the migrant labourers to their native states through various means of transport, he added.

Shri Meena said that survey and identification of such workers of Bihar was done through sub divisional officers, in which about 1675 workers were identified in Barmer district.

Of these, 600 workers were found to be stranded as per the guidelines of the Central and State Government. The remaining 1075 labourers were found engaged in works being carried on by other companies on behalf of Vedanta Cairn Energy India Limited, the main company of oil mining in the district.

The District Collector apprised that a proposal was submitted to the Transport Commissioner to send 1675 workers stranded in Barmer district to Bihar through train.

# Family cremates patient after 38 hrs

PNS ■ JAMMU

After a treacherous wait of 38 long hours, family members of a 70-year-old patient, who died due to Covid-19 late Tuesday night, finally cremated him under the strict supervision of district authorities in Jammu on Thursday.

Earlier late Wednesday night, local residents of old city area of Jogi Gate, led by a local corporator prevented the family from performing last rites inside the cremation ground. Left with no choice, the dead body was shifted back to the designated mortuary in Government Medical college hospital.

Family members of the deceased patient alleged, "on Wednesday evening when they shifted the dead body from GMC, hospital around 8.30 p.m and reached near Jogi gate cremation ground, large number of local residents in the area accompanied by a local corporator prevented them from gaining access inside the ground for performing the last rites of the deceased patient".

On Thursday, the Chief Medical Officer

(CMO), Jammu informed Assistant Medical Superintendent, GMCH that the cremation of dead body shall be done at 06:30.

However, it was delayed again. Family members initially alleged they were directed by the GMC authorities to arrange their own family members to shift the dead body to the cremation ground. However, J&K government spokesman in a statement said, "two attendants of the deceased arrived around 08:00 am but were not ready to assisting and shifting of the dead body". The spokesman said, the family member were convinced by the administration and members of their religious organisation for the same.

Following this, three sanitary workers and two attendants in full personnel protective gears shifted the dead body from Mortuary to the Ambulance for formal cremation at Shastri Nagar Cremation ground with the coordination of the local/civil administration at 09:40 am. Finally, the last rites of the covid-19 patient were performed around 11.00 a.m.

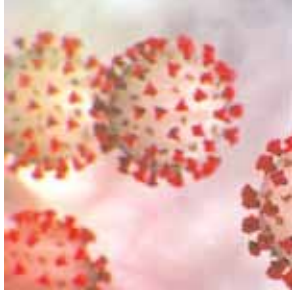
# Dharavi sees 33 new cases, death toll 49

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The number of Covid-19 triggered deaths mounted to 49 in Mumbai's hotspot Dharavi on Thursday, even as 33 more infected cases were recorded taking the total number of positive cases in Asia's biggest slum to 1,061.

While two more persons succumbed to Covid-19 on Thursday, the authorities added seven more deaths reported earlier to the total death tally in Dharavi.

"The seven deaths which we have added to the tally today are the ones of persons who had died earlier on different dates, but the information about their deaths conveyed to ward office concerned subsequently. With the two fresh deaths and seven deaths added to death tally today, the total number of deaths in Dharavi has mounted to 49," a senior officer of the



Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

A maximum five infected cases were reported from Kumbharwada, Matunga Labour Camp, from where a maximum number of Coronavirus cases have been reported in recent weeks, reported four positive cases on Thursday.

Two positive cases each were reported from Chamda Bazar and Jeevanjyot Rahiwasi Sangha area.

Matunga Labour camp, which had 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. There was a seventeen-year-old among the eight newly infected persons on that day. Six positive cases had been reported from Matunga Labour camp on Sunday.

Spread over 240 hectare area, Dharavi is home to more than 4 lakh people. This slum has been one of major hotspots in Mumbai, ever since the first couple deaths and infected cases were reported from this slum in the first week of April.

In an effort to devise ways to arrest the rapid spread of pandemic in this slum, Mumbai's new Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal had visited this slum and taken stock of the situation hours after he assumed the office on Saturday last.

# Harassed corona warrior kills self

**Kolkata:** In another shameless development a corona warrior had to commit suicide in Jalpaiguri district after he was prevented and humiliated by the local villagers from setting up a corona kiosk — for testing corona patients — at Ghugudanga village.

Debashis Chakrabarty the victim, who died after consuming pesticide and jumping into a well, was due to retire in September this year, sources said. The senior medical supervisor was directed by the district health department to set up a corona kiosk at the village. PNS

# 26 +ve, Kerala relapses

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala which was on its way to "coronavirus mukth" State suffered a set back on Thursday as 26 persons tested positive for the pandemic in various districts. On Wednesday 10 persons had tested positive in the State.

Out of the 26 persons tested positive on Thursday, seven were those who returned to the State from abroad as part of the Vande Bharat Mission, said CM Pinarayi Vijayan in his daily press briefing. "Those who tested positive for covid-19 on Thursday include 14 persons who reached the State from

other parts of India. There are some news which bring relief to the State like the reduction in the number of hotspots. There are only 15 hotspots in the State as on date," said Vijayan.

He also cautioned the people about the protocol to be observed in the State in the backdrop of coronavirus being a reality for months to come. "The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that there won't be a scenario free of coronavirus. Hence, we have to make certain amendments in our daily life. The masks have to be made a part of our daily life. We have to plan our social life by ensuring

that we would not crowd public places. Please make sure that we avoid all unnecessary journeys as well as social gatherings," said Vijayan.

The most important announcement made by the CM was with regard to the reforms to be made in the social life. "When we intend to visit restaurants and shopping malls, please ensure that we get a time slot from these establishments which would lessen crowding in the places. In future also, be careful about our daily routines. Bear in mind that the shadow of coronavirus is present everywhere in our life," said Vijayan.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, 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 location	Balance work of Additional holding line between Anand Vihar & Chandanagar station in c/w Development of new coaching terminal at Anand Vihar Railway Station (Phase-II) (Second call)
2. Completion period of the work	06 (Six) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter.
3. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 58.25 Lakh (Rupees Fifty eight lakh & twenty five thousand only)
4. Earnest money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 1,16,500.00 (Rupees One lakh sixteen thousand five hundred only)
5. Date, Time for submission of e-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on 09.06.2020 on IREPS website i.e www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs. on 09.06.2020.
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	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 19.05.2020 to 09.06.2020. 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. 220-Acs/11/157/Holding Line Dt.:	14.05.2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

UJVN Limited	
Corrigendum No.01	
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 (Telephones: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax- 0135- 2763507) CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, website: www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com	
"e" Procurement Notice	
Due to unavoidable reasons office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Mohammadpur Power House, Gurukul Narsan for Supply of one No. TGB Shell at Mohammadpur Power House, the revised date in tender specifications No. 02/EE(M&G)/(MPH)/2019-20 are as follows:	
1- Date of availability of Tender document -	28.05.2020 (15:00 Hrs) on website
2- Last Date for Receipt of bid on the website	- 30.05.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs
3- Last Date for Receipt of hard Copy of Tender	- 01.06-2020 at 17:00 Hrs
4- Date of opening of Bid on the website	- 02.06.2020 at 11:00 Hrs
All the terms and condition remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website e-procurement portal - <a href="http://uktenders.gov.in">uktenders.gov.in</a>	
Executive Engineer (Civil-I) Mohammadpur Power House	
पत्र सं. 301 दिनांक: 14.05.2020	
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"	

UJVN Limited	
"e" – Tender Date Extension Notice - 4	
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 (Telephones: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax- 0135- 2763507) CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866	
Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of tender invited for "Procurement of TMT bar of grade Fe-500 confirming to IS: 1786 for Vyasi HEP" in District-Dehradun (Uttarakhand)." against NIT No: 08/UJVNL/03/EE (Civil-I)/VP/2019-20 (Tender ID: 2020_UJVNL_22825_1) are hereby extended as follows:	
1 Last Date/Time for submission of bid on the portal	: 08.06.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs.
2 Last date & Address for Submission of original documents:	09.06.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs in Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-I), Vyasi Project, Lakhwar Bhawan, Dakpathar (Distt-Dehradun).
3 Date and time of opening of bid	: 10.06.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.
bid on the website	
All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal " <a href="http://uktenders.gov.in">http://uktenders.gov.in</a> "	
Executive Engineer (Civil-I) Vyasi Project, Lakhwar Bhawan, Dakpathar	
पत्र सं०: 300 – 14/05/2020	
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"	

UJVN LIMITED	
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)	
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun -248006 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866 Tel.: 0135-2763508 Fax: 0135-2763507 Website: www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com	
Date Extension Notice	
Due to unavoidable circumstances, the date of submission & opening of the eTender No. 02/EE(Gen.)/CHILLA/TN/2019-20 is hereby extended as.	
Last Date & Time for submission of Bid in the e-Portal : June 03, 2020 Upto 17:00 Hrs.	
Last Date & Time of Submission of hard copies : June 03, 2020 Upto 17:00 Hrs.	
Date & Time of Opening of Tender in the portal : June 04, 2020 at 11:00 Hrs.	
For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal " <a href="https://uktenders.gov.in">https://uktenders.gov.in</a> ".	
Executive Engineer (Gen.) Chilla Powe House	
Ro. No. 304 Dated 14/05/2020	
"AVOID WASTE FUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"	

Rajasthan State Food & Civil Supplies Corporation LTD.			
Head Office : 5th Floor, Kisan Bhawan, Lal Kotli, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015			
Phone: 0141-2744692, 0141-2744849, Fax No. 0141-2741924			
E-mail: <a href="mailto:rsfscs@gmail.com">rsfscs@gmail.com</a> CIN : U63023RJ2010SGC033489			
No:F 10(101) RSFSCS/PDS/tender/2018-19/605 Dated: 11-05-2020			
e-Bid Notice			
e-Bids are invited for transportation work of wheat & sugar under P.D.S in (09) Districts Pali, Jhalawar, Bhartpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Baran, Dausa, Jaipur & Udaipur for one year from the date of agreement. The Bid shall be submitted only through online tendering system at concerned districts on the website: <a href="http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> as detailed below:			
S. No.	Name of the service	On line uploading date	On line bid submission end date
1.	Transportation work for wheat & sugar	15-05-2020	04-06-2020
For details visit our website <a href="http://www.food.rajasthan.gov.in/">www.food.rajasthan.gov.in/</a>			
<a href="http://sapp.raj.nic.in/E-Proc">http://sapp.raj.nic.in/E-Proc</a> .			
UBN- FCS2021SL0B00001		General Manager (Adm.)	
Raj.Samwadi/C/20/201			

UJVN Limited	
Tender Notice	
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 (Telephones: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax- 0135- 2763507) CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866	
Office of the Executive Engineer (Galogi Complex), Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites bids from experienced and interested contractors, for the following work. Brief summary of the tender is given below.	
Tender No: 02/EE(GC)/2020-21	
Name of the Work: " Replacement of Existing LT Line conductor with Laying of Arial Bunch Cable along with supply of associated material for LT Line from Galogi SHP to Bhatta Head works."	
Estimated Cost	: Rs. 8, 96, 478.00 ( GST Extra )
Tender Cost	: Rs 590.00/- Only (inclusive of GST)
Earnest Money Deposit	: Rs 26, 894.00/- Only
Period of Completion	: 180 days
Date of availability of the Tender document : 15.05.2020	
Last Date/Time for downloading of the Tender document : 14.06.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs.	
Last Date of submission of the Tender : 15.06.2020 at 13:00 Hrs.	
Date/Time of opening of the Tender : 16.06.2020 from 15:00 Hrs.	
Name & Address of the officer inviting the bid: EE(GC), UJVN Limited, Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun	
Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website of UJVNL.	
Executive Engineer (Galogi Complex) Ganga Bhawan Dehradsun.	
Ro. No. 297 Dated 14.05.2020	
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"	

# Mysore silk saree biz hit hard amid lockdown

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

The story of six yards of elegance, the world famous Mysore silk saree is no different from other businesses at the time of Covid -19. The Covid -19 lockdown for the last two months has affected its sales at the time of festive and wedding season.

The State owned Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Limited (KSIC) produces traditional silk sarees and markets it.

The lockdown has halted the looms hitting the production of over 20,000 silk sarees putting weavers in a spot. These beautiful sarees represent the Royal heritage and Grandeur of Mysuru scions.

Mysore silk sarees are in great demand across the country and abroad, as people prefer for auspicious occa-

sions like weddings, festivals and house-warming ceremonies. The Covid pandemic has now robbed its lustre in the wedding and festive seasons for the last two months.

According to senior officials of the corporation they have now slowly opening its branches in Bengaluru and also in Mysuru apart from other cities. The KSIC has around 17 showrooms across the country. They say that in view of the fear of corona virus customers were not visiting the showrooms.

"We have opening showrooms after the lockdown across Karnataka and people are hesitant to come into the showroom because of the Covid fear. We have to make up for the losses. It is not just question of demand but Covid has affected us badly," said an official.

# Scientists develop injectable hydrogel for sustained insulin delivery in diabetic patients

**New Delhi:** Indian scientists have developed an injectable Silk fibroin-based hydrogel for sustained insulin delivery in diabetic patients. A patent application has been filed for the invention.

Prof T Govindaraju and his research team from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous research institute under the Department of Science and Technology, developed the silk fibroin (SF) formulation using biocompatible additives and prepared the injectable SF hydrogel (ISFH) that can ease insulin delivery in diabetic patients.

The ISFH has demonstrated successful delivery of active insulin in rats, and the results have been published in the journal ACS Applied Bio

Materials.

They have shown that subcutaneous injection of insulin with-ISFH in diabetic rats formed active depot under the skin from which insulin leached out slowly and restored the physiological glucose homeostasis for a prolonged period of four days with no risks of low blood sugar through sudden burst of high concentration of insulin into the blood.

The viscous additives used by the team restricted the mobility of SF protein backbones and results in the rapid gelation.

