WORLD 8

BIDEN SAYS HE WOULD NOT

PARDON TRUMP OR BLOCK PROBES

JAMIESON GETS

KIWI CONTRACT

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 136 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

ENJOYING LEARNING KATHAK: BHUMI

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY MAY 16, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

India beats China count ₹1.63L cr fillip

In 52 days of lockdown, India has 86K +ve

PNS NEW DELHI

With a Covid-19 tally of nearly 86,000 cases, India on Friday surpassed neighbouring China where the coronavirus first originated. China had 81,440 cases on March 25 when India with merely 500 cases had announced first lock down. Now, in 52 days of lockdown and 106 days after reporting the first case, India tally is more than China's.

Over 30,000 people have recovered and 2,753 people have died from the coronavirus disease in India, com pared to China's death count of 4,633. The US, Spain and Russia are the worst affected countries in terms of +ve cases. Seven States in India which

includes - Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh - have reported the maximum number of cases.

Maharashtra, which is the worst-hit State in the country, reported 1,576 cases in the last 24 hours, pushing the total count to 29,100 whereas Tamil Nadu reported 434 with total 10,108 cases and Delhi registered 425 cases taking the total to 8,895.

Gujarat too registered spike in cases at 340 pushing the tally to 9,932. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh too continued their march reporting 4,595 cases, 4,747 cases and 4,057 cases respectively. West Bengal reported 84 new cases which led to increase

TOTAL CASES: 85,766

UNULU. 00,700	Delilli
DEATUS O ZES	Rajas
DEATHS: 2,753	Madh
	Uttar
RECOVERED:	West
00.045	Andh
30,245	Punja
n total number to 2,461 cases. In Bihar and Karnataka, he tally crossed 1,000 mark.	

The total number in Bihar inched to 1,005 with 6 new cases reported on Friday whereas Karnataka tally rose to 1,032 after 45 new cases were reported in the State.

Of 97 total deaths registered in India on Friday, Maharashtra at 49 fatalities, Gujarat (20), Delhi (9), and West Bengal (8) recorded the highest number of deaths due to coronavirus in India in the past 24 hours. Goa which was one of the

first States to become corona-free in India also reported 7 new cases on Friday which again brings back the State to the red zone from green zone. The total number of cases in Goa now inched to 14. Similarly, in Manipur a fresh case emerged after 26 days, taking the total tally in this North-East State to three so far.

of coronavirus infection cases



Children of migrant workers from other States wait outside a railway station to catch a train to return to their homes in Mumbai on Friday

has slowed down to 13.9 days, said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, referring to the time it takes for the number of cases to double

An ICMR official said the number of RT-PCR tests for detection of Covid-19 crossed The country's doubling rate the two million-mark in India on Friday. "A total of 20,39,952

samples were tested in the country as on Friday 9 am, with 92,911 tests being conducted since Thursday 9 am, Dr Rajnikant Srivastava, the head of the Department of Research Management, Policy Planning and Communication at the ICMR here said.

Continued on Page 2

to farm sectors

In a move to ease agriculture L sectors and support farmers, who were hit during the nationwide coronavirus lockdown, the Modi Government has announced the third tranche of economic stimulus package of ₹1.63 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors aimed at strengthening infrastructure, logistics and capacity building at farm gate.

To bring reforms in agriculture sector and to help farmers earn better prices, the Government has also rolled out sweeping reforms to amend the Essential Commodities Act 1955, removing cereals, edible oils, pulses, onions and potatoes out of its purview and a new Central Act on Agriculture Produces Marketing Committee to allow farmers to sell their product freely. Besides, schemes for micro food enterprises, cattle vaccination, dairy sector, herbal plantation, beekeeping, and fruits and vegetables were also announced.

Announcing the third tranche of economic stimulus package, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said a package of ₹1 lakh crore for strengthening Agri infrastructure fund for farm-gate infrastructure for farmers; ₹10,000 crore scheme



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a Press conference in New



for the formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE); ₹20,000 crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for development of marine and inland fisheries; ₹15,000 crore for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development fund and ₹4,000 crore allocated for promotion of herbal cultivation

The Minister said in the last two months of lockdown,

several measures have been taken to support farmers that including minimum support price purchases of ₹74,300 crore, ₹18,700 crore transferred to PM-KISAN and ₹6,400 crore on payment of claims under PMFBY during the lockdown. The Government will pro-

vide ₹1 lakh crore for aggrega-

tors, farmers producers organisations (FPOs), primary agri cooperative societies, agri entrepreneurs and startups under the agri infrastructure fund. The fund will be used for setting up cold chains and post-harvest management infrastructure. Government will also launch ₹20,000 crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for the development of marine and

Act to be amended to remove inter-State trade barriers, to help farmers earn more

Essential Commodities

3RD TRANCHE

Setting up of ₹1 lakh crore agriculture fund for farm-gate

>₹4,000 crore for herbal

⊃₹10,000 crore scheme for formalisation of micro food enterprises (MFE)

⊃₹20,000cr for fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana Agriculture marketing reforms

to provide marketing choices to Extension of 'Operation

Infrastructure Development fund Greens' to all fruits and worth ₹15,000 crore vegetables ⊃₹500 crore scheme for Legal framework to help infrastructure

development farmers fix their own price for related to beekeeping products Launch of National Animal

Commodities Act to enable Disease Control Programme for better price realisation for foot and mouth disease with farmers outlay of ₹13,343 crore

inland fisheries.