The microstructures provide mechanical strength (to support injectability), and porous morphology of ISFH allowed the encapsulation of human recombinant insulin in its active form in diabetic rats.

PNS



## Swadeshi vs Make in India

For a sentiment to become reality, we need to generate mass confidence, demand and scale of home-grown brands, a tall order



If there is one big lesson that COVID-19 has taught us, it is the need to be self-sufficient and shed some dependencies of globalisation, which have been good for market economics but have been tested during the pandemic that has found us wanting in preparedness. From testing kits to drugs, ventilators and hospital equipment and capacity, we are relying on imports. The poor budgetary support to healthcare and education over the years has meant our public health system is extremely fragile while our R&D is languishing. Yet if some rapid inventions of the last month-and-a-half are anything to go by — indigenous test kits, ventilators and aggressive vaccine efforts that are both reliable and cost-effective — then the crisis has also opened up the possibility of capitalising on our innovation and skill sets. If we prime and encourage these efforts through incentive and funding hereon, we could at least develop some resistance given the frailty of our healthcare services. For example, the pharmaceutical industry imports nearly 70 per cent of crucial chemical ingredients from China. It is with the idea of building self-sufficiency in mind that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call about being “vocal about local” goods but set off a neo-Swadeshi movement in motion. Canteens of military personnel have even been asked to stock up “made in India” products, including FMCGs. While we must attempt our own recovery in crucial sectors bit by bit, a blanket call may sound a bit like sloganeering, considering we depend on global brands for 70 per cent of all consumer goods. The fact is all such home-grown enterprises have failed in the past without economies of scale and the depth of experience. In the end, the imports have always come cheaper. So till we generate a mass demand, develop scale and upgrade quality benchmarks, “be Swadeshi buy Swadeshi” will just be a sonic boom. Perhaps, this is a good time as any to at least push “Make in India” at the granular level. At the same time, we also have to take care about not being too insular and protectionist but competitive. Once we graduate to a level-playing field and comply with the market insistence on evolved standards of quality, our brands could see greater visibility internationally instead of having curated presence. But that’s still a long way off. Anyway, most MNC majors, who have been doing business in India for over 50 years, source raw materials locally and manufacture them here. So it is not like they should be turfed out or that we should be left without stocks of essentials. There is no doubt that India should promote local manufacturing, which will create jobs and develop critical engineering and manufacturing skills. But that “import substitution” should be done by encouraging foreign firms to bring in their expertise and money to India, not discourage them.

The Gandhian ideal of self-reliance did birth several home-grown majors, some of which have survived though most have fallen by the wayside. JN Tata established his Swadeshi Mill in 1886. And Ardeshir Godrej believed that India could realise its dream of self-rule by reducing its dependence on the West for manufactured goods. But we aren’t a colonial outpost anymore. One has to look at what happened to home-grown soft drinks, born after the American giants were chunked out by the Janata Government in 1977. While Thums Up survives today, it is owned by Coca-Cola. Localisation did not give birth to globally competitive companies, so we must temper our reactionary responses. Similarly, Bajaj Auto’s incredible international success today is because it competed in the crucible of the Indian market with foreign giants. And the success of the Tata Group, Mahindra and Hero, all Indian multinationals, is because they have weathered competition and have collaborated with the best foreign partners. India is particularly dependent on China, importing goods and services worth \$50 billion more than it exports. We are deficient in rare-earth metals and cannot produce solar power equipment, wind turbines, cellphones, laptops and electronics. Many international manufacturers already have plants here, assemble 90-100 per cent of their portfolio here, are expanding their R&D facilities and component sourcing from India. Global brands dominate 90 per cent of the market in the smartphone and television categories, although the latter did have a healthy domestic brand showing till about the 80s. Our own brands of refrigerators, washing machines and ACs have long lost out to Chinese, Japanese and South Korean imports. Our discretionary and luxury segments are totally dominated by global brands. Khadi is still a home-spun effort that has slim international acceptability as Indian linen. But if our experiments with home-grown retail majors, hypermarket chains and fast food brands are any indication, then we have stood up quite well despite global players. Promoting Indian firms for smaller contracts is a worthwhile cause. But we should stop conflating self-reliance with Swadeshi. India is an integral part of the global economy and we do not want to go back towards the bankrupt days of India in the 1970s.

## WHO’s caution

The global health watchdog warns that COVID-19 could become endemic and a vaccine could take some time coming



As nations around the world prepare to restart their economies after months of being in a state of lockdown, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Coronavirus is here to stay and may never go away. And as the virus is still mutating, the world health watchdog is not even sure if there will be a surge in cases or a petering out after the lockdowns are lifted. As nations across the world hope that it will be the latter, the WHO wants countries not to let their guard down and continue to keep a hawk’s eye on the spread. Seems we will just have to live with the Coronavirus the way we live with HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and even Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). For instance, in India, despite the best of efforts and huge amounts of money spent, approximately 220,000 deaths occur due to TB every year. Similarly, the number of people living with HIV currently is 36 million as a whopping two million people become newly infected with it every year. We are living with equally dangerous NCDs as they account for approximately 41 million casualties (which is 71 per cent of global deaths) each year. In India, the number of people who die of NCDs yearly is 5.8 million and according to WHO projections, the total annual number of deaths worldwide will increase to 55 million by 2030.

Just like in the case of HIV, a vaccine for COVID-19 may not materialise anytime soon. Six Indian companies are working on one and at least three have gone into a human clinical trial phase. Mass use, therefore, is not expected before 2021. And the worst part is that these pandemics are only set to become more frequent as the years go by. According to a 2016 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report, there has been a worldwide increase in zoonotic epidemics. In the last century, a combination of population growth and reduction in ecosystems and biodiversity has culminated in unprecedented opportunities for pathogens to pass between animals and people and on average, one new infectious disease emerges in humans every four months, the report says. So, the choice is before us. Either we wake up and start respecting nature and behave more responsibly towards it, or we just learn to live with these pandemics that will keep on coming at us till we have learnt our lesson.

# Broken promises, again

The Government’s fiscal package has failed the test of economic effectivity and political reliability. It lacks a plan to overcome the deadlock created by the lack of economic demand



JAIVEER SHERGILL

On May 12, following his own set pattern of building up curiosity and hype that leads to slogan-loaded headlines and ear-catching sound bites, the Prime Minister announced a ₹20 lakh crore “fiscal package,” the details of which were communicated by the Finance Minister one day later to the eagerly waiting locked down people of the country. Prior to the unveiling of the package, there was no dispute in any quarter with respect to the requirement of the dole. But there were suspicions regarding the contours, content and intent of the Government *qua*, the restoration of the economy, which has been lying demolished in the debris of closing businesses, shrinking savings, evaporating jobs, rising bad loans, rural distress and a bleeding agriculture sector. Post the announcement, the question that is begging an answer is: Can the fiscal package give any stimulus to an already sluggish and sinking economy? To answer this, we need to test and weigh the package on the scales of political reliability and economic effectiveness and scope for implementation.

As for the latter, at this crucial and sensitive juncture when the entire nation is going through one of the darkest phases of “health and wealth” recession, it was expected that the Central Government would loosen the strings of its purses to fill the pockets of people with extra income without any terms and conditions. However, at 5:45 pm on May 13, when the Finance Minister finished her 1.5 hour-long Press briefing, the net result was that of “operation successful, patient dead.” It failed to show any colour of real money to the people. Much to everyone’s dismay, the vulnerable section of the society ie, the migrant labourers, farmers, shopkeepers and salaried class, who have been the most affected due to the lockdown, were left completely ignored in the scheme of things. Further, even the slew of announcements that was made gave the impression that the Finance Ministry was presenting a “loan marketing brochure” rather than a “rescue plan.” Simply put, the fiscal package (containing the fund of legally due tax refunds), misleadingly projected as “stimulus package,” failed at the altar of genuine expectation and needs of the people for various reasons that shall be discussed in this column.

To begin with, instead of adopting an all-inclusive formula of “something for everyone,” our framers opted for an insensitive policy of “nothing for the ones who need the most,” completely leaving out the 48 crore informal sector workforce, 13.62 crore families, the farmers, lower middle and the salaried class from the ambit of the package. As was the case



during demonetisation, the most vulnerable section of society has ended up paying a heavy price due to the Government’s ill-planned, indifferent and irrational approach in handling the lockdown. Its decision to confine 1.3 billion people to their homes, without building any economic bunker at a mere notice of four hours, was juxtaposed with the three to four days intimidation it gave prior to the celebration of events like *tali thali* and *diya jalao*. The lockdown has had a visible catastrophic effect on the people, especially the daily wagers, who earn ₹300-400 a day and survive hand-to-mouth. They are all left starving. The unemployment rate has been at a 45-year high. Overall, it slowed to 24 per cent from 27 per cent in the week ended May 10 (as per CMIE). Last but not the least, even the most economically sound corporations have been forced to declare salary cuts and undertake massive lay-offs.

To make matters worse, the Government adopted the approach of the “East India Company” during the lockdown period by extracting a pound of flesh from the economically fatigued citizens through a series of insensitive decisions, including but not limited to an increase in taxes on fuel. This, despite the fact that international crude oil price has hit an 18-year low. Further, interest rates on various small savings schemes have been cut. This has hurt more than 30 crore depositors. The State Bank of India, too, has reduced savings account interest rate from 3.25 per cent to 2.75 per cent for 44

crore account holders. All of these have further dried the income stream of depositors in this hour of grave crisis. At a time when the country is visibly trapped in the vortex of an economic recession, natural expectations of the people were that the NDA Government would balm the wounds of those economically affected. It was expected of it to make a minimum ₹7,500 direct cash transfer to each and every Jan Dhan account holder. It should have announced unemployment benefits and promised monthly stipend. It should have increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the farmers, lowered the fuel prices and given the surplus income vide tax incentives to the salaried class. Instead, the Government chose to leave everyone “high and dry” and euphemistically labelled the “fend for yourself” scheme as “*Atmanirbhar Bharat*” abhiyan (self-reliant India mission).

Despite a previous ₹1.7 lakh crore package announced under the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana on March 26, the deaths of more than 55 migrants, disturbing visuals of reverse migration, of the poor craving for “*roti and sabzi*” are a living testimony to the fact that lofty announcements, catchy slogans and repackaging of existing measures are all non-effective measures. The only *modus operandi* to prepare for the long journey ahead is to place real money in the palms of those who pull the ropes of the economy. Minus this, the package is similar to a mirage in the desert that projects an illusion rather than concrete substance.

Second, the *raison d’être* of any stimulus package is to spur demand in the economy by way of ensuring availability of surplus income rather than increasing the debt burden. Our policy-makers clearly missed this visible skyline in their script this time, too. The decision to establish a ₹3 lakh crore credit guarantee fund to provide collateral-free loan to 45 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with a moratorium of 12 months conveniently ignores the harsh reality that the Achilles heel of this sector is a shortage of demand rather than of loans. Even if we presume but not concede that the ₹3 lakh crore credit guarantee plan would provide a breather, why were a majority of the 6.5 crore MSMEs, employing approximately 11.5 crore of the population, left out of this scheme? Furthermore, instead of handing over a political lollipop in the form of a moratorium, an interest waiver on bank loan/EMI for a minimum period of 12 months should have been declared so as to make surplus income available and off-set the losses they are incurring on a daily basis due to a complete clogging of the pipelines of the economy.

On the one hand, there is an unrealistic expectation from the industry to pay its employees/workers even in the absence of any source of revenue. On the other, not even a single rupee worth “interest-free” benefit has been passed on to them. This highlights Government apathy and chicanery. In a nutshell, the fiscal package ended up

being focussed on creating debt rather than demand, leaving everyone flummoxed and disappointed.

Most importantly, the fiscal package failed to give wings to the Prime Minister’s catchy slogan, “It is time to be vocal about local.” The sleeping paper tiger of “Make in India” is a gentle yet crude reminder of the fact that the hallmarks for the present Government are catchy slogans and sketchy implementation. For local industries to be successful, it will take a lot more than selling indigenous products at the Central Armed Police Forces canteens. To unleash the full potential of the local industry, the package ought to have provided a solution to arrest sliding industrial output growth rate. Lastly, it should have provided for a “wage protection package” to cushion the ongoing saga of losses. In the absence of a holistic approach, the “vocal for local” slogan will die a natural death and be buried like other slogans in the vast cemetery of the BJP Government’s unfulfilled promises.

Overall, looking at the non-beneficial, non-inclusive, zero income generation potential of the package, it will not be an exaggeration to say that it has failed the test of economic effectiveness and political reliability. The package lacks a plan to overcome the deadlock created due to the lack of demand in the economy.

The way forward and political reliability: At present, the nation has only got a glimpse of the promised ₹20 lakh crore package. Looking at the preview, the future does not look promising. One must exercise caution before politically relying on the Government to salvage the current situation. In pure public interest, the Opposition sincerely hopes that the remaining script will not be written with the same pen that made numerous promises like depositing ₹15 lakh in every citizen’s bank account, bringing back black money within 100 days, cleaning the river Ganga, ending terrorism through demonetisation, building a \$5 trillion economy, generating two crore jobs every year, transforming Varanasi into Kyoto and the invisible ₹1.25 lakh crore package for Bihar. These examples also highlight that the Government’s report card on delivering promises is full of red lines. Given the current “arrogant and ignorant” mindset of the Union Government, the possibility of the economy coming out of the quicksand of recession looks bleak.

(The author is a Supreme Court Lawyer and National Spokesperson of the Indian National Congress)

## SOUNDBITE

We need to understand the art of living with Corona. This is very important as it is not a natural virus. It is an artificial virus.

**Union Minister**  
—Nitin Gadkari



I am old-school when it comes to love. I like to be pursued and wooed, meet someone in more than a digital way. I am a die-hard romantic and believe in true love.

**Actor**  
—Klara Advani



It is important to put this on the table: This virus (Corona) may become just another endemic virus in our communities. It may never go away.

**WHO official**  
—Mike Ryan



I would probably ask him (Dhoni) to bat at number 3 or 4. Or, if I have only 10 overs left, I will tell him go and just play his game the way he plays as a finisher.

**Former cricketer**  
—MSK Prasad



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Condemnable attack

Sir — It was heart-wrenching to hear that a mosque in Telangana was attacked by goons while five persons — this number has been allowed by the government — were offering *namaaz* there. Members of the majority community not only created an unnecessary ruckus but also pelted stones, injuring some people. The police have taken cognisance of the matter; four cases have been registered and Section 144 has been imposed in the area. The Telangana Government must take strict action so that such a dreadful incident does not recur.

**Ibn-Katib**  
*Azamgarh*

### False promises

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Economic rescue” (May 14). The Prime Minister’s idea of a self-reliant India (*atmanirbhar Bharat*) is like old wine in a new bottle. For even our scriptures mention *eshah panthah* — that is, self-sufficient India. In fact, Make in India, the economic slogan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has

Swadeshi overtones rather than being an original concept.

Coming to Modi’s fourth nationwide address to the people in the wake of the pandemic, it lasted for about 30 minutes but lacked enthusiasm. Make in India, Digital India, Startup India and the Smart Cities project were all aimed at creating jobs for the

country’s youth but the Government has failed miserably. Had these projects been a success, the Prime Minister would not have talked about making India self-dependent. It’s time to come up with real ideas to tackle the economy than show oratory skills.

**Navneet Seth**  
*Dhuri*

### Convert crisis into an opportunity

This refers to the editorial, “Onus is on us” (May 13). The Prime Minister’s announcement of a ₹20 trillion stimulus package is the fifth largest in the world during COVID-19 times after Japan, the US, Sweden and Germany. Representing around 10 per cent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it aims to cover a wider spectrum of society, including the cottage industry, the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), labourers and the middle class. The main objective is to put more money into people’s pockets to suitably boost domestic consumption and demand. With nations developing a trust deficit in the wake of the pandemic, the present bounty aims to make India self-reliant and a manufacturing hub. But for this to happen, India must become an important player in the global supply chain. The underlying message is quite clear: India has to convert the current crisis into an opportunity.

What’s heartening is the fact that artificial intelligence-driven technology has been proposed for both supply chain management and agriculture. Labour reforms, too, have been proposed. But the Government



will have to exhibit strong political will in carrying out bold labour reforms coupled with a supportive tax regime in order to lure companies to set up a manufacturing base in India. The onus now is also on Indian Inc to seize this huge opportunity. Since it is more than clear that the Corona pandemic is here to stay, we will have to start learning to live with it and bring a paradigm shift in our way of living.

**Bal Govind**  
*Noida*

### Language barriers

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Economic rescue” (May 14). The Prime Minister’s widely-televised speeches during the COVID-19 lockdown have been Greek and Latin to many non-Hindi speaking Indians, especial-

ly in the South where a majority do not understand the language. Most people were unable to follow the speeches in real-time as we had to wait for the translation.

During the demonetisation announcement in 2016, the Prime Minister’s message was aired in English and Hindi. The least the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting can do is to dub the speeches in regional languages and air them in States. In a crisis of this magnitude, clear and instant communication across India is essential.

**Adrian David**  
*Chennai*

### Stand united

Sir — In these crucial times when Governments across the world are struggling to fight the Corona pandemic, Central as well as State Governments must function with stability for the safety of mankind. Political agenda can be addressed later if people survive the present crisis.

**Sumit**  
*Via email*

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

Lockdown 4.0 not needed Mr PM

The Government must bring in ease of living with safety and hygiene practices post May 17



Ok, the clapping, torch lights, lamps and petal showers have all been done. Now we need to get back to the slow, frustrating task of getting back to our livelihoods, amid an almost Schrodinger equation- equivalent of a virus wreaking havoc and creating a “panic-demic.” This is my fourth “at home” column on the issue of what does it take to get back to ‘Make in India’ and live the rest of 2020.

Let me draw attention to some real life experiences in the last two months and then I shall derive some inferences. My friend is a neighborhood doctor, kind and tax-paying with a worldview. He has a family of four, including an 80-plus mother, a teenage daughter and a doctor wife. His clinic, which employs three persons, has been shut for two months now. He has a salary, taxes and many such recurring incidentals, to pay every month. As per Government orders, opening up a healthcare standalone unit is/was always allowed but he didn’t have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) initially. Now he has procured some, but the cost of each suit which has to be disposed after single use is ₹2,000, which is a recurring capital expenditure he has to bear daily. The question is, can a private healthcare personnel incur this expense every day?

The second instance is from a food distribution initiative organised by the Delhi Government. During the first phase of the lockdown and its concurrent State responses, people queued for food twice daily, but soon they started losing patience. At one instance I was mobbed by a group, who with folded hands, requested me to get them a pass back to their homes in distant villages.

All these are real-life, individual experiences of common people caught in a lockdown. We can always get into an informed argument of what worked and what didn’t and why something is wrong, based on our respective ideologies and political, religious identities. But today we need to act up and free India from these new mass gatherings and miseries. Here are a few suggestions for good governance.

The Central Government has been for nearly two months overruling State Governments due to the powers given it by the Disaster Management Act. The significant point here being Central rule, through District Magistrates who mostly would also report to their State Chief Secretaries and would be answerable to Central Government bosses. The key challenge here is the unwillingness of the bureaucracy to accept this public service not-for-profit job as also being a facsimile version of a corporate job. Agree, many District Magistrates go on to becoming some of the most diligent secretaries (highest level of bureaucracy) but do they become visionary leaders? The Prime Minister has done an good job of empowering this bunch of bureaucrats by getting them to present slide decks and showing targets. Did he get it down to the district level? Atma Nirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India will only happen if each District Magistrate is designated as the CEO. S/he should be able to produce two slides of pre and post-COVID decks on the GDP in the district. They should be empowered with adequate checks, to revive their own district’s economy in a relatively short span of time. Maybe the Disaster Management Act can be utilised for economic empowerment.

Second, the Government should put in more than generous efforts to remove bureaucratic language in policy announcements. Nobody understands “₹20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs” to take an example. Do we expect an entry-level staff in a bank, facing a loan-seeking local tailor, employing five, to explain, nuances of this policy to him? Can we expect the Government to simplify with FAQs who are and who aren’t beneficiaries of its schemes? Can governance simplify its language for the people? Land, labour, liquidity and laws can change only when authorities delivering them, start to speak a language understood by citizens. Is it time for simplified communications governance?

Also, can governance be unified? It can be a rhetorical question to ask if, local, district, Central and State Governments can be aligned for a resilient and self-dependent India? Is it possible to break and get an elephant’s share of global supply chains? Can we as a nation, besides shunning ‘Made in China’ Diwali lamps, electrical switches and textiles think about ₹5,000 phones? Do we acknowledge all these electronic gadgets and their spare parts are an assembly line of global supply chains with origins in China?

Finally, and again related to language, the nomenclature “lockdown” signifying a red line, needs to go away. Yes, the pandemic isn’t going to subside anytime soon and restrictions on movement of people and goods along with significant economic activity are here to stay for some time. However, changes in language will at least prevent the local police from lordng over those who can’t afford to argue. Do not bring in “lockdown 4.0”, bring in ease of living with safety and hygiene practices post May 17.

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

analysis07

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

RELAXING STAY-AT-HOME RULES TOO QUICKLY IN AMERICA COULD BRING MORE SUFFERING AND DEATH TO THE COUNTRY.  
—DIRECTOR, NIAID  
ANTHONY FAUCI



LOOK, HE WANTS TO PLAY ALL SIDES OF THE EQUATION. IT’S NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ANSWER, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO SCHOOLS.  
—US PRESIDENT  
DONALD TRUMP

A different kind of illness

With COVID-19 looming large, social justice, the signature tune of our Constitution, still eludes scores of citizens in these troubled times



Noble words like “justice”, “liberty” and “equality” in the Indian Constitution’s preamble — “We the people of India... do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution” — safeguard the staggering population of above 137 crore citizens amid adversities. Pitching real issues over rhetoric to improve our Human Development Index (HDI) ought to be sensed pragmatically. With a plan to impose lockdown 4.0 to wage war against the Coronavirus, the Government announced a ₹20 lakh crore special economic package. This is equivalent to around 10 per cent of India’s GDP, which is the component of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India. Further, the Prime Minister has stated, “Corona will be with us for a long time but our lives cannot revolve around it. We will wear masks, we will follow *doh gai doori* (keep a distance of six feet) but we won’t let it derail our targets.”

However, stories of starvation are becoming the new normal. The migrant population is struggling to manage one meal a day. Unemployment and desperation are all around, be it in rural or urban areas. In the aftermath of the lockdown, distribution networks of crops are choked and sometimes the State Governments are clueless on how to move the food to where it is most needed. At the beginning of this year, the World Economic Forum reported that India ranked 76th out of 82 countries on the social mobility index. This precisely signals the sordid state of social justice. Reflecting on inclusive development, the United Nations (UN) has underlined the aspects of HDI, equality and justice in its ambitious 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprising 17 objectives. Nonetheless, the Corona crisis will upend the timeline and derail the development of prescribed goals. It has infected the SDGs at the very core.

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) has taken up the challenge to achieve the SDGs. Aroya Setu, the Government’s app, is enabling the machinery to identify potential COVID-19 cases in the country. However, the infection has claimed above 2,500 lives, rendered millions jobless and stranded people at numerous locations with empty bellies. This makes one question the achievement of inclusive development and social justice on the constitutional apparatus as 5.5 per cent of India’s total population is under the extreme poverty line and is battling the epidemic alone. Rights groups have demanded adequate social security measures for women and labourers on a war footing.

Social justice in India is in shambles. Sixteen migrant labourers, who were fatigued and fell asleep on railway tracks in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, were crushed to death. This human loss could have been averted if they had been promised free travel home. Millions are starving and the Public Distribution System (PDS) in many States is unable to address food insecurity as the gap between demand and supply is widening each day. To combat the Coronavirus, the nation is reeling under lockdown 3.0, which will extend into 4.0 after May 17. There are potential problems rising to counter the infection. The doorstep delivery of free rations and other essentials for vulnerable sections of society is yet to be intensified. When normalcy is limping back in a regulated manner, liquor

shops have opened which contradicts the theory of meagre supply of essentials for the deprived. In a startling note, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies and the Supreme Court have asked States to contemplate online sales and home delivery of liquor.

Usually, the five southern States — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala — consume half of India’s liquor and also provide major excise to the Government. In the wake of the opening of liquor shops in Delhi, the Government has imposed 70 per cent “special Corona fee” on the sale of liquor, aiming at enhancing revenue, which has been hit hard due to the lockdowns. However, there is chaos outside shops, forcing police to use batons to disperse crowds jostling to buy alcohol. In the melee, social distancing norms are grossly violated. Though the police had drawn chalk circles at the appropriate distances for people to stand in a queue, all their effort was in vain.

With COVID-19 looming large, social justice, the signature tune of our Constitution, still eludes scores of citizens in these troubled times. The Union Government has taken a \$1.5 billion loan from the Asian Development Bank to provide social protection to the needy. Understanding that constitutional justice is non-negotiable, State Governments are on their toes to deliver basic amenities to citizens. The Maharashtra Government has announced free ration to the disabled for a month. The policemen, who are above 55 years of age in Mumbai, have been asked to go on leave. The Rajasthan Corona Sahayata Yojana is catering to the needs of the disadvantaged.

The Odisha Government is trying to bring out a whopping 4.86 lakh strand-

ed migrant workers from Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Uttar Pradesh Government has brought back thousands of labourers from neighbouring States. The Government has started train services from the national Capital to various cities. The passengers are made to adhere to social distancing norms and stand inside circles marked on the pathway and the platform. They are subjected to thermal scanning and the trains are being sanitised. However, it still seems that there is a dearth of efforts to meet the requirements of the people in the time of crisis.

In order to achieve its SDGs, India cannot afford to leave anyone behind and there is no other way to end stigma and discrimination than through social justice and inclusive societies. Previously, abject poverty, lack of education, healthcare facilities, gender parity and the inability to reduce maternal mortality rates were the factors due to which India failed to achieve its 2015 Millennium Development Goals. That cannot happen again.

Currently, glaring instance of lapses in securing social justice worldwide cannot be ruled out, too. Older Black Americans dying in greater numbers is setting a disturbing trend in the social milieu, warranting a probe in socio-economic and racial justice issues. In Spain, older people were found dead and abandoned and elderly homes were not paid the required attention. In India, such community issues are yet to come to the fore. However, these issues of neglected social justice, human rights and unaddressed social insecurity are not new. It is not during COVID-19 alone, the issues of social unrest were also there whenever any major epidemic broke out in the past. When the Zika epidemic

broke out in South and Central America among sugarcane workers, they were subjected to racial, gender and economic inequity. Women in El Salvador from Central America encountered serious barriers in exercising their sexual and reproductive rights.

The West African Ebola epidemic, which killed above 11,000 people, exacerbated the poverty crisis. The endemic was neglected as a social justice issue. Human rights violations were prevalent while dealing with the H1N1 Swine Flu pandemic and the Asian Flu. Similarly, the outbreak of SARS caused social exclusion of a racial minority — the Asian-Canadian group.

Social justice remains a distant dream. Millions were denied social, economic and political justice when epidemics were dealt with from time to time. There are several precedents of nonchalance in enforcing laws and initiatives during epidemics. The Indian Swine Flu outbreak in 2015 resulted in socio-economic inequities. Dana Majhi, a tribal from Malkangiri district of Odisha carried his wife’s corpse on his shoulders as he failed to get a hearse. His wife had died of Japanese Encephalitis and he walked around 10 km from the hospital with his wife’s body.