The Minister also announced ₹10,000 crore scheme for formalisation of micro food enterprises, (MFEs) to implement Modi's vision of 'Vocal for Local with Global outreach'.

Continued on Page 2

States to adopt different strategies in lockdown-4

Some to focus on revival of economy in 'green zones' and re-starting mass transport

PNS NEW DELHI

Depending on their share of coronavirus and the rate of its growth, States want to adopt different strategies in the lockdown-4 post-May 17 with focus on the revival of economy in "green zones" and restarting mass transport, including the metro services.

The containment "red zones" will have complete curfew-like enforcement of lockdown and stress would be to help convert them in the "green units" before the end of the next-phase of the lockdown.

Adopting contrasting strategies Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and Odisha have sought strict continuation of lockdown in all zones with some

Monsoon may

with Kerala by

 $T^{\text{he India Meteorological}}_{\text{Department (IMD) on Friday said the onset of the}}$

southwest monsoon over Kerala is likely to be delayed by

four days this year, adding that

the expected date now is June

5 as against the normal date of

days). Skymet has said the

onset date has no bearing on its

miss its date

4 days: IMD

PNS NEW DELHI

June 1.



lockdown in New Delhi on Friday

relaxations for economic activities, but States like Gujarat do not favour the extension of the lockdown despite high spurt of cases in the State.

governed Congress Rajasthan wants economic activity to begin in the "green zone". Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has demanded from the PM that the zone determination for the lockdown be at the State level so that economic activities can be started.

Parvesh Verma shares

old video of namaz.

Delhi Police raps MP

for rumour mongering

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Nerma tweeted a video of

a group of men offering namaz

on the roadside, with a message

that the congregation took

place during the Covid lock-

down, the Delhi Police on

Friday called him out openly

for indulging in a false rumour-

The Delhi Police also sug-

Soon after the police

gested the MP be cautious in

mongering.

ours after BJP MP Parvesh

Continued on Page 2

Mizoram extends curbs till May 31

Aizawl: The Mizoram Government on Friday extended lockdown till May 31 to check the spread of coronavirus infection, an official said. The decision was taken after various political parties and several organisations, including those of NGOs, churches and doctors, favoured extension of the lockdown.

Oxford's Covid vaccine test on monkeys shows promise

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK's biggest Covid-19 vaccine project, currently being tested by the University promising results in a small with monkeys Researchers involved with the trials said the vaccine had shown signs of priming the rhesus macaque monkeys immune systems to fend off the deadly virus and showed no indications of adverse effects.

According to the study which is yet to be peerreviewed, a single vaccination dose was effective in preventing damage to the lungs, which

is primary target of the virus. "We observed a significantly reduced viral load in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid and respiratory tract tissue of vaccinated animals challenged with SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) compared with control animals, and no pneumonia was observed in vaccinated rhesus macaques," they said.

Continued on Page 2

Can't monitor | SC stays Gujarat movement of migrants: SC

PTI NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it is impossible for courts to monitor or stop the movement of migrant workers across the country and it is for the Gove take necessary action in this

The Centre told the top court that migrant workers across the country were being provided transportation by the Government to their destinations but they have to wait for their turn rather than starting walking on foot amid the coro navirus pandemic.

A Bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao refused to entertain an application seeking a direction to the Centre to ask all District Magistrates to identify stranded migrant workers and provide shelter, food to them before ensuring their free transportation to native places in view of the recent incident at Aurangabad in which 16 workers were mowed down by a goods train recently.

Continued on Page 2

HC order that nullified election win of Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the Gujarat High Court order nullifying Minister and Bhupendrasinh Chudasama's 2017 election on the ground of malpractice and manipulation.

A Bench of Justices M Shantanagoudar and R Subhas Reddy, conducting the hearing through video conferencing, issued notice on Chudasama's plea and sought response from his rival Congress candidate Ashwin Rathod, among others.

In the HC, Rathod had challenged his BJP rival's victory from Dholka by a margin of mere 327 votes in the 2017 Gujarat Assembly polls.