Social justice, equity and human rights are at the borderline. At this juncture, no one should be left behind and we must end discrimination through social justice and inclusive societies. The politics of epidemics is not the panacea. The approach to the epidemic should be holistic by bringing science, governance and social justice into one fold.

(Biswal and Chakraborty are Assistant Professors at SIBM and are working at Symbiosis International, Pune)

The fantasy life of Jordan Goudreau

A few dozen volunteers and mercenaries tried to land on the Venezuelan coast near Caracas a week ago. Six were killed, all the rest were arrested. Goudreau would have been there, too, but he couldn’t leave Florida because of Coronavirus travel restrictions



It is hard being born Canadian if your ambition is to be a real-life version of movie tough guy Jean-Claude Van Damme (*Blood Sport*, *Death Warrant*, *Universal Soldier*, *Last Action Hero* and so on). The same goes for being Belgian, of course, but Van Damme just wanted to be in the movies. Jordan Goudreau wanted the real thing and joining the Canadian army reserves while studying computer science at the University of Calgary didn’t quite do it for him. So he moved to the United States (US) and joined the Green Berets, which provides a

much better mix of derring-do, martial arts, and exotic foreigners to kill. (*Sudden Death*, *Die Fast Die Furious*, *6 Bullets*, *Kill ‘Em All* and so on).

Goudreau was not a fake. He did several tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, killing real people and by all accounts was a brave and competent soldier. But action heroes have early expiry dates.

At 60, Jean-Claude Van Damme is doing self-mocking tough-guy commercials for Coors Light. Jordan Goudreau’s luck ran out in 2016, when he was injured in a parachute accident and had to retire from his beloved Special Forces at the young age of 40.

Nobody offered him any beer commercials and his great idea to sell the services of military veterans to schools to stop mass shooters — parents would pay a subscription of \$8.99 a month — didn’t fly. So he ended up doing what washed-up American action heroes always do: He went to Latin America (*Butch*

*Cassidy* and *the Sundance Kid*, *The Magnificent Seven* and so on.)

Specifically, he went to Colombia. Having set up a “security company” called Silvercorp in Florida, he got in touch with the Venezuelan Congressional leader who claims to be the legitimate President, Juan Guaidó, offering to overthrow Nicolás Maduro (who actually lives in the presidential palace). This would be done in the time-honoured way, by recruiting and training exiles and mercenaries who would go in, attack the regime, and trigger a mass uprising. (Think the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, only successful.) And for about two weeks last October, Guaidó was tempted. He even signed a \$213 million contract with Goudreau’s Silvercorp for unspecified “general services”, but he cancelled the contract in early November. Maybe Guaidó is not quite as gullible as he seems, or maybe he just remembered that hiring foreigners to

overthrow your country’s Government, even in the name of democracy, is a bad look.

Anyway, that was the end of the grand plan but Goudreau didn’t give up. The US Government had recently declared Maduro a “narcoterrorist” (whatever that is) and put a \$15 million price on the Venezuelan dictator’s head. So Goudreau’s Plan B was to send in a crack team (they’re always called “crack teams”) to capture Maduro, airlift him out of the country and collect the reward.

However, by now Venezuela’s Intelligence service and practically everybody else knew about Goudreau’s plan. The *Associated Press* even ran a story about it on May 1, quoting associates of Goudreau as saying he was “in way over his head”. But before we get to the end of the story, a brief pause to contemplate the equally spectacular incompetence of the other side.

By late March the Venezuelan

Government was on hair-trigger alert for Goudreau’s planned raid, and on March 30 the Venezuelan Navy spotted a Canadian-owned cruise-ship, the RCGS Resolute, stopped off the Venezuelan island of Tortuga. So the Navy patrol ship Naiguatá ordered the ship to proceed to port for inspection.

Resolute didn’t move, because it couldn’t. It had already suffered some mechanical failure and put out a warning that it was “not under command.” But the Venezuelans thought it was stalling and after firing some shots at or near the cruise-ship it started ramming it repeatedly on the starboard bow, apparently trying to force it around in the right direction.

Now, Naiguatá was not some little speedboat; it was a 90-metre steel ship with a crew of 44 and a helicopter on the aft deck. But Resolute has four times the displacement and its hull is ice-strengthened for cruising in polar waters. Ramming it was

like running at a brick wall again and again with your head, hoping to make an impression. Eventually, the Naiguatá just sank.

Another ship picked up its crew, and eventually Resolute got underway again. It’s now parked in Curaçao and no, there weren’t any mercenaries aboard. No passengers of any kind, in fact. And finally, the tragicomic end. A few dozen volunteers and mercenaries tried to land on the Venezuelan coast near Caracas a week ago. Six were killed, all the rest were arrested. Goudreau would have been there, too. “He would have 100 per cent gone out in a blaze of gunfire because that’s who he is,” said a friend. But he couldn’t leave Florida because of Coronavirus travel restrictions. US President Donald Trump denies any official American involvement in the incident, and for once I almost believe him.

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

FOREIGN EYE



SCHOOL IS GOOD BUT NOT NOW

The UK Government’s announcement that students should go back to school in June was wrong. Now children, parents and teachers, need clarity about the Government’s intentions. But they also need to know that ministers are thinking about the longer-term. It will be disastrous if the inequalities in our society are allowed to entrench themselves in the next generation, in the shadow of the virus.

(The Guardian editorial)



Around the Globe

- The UK faces a “significant recession”, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak has warned after figures showed the country’s economy shrank by 2 per cent in the first three months of the year due to the impact of the coronavirus-induced economic lockdown. The UK’s Indian-origin finance minister, who is at the forefront of the economic response to the coronavirus pandemic and has spearheaded as wide range of measures to protect jobs, said that while the country was yet to fulfil the technical definition of a recession — two successive quarters of falling activity — it was only a matter of time.
- The French Government cried foul after pharmaceutical giant Sanofi said it would reserve first shipments of any COVID-19 vaccine for the United States, saying the move would be “unacceptable” in a crisis that has killed nearly 3,00,000 people worldwide. The French multinational’s chief executive Paul Hudson said Wednesday that the US would get first dibs because its government was helping to fund its vaccine research.

- Two Rohingya have become the first to test positive for coronavirus from the vast refugee camps in Bangladesh that house almost a million people, officials said. Health experts have been warning for some time that the virus could race through the sprawling, unsanitary camps that have been home to the refugees since they fled a military offensive in Myanmar more than two years ago.
- Russia’s Foreign Ministry has accused the *Financial Times* and *The New York Times* of spreading “disinformation” after the two newspapers alleged that Russia’s coronavirus death toll could be much higher than officials are reporting.
- Japan’s Prime Minister has announced the end of the state of emergency for most regions of the country, but restrictions are being kept in place in Tokyo and seven other high-risk areas, including Osaka, Kyoto and Hokkaido. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday lifted the measure ahead of schedule in 39 of the country’s 47 prefectures, effective immediately. Abe declared a month-long state of emergency on April 7 in Tokyo and six other urban prefectures, later expanding it to the whole country through May 31.
- Cats can become infected with the novel coronavirus and pass it to other cats, according to a new study which says it is still unknown if the felines can transmit the virus to humans. In the study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, scientists administered the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, isolated from a human patient to three cats, and monitored the felines in the lab. The researchers, including those from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US, swabbed the nasal passages of the cats, and were able to detect the virus in two of the animals. Within three days, they said they detected the virus in all of the cats.
- Turkish officials said Kurdish rebels have opened fire and killed two municipal workers distributing aid in an area under quarantine because of the pandemic. One other person was injured. The group was attacked with long-barreled weapons from a vehicle. The municipal employees were riding inside another vehicle after handing out aid packages.

# Trump rips into China, says ‘plague came over’

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday said he was very disappointed in China over its failure to contain the novel coronavirus, saying the worldwide pandemic cast a pall over his US-China trade deal.

Coronavirus outbreak originated in Wuhan, China, in December and was spreading silently as Washington and Beijing signed a Phase 1 trade deal hailed by Republican President as major achievement. “I’m very disappointed in China,” the Republican president said in an interview broadcast Thursday on *Fox Business Network*.

“They should have never let this happen. So I make a great trade deal and now I say this doesn’t feel the same to me. The ink was barely dry and the plague came over. And it doesn’t feel the same to me,” Trump said.

Under the Phase 1 deal signed in January, Beijing pledged to buy at least \$200 billion in additional US goods and services over two years



while Washington agreed to roll back tariffs in stages on Chinese goods.

A Chinese state-run newspaper has reported that some Government advisers in Beijing were urging fresh talks and possibly invalidating the agreement.

Trump said again he was not interested in renegotiating.

While US Intelligence agencies said the virus did not appear to be manmade or genetically modified, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said early in May there is “a significant amount of evidence” the virus came from a laboratory in

Wuhan.

His comments followed Trump’s assertion on April 30 that he was confident the coronavirus may have originated in a Chinese virology lab.

In the *Fox Business* interview, which was taped on Wednesday, Trump focused more on China’s response to the outbreak than on its origin.

“We have a lot of information, and it’s not good. Whether it came from the lab or came from the bats, it all came from China, and they should have stopped it. They could have stopped it, at the source,” he said. “It got out of control.” *Agency*

## I will certainly look at it: Trump on Bill proposing sanctions on China

AGENCY ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he will “certainly” look into the recently introduced legislation that authorizes him to sanction China if it fails to cooperate and provide a full accounting of the events leading to the coronavirus outbreak.

“I respect US Senator Lindsey Graham and I will certainly look at it. The bill to sanction China, I will certainly take a look at it. I have not seen it yet,” Trump told reporters at a White House event on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, several Republicans senators including Graham had introduced legis-

lation authorizing the US President to impose sanctions on China if it fails to cooperate and provide a full accounting of the events leading to the coronavirus outbreak.

China on Wednesday strongly protested the bill aimed at imposing sanctions against Beijing over the Covid-19 pandemic.

“This act sponsored by several US lawmakers shows no respect for facts. By pushing for investigations based on the presumption of guilt, it is meant to shirk responsibility for the US fumbling response to China. This is highly immoral. We are firmly opposed to it,” Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

## Trump says ‘mobilising US military’ to deliver vaccine

**Washington:** President Donald Trump is mobilising the US military to distribute a novel coronavirus vaccine when one becomes available and will focus first on older Americans. “You know it’s a massive job to give this vaccine,” Trump said in an interview broadcast Thursday on *Fox Business Network*.

“Our military is now being mobilised so at the end of the year, we’re going to be able to give it to a lot of people very, very rapidly.”

He said he believes there will be a vaccine by the end of the year and the United States is mobilising “our military and other forces” on that assumption.

The White House has set a target of having 300 million vaccine doses by the end of 2020. No such vaccine for this pathogen has been approved though a number are under

development, and producing and distributing an effective vaccine are seen as key steps to jumpstarting the US economy.

Trump’s timetable conflicts with that given by the nation’s top infectious disease expert in Senate testimony on Tuesday.

Dr Anthony Fauci, who directs the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious diseases, said the idea that there will be a vaccine available by next fall, when schools and universities resume classes, was “a bridge too far.” *Agency*

## China rejects as ‘slandorous’ US claim of attempted vaccine theft

**Beijing:** China on Thursday termed as “slandorous” the US accusation that hackers backed by Beijing may be attempting to steal Covid-19 related research and vaccine materials and said that “smearing and scapegoating” others will not make the deadly virus go away.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian also rebutted US National Security Advisor Robert O’Brien’s charge that five plagues came out China in the last 20 years, saying US officials are shifting the blame on Beijing as they struggled to handle the coronavirus pandemic back home. The US claims have added fuel to tensions between the two nations, which are engaged in a war of words over the origin of the coronavirus that has killed 3,00,000 people globally. *PTI*



# GLOBAL DEATHS AT 3L

AGENCIES ■ WARSAW/PARIS/ WASHINGTON

Around 3,00,639 people have died from Covid-19. While almost 4,485,683 infections have been confirmed in more than 185 countries and territories. More than 1,687,565 people have recovered to date.

Meanwhile, a typhoon that slammed into the Philippines on Thursday forced a risky evacuation for tens of thousands of people during the coronavirus pandemic, while New Zealand and Japan were among countries to relax restrictions as the virus is brought under control in some places.

Typhoon Vongfong added the threat of flooding and landslides to the further spread of Covid-19 as people in the eastern Philippines were evacuated into shelters. Officials were seeking to open up more shelter space so people could create more physical distance from themselves, something that was a clear challenge as fierce rains and winds battered the region.

As the pandemic restrictions across the globe inflict damage on economies, sever-

al governments promised relief. New Zealand’s Government said it plans to borrow and spend vast amounts of money as it tries to keep unemployment below 10 per cent.

“We face a global economic and health crisis not seen since the Great Depression,” Finance Minister Grant Robertson said.

In Italy, one of the worst-hit countries, Premier Giuseppe Conte promised a massive package of tax cuts and other financial aid to help businesses and families.

“Your cry of alarm didn’t escape us,” Conte said. His Government also promised to legalise the status of foreigners, many of them illegal migrants who are crop-pickers, baby-sitters and caretakers.

The world’s public health measures continue to provoke conflict between officials and the public.

In Ethiopia, police said they arrested over 1,000 people for refusing to wear face masks in public, while in Greece a spat broke out over a government plan to install cameras in high school classrooms. The idea is to provide live-streaming to allow for reduced classroom

attendance when schools reopen next week. But a privacy watchdog and a left-wing opposition party called cameras a serious privacy risk.

In many parts of the world, communities and individuals were finding inventive ways to cope with what many view as a “new normal.”

Apartment dwellers in Rio de Janeiro were getting some much-needed entertainment from children’s movies projected onto screens set up outside their buildings, similar to a drive-in theater.

Cesar Miranda Ribeiro, president of city-owned RioFilme company, said the effort, called “Cinema in the Windows,” is aimed at “trying to take care of the mental health of the people.”

Chinese people looking for some stay-at-home retail therapy have tuned into livestream shopping.

Others seeking spiritual support and human connections are worshipping remotely via online religious services, including from the Vatican to village churches.

“People in general, I think, are looking for more meaning and spirituality in the midst of

all this,” said Omar Suleiman, an Islamic leader in Irving, Texas, whose Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research has been uploading YouTube videos. “So I think there’s just a general increase in religiosity and consumption of religious content.”

For most leaders, though, the focus was a far more worldly one: how to get back to business and revive economies reeling from record numbers of job losses and chilling uncertainty.

In New Zealand, malls, retail stores and restaurants reopened Thursday and many people returned to their workplaces as the nation of 5 million people ended most of its coronavirus lockdown restrictions. But most gatherings will be limited to 10 people and social distancing guidelines will remain in place.

The US has the largest coronavirus outbreak in the world by far: 1.39 million infections and over 84,000 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Worldwide, the virus has infected more than 4.3 million people and killed some 297,000. Experts say the actual numbers are likely far higher.

A top US immunologist

who says he lost his Government job because he warned the Trump administration to prepare for the coronavirus pandemic said he was ready to tell Congress that America faces its “darkest winter in modern history” unless leaders act decisively to prevent a rebound of the coronavirus.

Dr Rick Bright’s testimony due Thursday follows this week’s warning by Dr Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious disease expert, that rushing to lift store-closing and stay-at-home restrictions could “turn back the clock,” seeding more suffering and death and complicating efforts to get the economy rolling again.

But the pressure is on to staunch job losses after the U.S. unemployment rate soared to 14.7% in April, the highest since the Great Depression.

The fallout from the pandemic includes heightened political tensions between nations.

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	1,438,426	85,699
Spain	2,72,646	27,321
Russia	2,52,245	2,305
UK	2,33,151	33,614
Italy	2,23,096	31,368
France	1,78,060	27,074
Germany	1,74,478	7,884
Turkey	1,44,749	4,007

- Whistleblower Dr Rick Bright warned on Thursday that the US lacks a plan to produce and fairly distribute a coronavirus vaccine when it becomes available. The nation could face “the darkest winter in modern history” unless leaders act decisively, he told a congressional panel
- A new antibody test to establish whether someone has been infected with coronavirus in the past has been approved by health officials in England, it emerged on Thursday

## UN chief says Covid-19 crisis increasing psychological suffering

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Warning that the Covid-19 crisis is increasing “psychological suffering”, UN chief Antonio Guterres has called for an ambitious commitments from countries to address mental health issues arising from the coronavirus pandemic, amid a potential global spike in suicides and drug abuse.

Ahead of the upcoming World Health Assembly in Geneva, UN Secretary General in a video message launching a policy briefing on Wednesday urged the international community to do much more to protect all those facing mounting mental pressures. “Mental health is at the

core of our humanity. It enables us to lead rich and fulfilling lives and to participate in our communities. But the Covid-19 virus is not only attacking our physical health; it is also increasing psychological suffering,” Guterres said.

Launching the UN policy brief — Covid-19 And The Need for Action On Mental Health — Guterres highlighted how those most at risk today were “frontline health-care workers, older people, adolescents and young people, those with pre-existing mental health conditions and those caught up in conflict and crisis. We must help them and stand by them.”

## AROUND THE WORLD IN PICTURES



## Coronavirus eminently capable of spreading through speech: Study

**Washington:** Microdroplets generated by speech can remain suspended in the air in an enclosed space for more than ten minutes, a study published Wednesday showed, underscoring their likely role in spreading Covid-19.

Researchers at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) had a person loudly repeat the phrase “Stay healthy” for 25 seconds inside a closed box.

A laser projected into the box illuminated droplets, allowing them to be seen and counted.

They stayed in the air for an average of 12 minutes, the study published in the journal

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) showed.

Taking into account the known concentration of coronavirus in saliva, scientists estimated that each minute of loudly speaking can generate more than 1,000 virus-containing droplets capable of remaining airborne for eight minutes or more in a closed space. “This direct visualization demonstrates how normal speech generates airborne droplets that can remain suspended for tens of minutes or longer and are eminently capable of transmitting disease in confined spaces,” the researchers conclude. *AFP*

## Boeing scores deals to deliver more than 1,000 missiles to Saudi

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Boeing has been awarded two contracts worth more than \$2 billion for the delivery of more than 1,000 air-to-surface and anti-ship missiles to Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

A first contract, worth \$1.97 billion, is for the modernization of SLAM ER cruise missiles as well as delivery of 650 new missiles “in support of the government of Saudi Arabia,” it said.

The contract is to be completed by December 2028 for the SLAM ERs, a GPS-guided air-to-surface missile with a range of up to 155 nautical

miles (approximately 180 miles, 290 kilometers).

The Pentagon also announced a more than \$650 million contract for delivery of 467 new Harpoon Block II anti-ship missiles, including more than 400 to Saudi Arabia.

The others will be delivered to Brazil, Qatar and Thailand. Support equipment will be supplied to India, Japan, the Netherlands and South Korea, the statement said.

In a separate statement, Boeing said the new contracts would ensure the continuation of the Harpoon program through 2026 and restart the SLAM ER production line.

## 36 mn have sought US unemployment aid since virus hit

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Nearly 3 million laid-off workers applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week as the viral outbreak led more companies to slash jobs even though most states have begun to let some businesses reopen under certain restrictions.

The wave of layoffs may not subside until Congress can agree on providing rescue aid for financially desperate state and local governments as well as further help for households. Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration are locked in a standoff with Democrats, who have proposed trillions more in aid

beyond the nearly \$3 trillion already allocated to individuals and businesses. Republican leaders have said they want to first see how previous aid packages affect the economy and have expressed skepticism about approving much more spending now.

Roughly 36 million people have now filed for jobless aid in the two months since the coronavirus first forced millions of businesses to close their doors and shrink their workforces, the Labor Department said Thursday. An additional 842,000 people applied for aid last week through a separate federal program set up for the self-employed and gig workers.

## Obama emerges as central figure in 2020 presidential race

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Nearly eight years after he was last on the ballot, Barack Obama is emerging as a central figure in the 2020 presidential election.

Democrats are eagerly embracing Obama as a political wingman for Joe Biden, who spent two terms by his side as vice president. Obama remains the party’s most popular figure, particularly with black voters and younger Democrats, and Biden’s presidential campaign is planning for him to have a highly visible role in the months to come.

For President Donald

Trump, that means an opportunity to focus the spotlight on one of his favorite political foes.

In recent days, Trump and his allies have aggressively pushed conspiracy theories about Obama designed to fire up the president’s conservative base, taint Biden by association and distract from the glut of grim health and economic news from the coronavirus pandemic.

“Partisans on both sides want to make this about Obama,” said Ned Price, who served as spokesperson for Obama’s White House National Security Council.

## Ahead of election, Trump attacks Russia probe, Democrats

**Washington:** President Donald Trump and Republicans are launching a broad election-year attack on the foundation of the Russia investigation, including declassifying intelligence information to try to place senior Obama administration officials under scrutiny for routine actions.

The effort has been aided by a Justice Department decision to dismiss its prosecution of former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn, essentially rewriting the narrative of the case in a way that former federal law enforcement officials say downplays the legitimate

national security concerns they believe Flynn’s actions raised.

Trump and his Republican allies are pushing to reframe the Russia investigation as a “deep state” plot to sabotage his administration, setting the stage for a fresh onslaught of attacks on past and present Democratic officials and law enforcement leaders.

Two Republican critics of the Russia investigation, Sens. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, disclosed a list of names of Obama administration officials they say may have received Flynn’s identity from intelligence reports in 2016 and 2017. *AP*



# Sensex skids 886 pts as stimulus euphoria fizzles out

## RIL, HDFC twins top drags

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex plummeted 886 points on Thursday as concerns over the efficacy of the Government's stimulus package and grim global cues hammered investor confidence. After crashing over 955 points during the day, the 30-share index settled 885.72 points or 2.77 per cent lower at 31,122.89. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tanked 240.80 points, or 2.57 per cent, to close at 9,142.75. Market players were disappointed as the immediate spend out of the Government's ₹20 lakh crore fiscal stimulus package was seen to be relatively small, raising doubts about the revival of growth any time soon, experts said. Further, global markets tanked following the WHO's comments that the novel coronavirus "may never go away". Tech Mahindra was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, cracking 5.24 per cent, followed by Infosys, HDFC, IndusInd

Bank, Reliance Industries and NTPC.

On the other hand, Hero MotoCorp, L&T, Maruti, UltraTech Cement and Sun Pharma led the gainers' chart, climbing up to 2.28 per cent. Meanwhile, the Government released truncated data for April wholesale price-based inflation, which showed deflation in primary articles was 0.79 per cent, while fuel and power basket saw a deflation of 10.12 per cent last month amid the nationwide lockdown.

"Indian benchmark indices wiped out all the previous session gains with Nifty ended below 9150 level due to unenthusiastic response to the relief package announcements made on Wednesday amid weak global cues.

"Capital goods and media stocks were up while IT, metals, financials, and telecom shares were down. All eyes are now on the balance two announcements by FM over Thursday and Friday," said Deepak Jasani, Head Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Announcing the second tranche of economic stimulus measures post market hours,

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said these will be for the benefit of migrant workers, street vendors and small farmers.

BSE IT, energy, teck, finance, metal, bankex, oil and gas, power and realty indices lost up to 3.60 per cent, while healthcare, FMCG and capital goods closed with modest gains. The broader midcap and smallcap indices dropped up to 0.63 per cent. Asian markets were in the red after the World Health Organization warned that the novel coronavirus "may never go away".

On top of that, US Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell warned of a "highly uncertain" outlook for the world's top economy. Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul closed with losses. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a negative note in early deals.

International oil benchmark Brent crude futures surged 3.85 per cent to USD 30.32 per barrel.

On the currency front, the rupee slipped 10 paise to provisionally close at 75.56 against the US dollar.

## Covid-19 testing lab inaugurated at SSPH PGTI, Noida



**Noida:** The Covid-19 testing lab in Microbiology Department, Super Speciality Paediatric Hospital and Post graduate Teaching Institute, NOIDAwas formally inaugurated at 10 am on May 13 by CEO Greater NOIDA, Mr Narendra Bhushan.

The inauguration was done through remote video conferencing. Director of Child PGI, Dr DK Gupta, ICMR Scientist Dr Anup Kumar Anvikar, other Faculty and Microbiology staff of SSPH PGTI also participated in the video conference.

A brief presentation about the Covid testing facility was shared by Dr Sumi Nandwani, Prof and Head, Department of Microbiology.

The laboratory has been approved for Covid-19 testing by ICMR and as per recommendations of KGMU after remote assessment of the laboratory quality and facility.

External Quality Result Validation with National Institute of Biologicals, NOIDA was also done with control samples before commencement of the facility.

# Govt releases truncated April WPI inflation data; reports 10.12% deflation in fuel, power basket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday released truncated data for April wholesale price-based inflation saying there was limited transaction of products in the market due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

As per the data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, wholesale price index (WPI) deflation in primary articles was 0.79 per cent in April, as against an inflation of 3.72 per cent in March.

The fuel and power basket saw a deflation of 10.12 per cent in April, against 1.76 per cent deflation in the previous month. "In view of the limited transactions of products in the wholesale market in April 2020 due to the spread of Covid-19, it has been decided to release the price movement of selected sub-groups/groups of WPI, following the principles of adequacy," an official statement said.

All commodities WPI could not be computed for April-2020 due to non-availability of manufactured product group index, it added. It said the price indices of primary articles have been computed based on mandi prices of agricultural items; ex-mine prices of minerals; prices of crude petroleum and natural gas.

Price indices of fuel and power major group have been computed based on the price

data reported from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, selected public sector undertakings, Office of the Coal Controller and Central Electricity Authority.

Price indices of these major groups (primary articles and fuel & power) were released for April 2020 with standard procedures. No changes in estimation procedures were done, it added. With regard to inflation in manufactured products, the ministry said in view of the preventive measures and announcement of nationwide lockdown by the government to contain spread of Covid-19, the price collection of manufactured products through personal visits of price collectors was suspended with effect from March 19.

The data (ex-factory prices) was collected through electronic means of communications from selected factories and institutional sources. The price movement of these sub-groups/groups of WPI was worked out by taking the prices of only those items for which at least 25 per cent of price quotations were reported from the selected manufacturing units.

Indices were compiled only for five manufacturing groups — manufacture of food products, beverages, chemicals and chemical products, pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products, and basic metals.

## Metro Railway GM holds high-level meet

**Kolkata:** Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway held a high level meeting at Metro Rail Bhavan on May 11.

During this meeting, he took stock of the preparedness of Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital to combat Covid-19 pandemic. He advised medical officers to take all possible steps to provide best medical facilities as per rules to Covid-19 patients if they come for treatment at this hospital.

Joshi advised all concerned officials to be ready for resumption of Metro services in a short notice. Before the resumption of Metro services, fitness of assets required for providing smooth services needs to be ensured, he instructed.

He has also asked officials to prepare a 'Must Do List' before the resumption of services and also precaution needs to be taken when Metro services will start.



**DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS , VARANASI - 221004**

**EOI (EXPRESSION OF INTEREST)**

**Sub-:** EOI (Expression of Interest) towards entering into tie-up with CGHS empanelled recognized private hospitals for treatment of Advance Cardiac Care of Railway Beneficiaries of DLW with Central Hospital, DLW, Varanasi through MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) on Bill Payment system. P.Chief Medical Officer of Central Hospital, DLW, Varanasi invites "Expression of Interest (EOI)" from willing CGHS empanelled recognized private hospitals located **under National Capital Region (Delhi)** having more than 300 beds and also empanelled/ recognized with and Central Hospital, Northern Railway New Delhi for entering into tie-up for DLW patients with Central Hospital, DLW, Varanasi. For EOI, the Document & Format is to be collected from the office of the P.Chief Medical Officer/ DLW/Varanasi or the same may also be downloaded from Website :- **www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in"** The responses on the prescribed format may be dropped in a box kept in the office of the P.Chief Medical Officer, Central Hospital, DLW, Varanasi on and before 17.06.2020 date : 15.06 hrs.

**P.R.O./DLW/Medical-02 Dated : 13.05.2020****P.C.M.O./DLW**

/dieselocoworks**"Website :- www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in"**

		<h1>हरियाणा सरकार</h1>				
<h2>TENDER NOTICE</h2>						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
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### Trend Blazer

**‘A new world opened up for me’**

Playback icon **ASHA BHOSLE** would attribute her grandchildren as an inspiration behind her decision to launch her YouTube channel recently.

“Due to the present situation, like all of humanity, I am cooped up at home. Sitting at home, with my grand-kids and observing their net savvy communication skills, a new world opened up for me,” said Bhosle, who launched her YouTube channel recently.

Besides music, Bhosle’s channel will unravel interesting facets about her, replete with anecdotes.



**‘These days youngsters have more first-world problems rather than real-world issues. Their problems can be, ‘why am I not getting likes and popularity among peers on social media?’ or ‘why is his car bigger than mine?’ There is jealousy, greed and exhibitionism rather than living in the moment exploring.’**

**—Esha Gupta**



Singer and music composer **SONA MOHAPATRA** hosted a musical webinar for 17,000 healthcare workers.

Speaking about it, she said, “Our medical professionals and health care workers are the heroes and warriors who need our love and support. It’s a high risk job as they are exposed directly to the virus, experiencing the raw vulnerability of human life at the border between life and death. Nothing prepares people adequately for a situation like this. I wanted to give them uninterrupted entertainment, cheer for them, pay tribute to them and let them know how thankful we are.”




**‘Black Widow is pragmatic’**

Hollywood star **SCARLETT JOHANSSON** feels it is fun playing the superhero *Black Widow*, and says her character has really grown over the past 10 years.

Johansson shot for the film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). She now awaits its release which got pushed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

“I think my character has really grown over the past 10 years. She has sort of fallen into a leadership position which I think is a natural place for her. She is pragmatic, flexible and understands the shades of grey that exist in the universe,” Johansson said.



With the restaurant industry badly hit due to the lockdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, ASHISH AHUJA analyses what can be done to alleviate the pain

## SEARCH FOR SURVIVAL

The Indian restaurant industry was in the midst of seeking a prescription for a range of ailments, namely deep-discounting, predatory aggregator policies, non-availability of GST input tax credit, rising costs, wafer-thin margins and the evolution of the new-age consumer who preferred flirting with multiple brands as opposed to remaining loyal, among others. But this was early March 2020, which now seems aeons ago. What hit the industry in the form of COVID-19 in late March and the subsequent national lockdown has put the entire sector in need of immediate ventilator support. Sadly, as we are all aware, ventilators are in short supply. The industry waits its turn with the hope that a timely intervention would help it survive. It is not about prescriptions any longer, it’s the very survival that is at stake now.

That favourite waffle store, the neighbourhood pub, that smiling server who always knew how you liked your drink, and that immensely talented chef who had mastered the intricacies of a pinch of salt, might not be around when diners return out of the lockdown inertia. Conservative estimates predict that almost 30 per cent of your favourite eateries might not be in a position to fire their ovens once any semblance of normalcy returns. The balance 70 per cent would, in most likelihood, rationalise recruitment — thereby pointing towards a massive loss of livelihood. A sector that employs more than 7.2 million is staring at laying off close to two million people.

So what’s the way forward?

### Step 1: Revive the patient — government intervention

A patient in critical care does not plan on how to run the marathon in under four hours. The restaurant industry is akin to that patient. The first step is to revive the patient and the governments (both centre and state), which need to fulfill the vital role of a life-saver. But, how, may we ask?

**Employees** — The government in its wisdom ordered all businesses to pay their employees in full and not allow any termination. While the intent behind this policy is laudable, the practicality of this provision would eventually bankrupt the soundest of balance sheets. Saving employ-



ees today at the cost of businesses which provide that very employment would eventually save no one. It is a zero sum game. As businesses fail, the employee that was the target of benefit, would eventually face the same fate. Such short-term measures need to give rise to a sustained practical view. The government needs to introspect and propose a mechanism that addresses both issues — employee survival as well as business survival. The government could allocate a certain percentage of employee wages to be paid through the ESIC corpus. Furthermore, it could allow businesses to furlough employees and allow them to pay only a subsistence allowance during the lockdown period.

**Statutory dues** — Under lockdown, with no cash flows accruing to restaurants, the government could provide tax-deferrals for at least the next six months, for restaurants to conserve cash and be able to re-start operations, thereby creating liquidity.

**Credit Availability** — Government could facilitate loans without collateral and interest subvention to make credit available to ailing restaurants that are capable of surviving the crisis and hopefully thrive in the new COVID-19 world.

**Licensing** — With most licenses due for renewal, authorities must ensure that existing ones are automatically renewed for the current fiscal.

**Consistent re-opening strategy** — As and when the “new normal” is defined, government needs to formulate a cohesive consistent policy with respect to reopening — one that is clear, objective and practical. A well thought-out plan with respect to time-lines, public health, safety standards and standard operating procedures that are not ambiguous would help the restaurant sector to prepare and work in tandem with the state to deliver the desired results. Once the above emergency measures are administered, the restaurant industry could look to the next stage, that is, ‘rehab’ (akin to planning



to run the first few miles while preparing for the marathon run).

### Step 2: Rehabilitate the patient

The world has changed as we know it and we’re realising that a “new normal” is the need of the hour. We all understand that we have to live with the threat of the virus till a reliable cure is found. Changes to our lifestyle, interactions and consumption habits are a foregone conclusion and the restaurant industry shall have to adapt to these changes to survive and eventually flourish in the “new normal”. Post lockdown, health and safety are probably going to be the prime determinants of consumption in the restaurant industry for all times to come.

**Social distancing** — With new norms in place, restaurants are already planning operations with reduced seating layouts. Kitchens are being redesigned to ensure social distancing at the production stage. Safety through social distancing shall replace “cheek-by-jowl skirmishes”.

**Hygiene** — Sanitizers, periodic disinfection protocols, temperature checks, masks and gloves, contactless payments and digital menus are things that would define the “new normal”. Most restaurants

are actively working during this shutdown to ensure public health and safety is given importance.

**Trust** — Restaurants would need to win the trust of the customer for them to patronise their services. The fear psychosis would last for an extended time and hence, most consumers would be risk-averse. Restaurants would re-strategise their USPs and “selling with a seal of trust and confidence” would be the new marketing mantra.

**Menu rationalisation** — With social distancing and whole new operating scenarios at work, menus across restaurants shall have to be re-engineered. This will achieve sustainability with respect to anticipated reduced footfalls (owing to reduced seating capacity as well as reduced customer visits owing to a certain fear psychosis of being in public spaces).

**Spreadsheet magic** — With revenues expected to see a dip, anywhere between 30 per cent to 40 per cent on reopening, CFOs would need to realign cost percentages to re-build a sustainable business model, markedly different from the one being followed pre-COVID-19.

**Ease of doing business** — To ensure a swift revival, governments must adopt

a business-friendly approach and remove all bottlenecks to speed up commercial activity within the sector. A rationalised indirect tax structure, ease of licensing and minimum government intervention could potentially unshackle the industry — creating substantial economic dividend.

While the government has announced a slew of measures to alleviate the pain, how and when the serum permeates down to the patients (restaurants) shall determine how many survive to attempt the marathon ahead.

### Step 3: The final marathon run

In due course, the lockdown would be lifted. Restaurants, by their very nature of being public spaces, might end up de-shuttering later than most businesses. Once open, the final marathon run would begin — probably as challenging as the lockdown itself. If the revival and rehabilitation procedures are administered with precision, the fit and able restaurants would be able to stand a chance to embrace the tape in this final run. Marathons are never easy. Running a restaurant, especially in these times — not so either.

(The writer is Director, Pebble Street.)

## Continuing the legacy

Make no mistake, the second-generation Hyundai Creta is a better car in every respect



At the outset, there are some points that I would like to clarify. First, I have been driving around the NCR with all requisite permissions to cross the borders when required. Also, I have been adhering to all traffic rules and regulations, although my driving licence has expired during the lockdown, but thanks to government for validity extension. That said, no-one needs reminding that these are tough times, despite some traffic on the roads of New Delhi towards the latter half of the week, it was for the large part negligible.

Now, to the main dish of the day. The new second-generation Hyundai Creta is the first new car I have evaluated in a while. Honestly, I put on quite a few extra kilometres on the car over the week, not just because it was my job but primarily because it was a fun car to drive. So I was driving the Creta with the new 1.4 turbo-petrol engine with 140PS of power and a seven-speed dual-clutch gearbox. There is a bit of turbo noise in the background but on the whole, the power comes on smoothly with no perceptible lag and the gear changes are brilliant. Not all dual-clutch gearboxes are created equal, and this one is very good.

But you cannot talk about the new Creta without talking about the elephant in the room — the looks of the car. And that brings up the other issue that several folks have asked me, what to look at between the Hyundai Creta and the Kia Seltos. The latter is a valid question because the Creta and the Seltos are the same cars mechanically. Same engine options, same gears but yes, quite different to look at. It is very peculiar to me that historically, it is Kia that has had quirky

design cues on their cars, Hyundai has been relatively conservative. But then you look at these two cars, the Seltos despite its ‘light bars’ front and back looks conventional. The Creta on the other hand, definitely has very polarising features. When Hyundai took the covers off the second-generation Creta at the Auto Expo, the screams were for Shah Rukh Khan, the rest of us were scratching our heads because this is a dramatic change from the previous car.

Of course, there is a new focus on SUV design that mounts the headlights lower, you have seen that on the Tata Harrier, the refreshed Renault Kwid and even Hyundai’s Venue. This dramatic change in design is possible thanks to advances in light technology, mainly thanks to LED lights. That said, the base models of the new Creta will not have the trio-beam LED lights, which are only available on the SX models. The LED positioning light, the ‘eyebrow’ light as you might call it, is however standard. The LED taillights are also not there on the base models, and neither is the chromed-out front grille. Much like its cousin, the Seltos, buying a base model of the Creta makes little sense if you want the latest in lighting technology.

The same is true of the interiors. The top-spec Hyundai Creta is a brilliant car to sit inside and not just because of the brilliant 26-cm high-definition screen. I have been using the 2020 Hyundai Elantra for

a few months but this screen is utterly brilliant, in size and resolution, a step above almost all the competition. The Air Purifier, available on all automatic models, is a great new feature and is well-integrated into the central armrest. It gives a clear idea of the air quality inside the cabin. In these times of the Coronavirus, the HEPA-filter inside the car is a huge plus for Hyundai, well, the Seltos has it too. Similarly, for the BOSE sound-system, which is, in my opinion, is brilliant for those who love driving with music. There is also the digital instrument cluster on the op-spec models, and I know Hyundai can do a bit more here with that space, which I expect will be gradually improved. Rear leg room is better than the outgoing car as is luggage space but frankly this is a driver-oriented vehicle.

So great features, and it is a much better drive than the outgoing generation. If there is a small flaw, it is that under very heavy braking from very high speed, the car is a bit skittish and demands that you have a firm grip on the steering wheel. If you are a Creta owner, and there are thousands of those in Delhi, this is a worthy and better successor of the badge. Yes, the looks are polarising and personal aesthetics will come into play when choosing the car and that is where the Creta versus Seltos debate will rage. But at the end of the day, the profits will end up in the same place, so guess who wins?

## ‘COVID-19 changed perspective about life’

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the world down to its knees. It has changed almost everything, especially people’s perspective about life. Katrina Kaif isn’t feeling anything different.

“The pandemic, followed by the lockdown, has surely left many of us introspecting on how blessed we are and how much we take for granted in our normal lives. Also, with the alarming number of cases, I feel we all should work towards having better immunity through our food habits and lifestyle. It also changed my perspective about life in some ways,” Katrina said.

She also shared how she gets worried about the situation at times, and shares a few tips on how to control anxiety during the lockdown.

“I take one day at a time but, yes, there are days when I miss being on a shoot. Sometimes I also get worried about when will life go back to normal again. But I understand the crisis the world is dealing with, and the importance of everything that is being practised to defeat the pandemic.

“While anxiety is a serious issue, I would suggest that everyone keeps calm, meditate or perform yoga and think of the brighter side. Think about the days to come after this phase and how to not repeat the mistakes we have been making towards the environment. In this phase whenever I have felt low, I have

resorted to meditating, doing yoga, or watching a film or a show that cheers me up,” Katrina added.

Not only this, the crisis has helped the actor polish her housekeeping skills, in the absence of caretakers.

“This phase has helped me polish my cooking and kitchen skills in a big way. It has helped me improve in managing many household chores at once and has also given me a newfound respect for the homemakers who do it on a regular basis,” she expressed.

Katrina has also contributed her bit in the fight against the Coronavirus. Her make-up brand Kay Beauty has partnered with De’Haat to support daily-wage earners in rural areas of Maharashtra.

“Right from the start, we had plans for Kay Beauty collaborating with various foundations. There was a lot planned in terms of creating awareness and helping people, and also associating with several causes. De’Haat has been our first collaboration and considering the pandemic they were really happy to work together on this initiative.

Vrundan, its founder and CEO, is an amazing personality. She is very strong-headed and works hard for the welfare of rural India. In our initiative, we are reaching out to the families of daily wage workers in the Bhandara district of Maharashtra and providing them with food and sanitary needs,” Katrina explained.

—JANS





# WRAP, STORE AND SAVE

Every food has a certain quality. Here are ways to keep each type fresh for a longer period of time so that you can avoid stepping out often



The COVID-19 pandemic has got the country sheltering at home during the lockdown. While it was assured that the supply of essentials will continue as before, however, the apprehension resulted in panic buying, hoarding and stocking. Several stores ran out of a number of food items and the prices of vegetables and fruits spiralled.

Now that you're overstocked, one should get smarter about what they have. We must learn the art of storing food with an extended shelf life and minimise food waste.

"Different food types come with different shelf life. While some have the capacity to stay fresh for longer, others may not," states Luve Oberoi, marketing manager, Asahi Kasei Pvt Ltd, listing below a few ways which can help you keep your food fresh for an extended period of time:

❖ Use of premium wraps

Premium (plastic) wraps are considered extremely helpful when it comes to preserving food. These are made of different materials and hence, can be found in the variety of PVDC cling film, PVC or PE cling film. These were introduced in the mid-20th century and owing to their capability to preserve food, gained popularity.

However, if one has to choose the best, PVDC cling, is considered the best. These plastic wraps help in keeping the food fresh for a longer time by avoiding moisture and smells from seeping through. It is considered ideal for storing raw vegetables, fruits, poultry, seafood, roti dough without any fear of discoloration or oxidation and thus eliminates any wastage of food.

❖ Store your fruits and vegetables separately

Every food type has its own properties. It is advised that we must not store our



WE MUST NOT STORE OUR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES TOGETHER BECAUSE MANY FRUITS EXPEL A GAS CALLED ETHYLENE GLYCOL AS THEY HIT MATURITY, WHICH SPEEDS UP THE RIPENING OF THE FRUIT, AND OFTEN PREMATURE RIPENING OF VEGETABLES

fruit and vegetables together as a number of fruits expel a gas called ethylene glycol as they hit maturity. This gas speeds up the ripening of the fruit leading to premature ripening of vegetables stored with them. Consequently, this can damage the fruit as well as vegetables.

Also, some fruit, on the

absorption of odours from vegetables, become unpalatable. Hence, fruits and vegetables must not be put together.

❖ Get creative and experiment with your food

What better time than this lockdown to nurture your cooking skills and bring out the inner chef. Most of us are taking cooking classes on YouTube and experimenting with new dishes which is causing some amount of food wastage too.

However, in times like this, we need to get creative and experiment with leftover food. There are so many things which could be produced out of it. For example, rice. It can be used in multiple ways. If you had cooked plain white rice in the afternoon for lunch and have some extra, you can add spices, onions and different flavours to it for dinner and have an entirely new dish.

❖ Label the expiry dates of pantry items

We often have food items at home but we are unaware of their expiry dates. We must be aware of what we have and its shelf life. This will help in consciously using items and avoiding wastage of those food items.

❖ Use fridge freezer shelves for different foods

Your fridge's freezer shelves are very helpful when it comes to storing food items like ready to eat products such as dairy, cooked meats, raw meat, poultry and fish, salad, fruit and vegetables. However, since they have different properties, they are stored in different shelves of the fridge.

Raw meat, fish and seafood should be kept at a certain temperature in order to lock in freshness and prevent harmful bacteria from tucking in. They should be kept on the bottom shelf or, if your fridge has one, a chill compartment that's specially designed for this purpose.

Butter and cheese are less perishable, so they're best kept near the top of your fridge where it's warmer.

—IANS

# Let them mature

Consider growing some seeds for next year's garden

Since the Coronavirus pandemic has led to a surge in interest in gardening, especially vegetable gardening, some seed companies are having trouble keeping up with demand. But one thing we gardeners can do is grow and save our own seeds.

Some kinds of seeds are easier and more worthwhile to save than others. Look on the seed packets or tags for plants that you're growing. If it says the seeds or plants are "hybrid" or "F-1," those seeds are probably not worth saving.

Hybrid or F-1 seeds are taken from plants grown from seeds that are the result of mating two different, selected parent plants. Each offspring differs from the others and from its parents. These seeds will germinate and grow into plants, but those plants will be different from those from which you took the seeds. Perhaps better. Perhaps worse. At any rate, somewhat of a gamble.

If a label indicates that seeds or plants are non-hybrid or are "heirloom" varieties, their seeds can be saved with confidence that they'll grow up to be just like their parents. These plants always have the same parents; they pollinate themselves.

Some plants, such as beans, peas, peppers and most tomatoes, do this naturally. With others, you must make sure that another variety doesn't sneak in for pollination. Do this by growing the seed plant far enough from other varieties of the same kind of plant to prevent cross-pollination, or by hand-pollinating and then covering the pollinated blossoms with a paper or fine mesh bag to prevent cross-pollination.

## EASIEST TO SAVE

Fortunately, some of the easiest kinds of vegetable seeds to save are also among the most popular: tomatoes and peppers. And when it comes time to collect tomato or pepper seeds, no need to sacrifice the best fruits.

Most tomato flowers self-pollinate before they even open, so there's usually no need to worry about cross-pollination. Just choose a healthy-looking fruit from a healthy-looking plant, and slice it in half through its "equator," at which point the seed-containing cav-



ities are staring at you. Turn the half upside down over a glass and squeeze out the seeds. (Then eat the tomato — not a necessary step for seed saving.)

Those seeds are enmeshed in a gel that contains a germination inhibitor. Purge this inhibitor by adding some water, stirring, and letting the mix sit for 24 hours. Then rinse the seeds thoroughly in several changes of water, pouring off waste and nonviable seeds, which float, and strain out the good seeds. Spread the seeds onto a plate or a few sheets thickness of newspaper to dry out in a sunny spot or in the gentle breeze of a fan.

Peppers, which also self-pollinate, are even easier. Just cut a ripe pepper in half, scoop out the seeds, and let further dry. (Then eat the pepper.)

Not all seeds develop into juicy fruits. An example is lettuce. Leave a plant or two unharvested in your row of lettuce, and let the warmer and longer days of summer coax the plants into flowering mode. The leaves turn bitter, and up the plants' centres will rise a flower stalk capped by small, daisy-like flowers. As the seeds ripen, shake the flower heads into a paper bag to collect them over their several days of ripening.

Beans and peas develop in juicy fruits, but that's when we eat them, not when the seeds are ready (except in the case of dry peas or beans). Tie a ribbon onto a couple or more plants to remind yourself not to pick their fruits, and let the fruits get thoroughly mature and dry. Then just pop out the mature, dry seeds.

## PARENTAL CONTROL

Most vegetable plants have

both male and female flower parts, so can self-pollinate. Plants in the cucumber family, such as squash, melon, pumpkin and, of course, cucumber, have separate male and female flowers on the same plant, which increases the chances of a female flower getting pollinated by a male from a nearby plant of another variety.

Prevent cross-pollination by, first, hand-pollinating a female flower; she'll have a miniature cucumber, melon or squash fruit at her base. Dab a paint brush on a male flower to pick up pollen and then dab the pollen-laden brush on the female flower parts. Or pluck a male flower, pull off its petals, and rub its head into a female flower.

Further limit cross-pollination by enclosing the pollinated blossoms in a bag or, if petals are large enough, taping them closed.

Seeds of the cucumber family are mature only in the fully ripe fruit, so let cucumbers or summer squash grown for seed thoroughly ripen on the plant before slicing them open to collect seed. Melons, pumpkins and winter squashes are fully ripe when ready to eat, so just scoop out the seeds, then rinse and dry them.

To best preserve any of your harvested seeds, store them thoroughly dried in sealed bags in a cool location. This season's crop of seeds might spur you to try saving other kinds of vegetable, even flower, seeds next season. You'll save money, be assured of having seeds of the vegetable varieties you want to grow, and have some fun doing so.

—AP

## R E C I P E S

### MURGH MALAI TIKKA WITH MINT CHUTNEY

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Chicken breast: 150 gm
- Ginger and garlic paste: 25 gm
- Chilli: 10 gm
- Coriander: 10 gm
- Cream: 100 ml
- Mint: 10 gm
- Lemon: 5
- Chaat masala: 1 tbsp
- Sugar: 1 gm
- Raw mango: 1
- Ghee: 1 ml
- Salt to taste
- Oil: 10 ml
- Bhel: 25 gm

#### METHOD

##### For chicken marination:

- Marinate the chicken in lemon, garlic and ginger paste for 30 minutes.
- In a separate bowl mix together hung curd, cream and whisk well so that there are no lumps.
- Now add chicken in the mix and marinate for few hours or preferably overnight.
- Pre-heat tandoor and drizzle off the excessive marinade and thread the chicken pieces onto the skewers.
- Cook in tandoor for about 12-15 minutes and then baste with butter after every five minutes.
- Cook until the juices run clear and the chicken is cooked. Keep it slightly

charred around the edges.

- Take the chicken off the skewers, sprinkle chaat masala on top and ghee.
- Serve with chutney and raw mango bhel.

##### For chutney preparation:

- Take garlic, chilli, ginger, sugar, and salt in a small chutney jar of a grinder.
- Grind them until medium coarse consistency.
- Add coriander leaves, mint leaves, lemon juice and one tbsp of water.
- Grind until you get a smooth texture.

Courtesy: Chef David Edward Raj, director, Culinary Development and Innovation, Elixir India.



### CALIFORNIA WALNUT PANCAKE WITH MAPLE WALNUT BUTTER

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Plain flour: 125 gm
- Baking powder: 1 tsp
- Medium egg: 1
- Maple syrup: 2 tsp + extra to serve
- Buttermilk
- California walnut pieces (chopped): 2 tsp + extra to serve
- Oil for shallow frying
- Ripe banana (sliced): 1

##### For the walnut butter:

- Butter (softened): 50 gm
- Maple syrup: 2 tbsp
- California walnuts (chopped): 25 gm

#### METHOD

- To make the walnut butter, whisk the butter and maple syrup together until pale.
- Stir in the walnuts and set aside.
- Place the flour and baking powder in a medium-sized bowl



and mix to combine.

- In a jug, beat the egg and maple syrup in the buttermilk and whisk in the flour mixture.
- Add the walnuts and stir.
- Heat some oil in a non-stick frying pan and add four tablespoons

of batter to make four pancakes. Cook for two minutes each side. Repeat to make eight pancakes.

- Serve the cakes topped with walnut butter, banana, a drizzle of maple syrup and extra walnuts.

Courtesy: California Walnuts.

### CRAB MANGO & RAW PAPAYA SALAD

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Ripe mango: 60 gm
  - Raw papaya: 30 gm
  - Red & yellow bellpeppers: 20 gm each
  - Lettuce (Romaine)
  - Crab meat
  - Coriander
- For dressing:**
- Ginger: 8 gm
  - Garlic: 5 gm
  - Red chilli: 1
  - Sweet chilli sauce: 10 ml
  - Fish sauce: 1 tsp
  - Lime juice
  - Salt to taste

#### METHOD

- Cut cubes of ripe mangoes
- Make julienne of bellpeppers and raw papaya
- Cut coriander in sprigs
- Steam crab for 10 minutes and remove meat
- Wash lettuce and refresh bellpeppers julienne and papaya in cold water.



##### For dressing:

- Chop ginger, garlic, red chilli, coriander leaves
- Add sweet chilli sauce, fish sauce and some lemon juice
- Season with salt
- In a bowl, add lettuce, bellpeppers, crab meat, and toss
- Add coriander sprigs and mango cubes, mix lightly
- Garnish with coriander on top and serve

Courtesy: Ranjan Rajani, executive chef, Hotel Sahara Star.

### DAAB CHINGRI

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Prawns: 750 gm
- Onion
- Panch phoron: 1 tsp
- Green chillies: 4
- Turmeric
- Wheat dough: 20 gm
- Large tender coconut: 1
- Mustard paste: 3 tbsp
- Garlic cloves: 3
- Mustard oil: 2 tbsp
- Salt as required

#### METHOD

- Chop garlic, green chillies and onion. Scrape out the coconut flesh and put it in a grinder. Grind well to get a coconut flesh paste.
- Heat oil in a pan over medium flame and add panch phoron in it.
- Add the chopped green chillies, onions and garlic cloves.
- Now, take it out in a large bowl and add mustard paste, turmeric, salt and coconut flesh paste.
- In the mixture, add the raw prawns and mix everything well.
- Cut the bottom of the coconut shell evenly to make it stand properly inside the pressure cooker.
- Put the prawn mixture in the shell and cover the top with wheat dough.
- Add some water in the pressure cooker and place the coconut shell inside it. (Note: The level of water should be about half the height of the coconut shell.)
- Put the cooker lid on and let it cook over medium flame until you hear three whistles.
- After removing it from the flame, let the dish be inside the cooker for 10 minutes more.
- Take it out and remove the wheat dough seal. Serve hot with steamed rice.

Courtesy: Swissotel Kolkata.





# Bundesliga back with Der Klassiker

Dortmund braced to host Schalke in ‘most unusual derby in history’

AFP ■ DORTMUND

Borussia Dortmund's young stars Erling Braut Haaland and Jadon Sancho will be hunting more goals on Saturday in "the most unusual derby in history" against Schalke as the German Bundesliga returns behind locked doors.

Dortmund usually expect 82,000 spectators at Signal Iduna Park for a home derby, but the stadium will be near-empty with only a handful of media and officials admitted.

Even national team coach Joachim Loew will not be allowed in to watch his Germany players Live on their return to action.

"It will be the most unusual derby in history," former Dortmund captain Sebastian Kehl told German daily Welt.

Normally, a home derby against Schalke comes alive "through the fans, from their emotions, from the enthusiasm in the stadium," Kehl added.

Dortmund are looking to close the four-point gap behind leaders Bayern Munich, who visit Union Berlin on Sunday.

However, Dortmund's iconic south stand, dubbed *The Yellow Wall* and normally packed with 25,000 passionate fans will — like the rest of the stadium — stand empty.

"The players will miss the chance for extra motivation by the fans and the atmosphere," admitted Kehl.

While league action in England, Spain and Italy is still at least a month away, the German Football League (DFL) has drawn up detailed hygiene guidelines to restart.

At games around the country,



Borussia Dortmund's Erling Braut Haaland and Jadon Sancho in action during Bundesliga

substitutes will wear masks, goal celebrations will be replaced by elbow taps while handshakes and hugs before kick-off are a no-go.

"A lot of things will start from scratch on Saturday," Dortmund winger Julian Brandt told Sky.

"There will be no real advantages and disadvantages to playing home or away.

"In the end, it depends on who

best accepts this situation and can best deal with it."

The pressure is on Haaland, 19, and Sancho, 20, to continue their goal-rich partnership, despite the empty terraces, and steer injury-depleted Dortmund to victory.

Midfield enforcers Emre Can and Axel Witsel are out with muscle strains, while playmaker Marco Reus is recovering from a groin

## Brandt ready for historic game

MUNICH: Borussia Dortmund midfielder Julian Brandt has said while he is not feeling the same pressure as he would in normal circumstances when they take on local rivals Schalke, the sense of occasion is not lost on him.

"You have to say that it's the fans who always make it special. If you're a few days before such a game you'll notice that your neighbours are only speaking about the game when they see you," Brandt told *bundesliga.com* in midweek interview.

"You notice that the media focuses heavily on the game and that creates a certain tension in the air. At the moment, this isn't the case. Although I think the fans still really care about the result of the fixture, you don't notice it. The only tension that you could potentially feel is through the media but they have many other topics to cover so I think BVB vs Schalke is at the bottom of their priorities.

"Therefore, you don't feel the same pressure as you would in normal circumstances, but in the



end, this is the situation that we're in. Everyone will be watching us on Saturday, the Dortmund fans will watch us and the Schalke fans will watch their team. The result of the game will be important to them so it's not like we just say that it's irrelevant who wins or loses, it won't be like this. We do recognise that it would be an important tone to set if we win the game," said the 24-year old.

"This game is already historic, regardless of what happens on the pitch, as there has never been something like this," he added.

IANS

problem.

Haaland was in stunning form when the league was suspended in mid-March with nine goals in eight Bundesliga appearances since joining from Salzburg.

Sancho also terrorised defences with 14 goals and 16 assists in 23 league games.

At third-placed RB Leipzig, Germany striker Timo Werner is aiming to move closer to his goal target for the season against

Freiburg on Saturday. "Not many players my age have scored 20 goals in a season once and I've done it twice," said the 24-year-old Werner who has netted 21 times this term. "I'd like to score 30 in a season."



Julian Nagelsmann's Leipzig trail leaders Bayern by five points following draws against Leverkusen and Wolfsburg before matches were halted due to the virus outbreak.

## Rohit prefers short-term targets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Emphasising that long term goals can put stress and pressure on a player, star India opener Rohit Sharma says he prefers short term goals and would continue with the same strategy in future.

Sharma, who has played 224 ODIs and 32 Tests, said he likes setting a target for himself before the start of a series.

"Over the years, I've realised that long-term goals won't help you in anyway. On the contrary it will add to your pressure and stress. I have always focused on short term goals which are mainly the next few games in the upcoming 2-3 months — who is it against, what can I do best," the Sharma said on *Star Sports* show *Cricket Connected: Chats*.

"Setting goals for each series or tournament helps me a lot and I will continue to follow this method in the future," added the *Mumbaikar*, who has scored 9,115 ODI runs.

All the sports persons are stuck in their houses due to the lockdown, enforced to contain the deadly Covid-19 pandemic. Sharma said considering the situation, they can only wait for action to begin.

"I hope we get the opportunity to play cricket, as we don't know when we will play again. When we resume playing cricket, we will have to see what's coming our way — whether it's T20 World Cup or (the) IPL," he said.

"We even had a big bilateral series against Australia planned — we will have to analyse and see who we are playing against," he signed off.



## ‘Dhoni’s gut feeling is his biggest strength’

### Faf backs double quarantine to salvage T20 WC

NEW DELHI: Veteran South Africa batsman Faf du Plessis has proposed a two-week isolation period for players before and after the T20 World Cup as a way to stage the event as per schedule later this year.

Talking to Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal, du Plessis said travel was going to be an issue despite Australia being less affected by the deadly contagion. "I am not sure... Reading that travelling is going to be an issue for lot

of countries and they are talking about December or January. Even if Australia is not affected like other countries, to get people from Bangladesh, South Africa or India where there is more danger, obviously it's a health risk to them," du Plessis said.

"But you can go in before the tournament (for) two weeks isolation and then play the tournament and afterwards two weeks isolation," said the former captain.

Calling Dhoni the best finisher he has played with, Du Plessis said no one can emulate what the dasher from Ranchi can do with the bat.

"He's extremely calm. I haven't played with someone who is a better finisher than him. It's just remarkable to watch him from the side of the field."

"If someone else tries to do it like him they won't be able to. He's just so unique like he times the ball so late he's got an incredible calmness. He knows his game and he picks a bowler and goes for it."

Du Plessis also added that playing for CSK alongside Dhoni and under the guidance head coach Stephen Fleming has taught him a lot about leadership.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is an unconventional and unique leader, whose biggest strength is his incredible gut feeling, says his Chennai Super Kings teammate Faf du Plessis.

The former South Africa skipper has spent considerable time with Dhoni after joining the IPL side in 2011 and has been an integral part of its successful journey.

"He reads the others player really well and he uses that to make instinc-

## Poms may start training in coming weeks

PTI ■ LONDON

England players could tentatively start their outdoor skill-based training in the coming weeks with the ECB eyeing resumption of International cricket with a series against West Indies in July, said its director of cricket Ashley Giles.

However, as per health directive issued by Government wing, the players — across all sports in UK — will have an option to 'opt out' of training if they have

any apprehensions of health risk.

"These are the very first tentative steps back to playing cricket," Giles was quoted as saying by *ESPNcricinfo*, indicating that it could be done in controlled environment.

"This is individual-based training, so in many ways we should be able to get control of the environment so it's safer to go back to practice than it is to go to the supermarket. It should be that controlled an environment."

However as per protocols



issued by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), players will

have an option.

The ECB Director also agreed that they have to create an environment where West Indies and Pakistan both feel safe while travelling to the United Kingdom.

"It can be quite scary but we are doing everything we possibly can to answer all of West Indies' questions. We will be speaking to Pakistan as well and mitigate as much risk as we possibly can. We can't mitigate all risk but as much as possible to get guys comfortable."

## NRAI nominates Moudgil for Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has nominated ace shooter Anjum Moudgil for the Khel Ratna — the country's highest sporting honour — while recommending Jaspal Rana for the Dronacharya Award for the second year in a row.

Moudgil, the 26-year-old rifle ace who started shooting in 2008, is among the first two Indians to have secured quota places for the Tokyo Olympics.

The NRAI on Thursday said it will be sending the Sports Ministry the names of champion pistol shooters Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma, Manu Bhaker and promising rifle shooter Elavenil Valarivan for the prestigious Arjuna Award.

Bhaker and Valarivan's names were added to the list on Thursday, according



Anjum Moudgil poses for photo with Silver medal

to federation sources. NRAI President Raninder Singh said in a statement, "Our shooters had an outstanding last season and it was a particularly difficult selection to make this time around.

"I wish all those recommended all the very best and hope those who could not make it this year, force us to do so next time around with their performances.

"I believe all are equally talented and will certainly reap rich awards if they carry on the way they have."

Bhaker and Valarivan's names were added to the list on Thursday.

"Anjum Moudgil has been nominated for Khel Ratna while the NRAI has again send Jaspal's name for Dronacharya. They have always believed that he deserves it and are hoping he gets it this time," a federation source said.

"Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma, Manu Bhaker and Elavenil have

been recommended for Arjuna."

Moudgil, the shooter from Chandigarh earned the quota in the 10m Air Rifle event when she won the Silver medal in the ISSF World Cup in Korea in 2018.

Last year, Moudgil paired up with Divyansh Singh Panwar to claim the 10m Air Rifle mixed team Gold medal in the ISSF World Cup in Munich and Beijing.

She also reached the final in the 10m Air Rifle event in the ISSF World Cup in Munich and Rio de Janeiro.

The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award carries a medallion, a certificate and a cash prize of ₹7.5 lakh.

While, the 43-year-old Rana, a multiple Asian Games Gold-medallist marksman, is credited to have groomed the likes of teen sensations Bhaker, Saurabh into world-class shooters. The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh.

## Sainz to succeed Vettel at Ferrari

AFP ■ MILAN

Spanish driver Carlos Sainz will Sreplace four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel at Ferrari next season, while Daniel Ricciardo has signed a "multi-year" deal with McLaren from 2021.

Sainz, 25, will leave McLaren following the 2020 season to partner 22-year-old Charles Leclerc at Ferrari, forming the team's youngest pairing in the past 50 years.

"With five seasons already behind him, Carlos has proved to be very talented and has shown that he has the technical ability and the right attributes to make him an ideal fit with our family," Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto said in a statement on Thursday.

"We believe that a driver pairing with the talent and personality of Charles and Carlos... will be the best possible combination to help us reach the goals we have set ourselves."

Sainz emerged in pole position to succeed Vettel at Maranello after the German announced on Tuesday he was quitting Ferrari after talks over a new contract broke down.

Sainz, whose father, also Carlos, is a two-time world rally champion, has previously driven for Red Bull's feeder team Toro Rosso and Renault before impressing with McLaren last season.

He secured the once all-conquering British team's first podium place in almost six years in Brazil last year.

Signing Sainz will also end any lingering speculation about six-time champion Lewis Hamilton leaving Mercedes for Ferrari.

"I am very happy that I will be driving for Scuderia Ferrari in 2021 and I'm excited about my future with the team," said Sainz, who is expected to play a supporting role alongside Leclerc.



Australian Ricciardo will drive for McLaren next season when he takes over the seat left vacant by Sainz.

Ricciardo, 30, will line up alongside Britain's Lando Norris, 20, in 2021 after he leaves Renault at the end of this season.

"Daniel is a proven race-winner and his experience, commitment and energy will be a valuable addition to McLaren and our mission to return to the front of the field," said McLaren team principal Andreas Seidl.

"With Daniel and Lando as teammates, I believe we have two racers who will continue to excite our fans and help the team grow."

Ricciardo has won seven races and recorded 29 podium finishes since his F1 debut with the HRT team at the British Grand Prix in 2011.

He drove for Red Bull's junior team Toro Rosso in 2012 and 2013 before making the jump to the flagship Red Bull team in 2014. He finished third in the drivers' standings in 2014 and 2016.

Vettel's future meanwhile remains uncertain.

## Mourinho ‘desperate’ for PL return

LONDON (AFP): Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho says he is "desperate" for the return of Premier League action despite mounting concerns about the English top-flight's restart plans.

Some top-flight bosses understood to have expressed concerns about the plan to play from mid-June but Mourinho said he would relish the chance to get back to work despite the challenges and risks posed by

the pandemic.

"I have not asked for any delay," Mourinho said in a statement.

"I want to train, and I am desperate for the Premier League to return as soon as it is safe to do so, particularly now we are seeing other leagues preparing to return to action."

Mourinho said he is happy with the way his squad have kept themselves fit during the lockdown.

"I am extremely proud of

the way my players have maintained their fitness," he said. "They have shown great professionalism, passion and dedication."

"We have all been working extremely hard through remote squad training sessions and isolated running now the pitches are available to use again at the training centre."

"Every player has been extremely committed in terms of their individual work and now we wait for clearance to commence working in small groups again, which I will fully support."

### COVID19 - PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS (PCETs)

In order to ensure the faster supply of essential commodities, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railways, has been running the following Parcel Cargo Express Special Trains (PCETs) on the following routes as per the schedule given below:-

Special Train No./ Name	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Commencement From
00310	New Delhi	16:45	Howrah	16:30	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat	Upto 15.05.2020
00311	Sealdah	07:40	New Delhi	10:00	Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 15.05.2020
00312	New Delhi	16:45	Sealdah	19:30	Tue, Fri, Sun	Upto 17.05.2020
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Daily	Upto 03.06.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00403	New Delhi	21:45	Jammu Tawi	08:15	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00404	Jammu Tawi	18:10	New Delhi	04:40	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00433	New Delhi	15:35	Dehradun	23:55	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00434	Dehradun	10:25	New Delhi	19:15	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00453	Ambala Cantt.	04:00	Kalka	05:50	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00454	Kalka	20:00	Ambala Cantt.	21:50	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:30	Daily	Upto 03.06.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:40	Howrah	08:30	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00646	Chennai Central	18:00	New Delhi	05:00	Daily	Upto 15.05.2020
00647	New Delhi	18:00	Chennai Central	05:00	Daily	Upto 15.05.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Renigunta	16:15	Tue, Thu, Sat	Upto 16.05.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:30	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Upto 22.05.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:20	Monday	Upto 18.05.2020
00902	Ludhiana	23:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Thu, Sat	Upto 16.05.2020
00911	Mumbai Central	19:45	Firozpur Cantt.	02:30	Wed, Fri	Upto 15.05.2020
00912	Firozpur Cantt.	08:00	Mumbai Central	15:10	Fri, Sun	Upto 17.05.2020

The parties interested to book their Parcel in these trains may contact the concerned Divisional Officer/ Parcel Supervisor. Division wise contact numbers of concerned Officers/ Supervisors are available on Northern Railway's website [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)>About us > Covid Corner > Covid\_19 Parcel Trains section.

Note : The time table and operation status of all the above mentioned trains can be seen on the National Train Enquiry System (NTEs)

Note: (1) Parcel have to be loaded/unloaded within allowed half/time. (2). No passenger is permitted to travel by these trains. (3). The trains will be escorted by security officials.

Security Helpline No. 182

Integrated Helpline No. 139



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