During the hearing, senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul. appearing for Chudasama, said that election of his client was set aside by the high court on ground of corrupt practice as 429 postal votes was not counted and which were more than the victory margin.

Continued on Page 2

Army chief hints at China for Nepal's protest against **Mansarovar road**

PNS NEW DELHI

 $A_{\text{Nepal objecting to the}}^{\text{gainst the backdrop of}}$ newly constructed road in Uttarakhand to shorten the travel time for Indian pilgrims going to Kailash-Mansarovar yatra, Army Chief General MM Naravane, said here on Friday the Himalayan neighbour was raising the issue "at the behest of someone else."

His observation, which is seen as an apparent reference to China, came against the backdrop of recent face-offs between Indian and Chinese Armies in Ladakh and Sikkim with troops from both sides indulging in fisticuffs.

Rejecting Kathmandu's reservations on the 80-km road inaugurated last week by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Naravane said there is no "contradiction at all" in the new road constructed via Lipulekh pass. He said Nepal may have raised the issue "at the behest of someone else, without naming any country.

Continued on Page 2

Myanmar hands over 22 wanted ultras to India

PNS NEW DELHI

The Myanmar Government on Friday handed over 22 wanted insurgents from Manipur and Assam to India on latter's request. These insurgents were hiding and clancountry against Indian inter-

The move has come as a major boost to counter-insurgency operations in the Northeast, source in the security agencies said.

Out of the 22 insurgents, 12 are from Manipur and represent banned groups like United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PRÉPAK), Péople's Liberation Army (PLA) and Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup

(KYKL). The remaining 10 are functionaries of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB-S) and Kamatapur Liberation Organisation (KLO). The insurgents were brought in a special plane that

had a stopover in Imphal. Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

TRADE UNIONS TO STRIKE AGAINST LAWS DILUTION New Delhi: Ten central trade unions on Friday gave a call for a nationwide strike on May 22 to protest against the suspension of labour laws by some States

during the lockdown period, and

also decided to take the matter

WORLD BANK OK'S \$1 BN LOAN TO SUPPORT INDIA New Delhi: The World Bank on Friday approved a \$1 billion loan to support India's efforts for providing social assistance to

the poor and vulnerable

to International Labour

Organization (ILO).

HARYANA OPENS BORDERS FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Delhi High Court. Haryana has opened all borders with Delhi for essential services and people

Some people treat me as enemy: Ex-Justice Thipsay

NAVIN UPADHYAY NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ormer judge of the Mumbai}}_{\text{High Court Abhay Thipsay}}$ has defended his role in giving a legal opinion in the Niray Modi case as a witness before a UK court and feels that Law Minister Ravishankar Prasad has targeted him apparently because he refused to "compromise" despite pressure and persuasions from different quarters in some sensitive Speaking to The Pioneer on

phone, Justice (retd) Thipsay explained that the entire controversy has two parts. First, to do with his legal opinion in the extant case; the other one with his past judgments.

"Let me first deal with the first part," he said. "I simply gave a legal opinion as a witness. I was not defending Nirav Modi or anyone. Some people are trying to project this as a case of my collusion with an anti-national. This is not done. Justice (retd) Thipsay, who



Grandmaster Pravin Thipsay, said that in his legal opinion as a witness he merely explained that under the Indian law no offence has been defined as a "financial fraud" and as such the Nirav Modi case is being treated as a case of cheating. " explained that since the bank

officials were themselves

Undertakings, how the bank can pretend to be a victim?" Under the Indian law, for

cheating there has to be a conspirator and a victim - a deceiver and a deceived. The person who has been deceived can initiate legal action against the deceiver. But the bank is not an individual with its own mind. It's represented by cer-

ty cannot pretend to be a victim under the definition of law." But were not shareholders and depositors ended up becoming victims of the finan-

cial fraud? "As I said before in the India law, there is nothing defined as financial fraud. So we've to see this under the law of cheating. If the depositors

and shareholders had filed complaints and the case was based on it, it would have been a different situation. That was not the case before me. Here PNB has been presented as a The Law Minister has

accused that you were acting at the behest of the Congress party, which you joined in 2018, as part of a bigger game plan to bail out Nirav Modi."

"Well, let me make it very clear that my opinions have nothing to do with the Congress. Don't people in my

is not a secret document. I gave it to the Government of India long back, and they replied to that also. I don't know, why they are suddenly upset," he Thipsay went on to remind

Nirav Modi fled India, and even after the IT conducted raid on him, former Law Minister Arun Jailey's daughter was his advocate.

appeared as witness to expound on a law point. Why make such a hue and cry over it?"

tain officials and there action position in other parties disalone can come under legal charge their professional duty scrutiny. The bank as an entiindependent of the party's views or position? My opinion

Ravishankar Prasad that before

"I've nothing against her or Jaitely. She was doing a professional job. Just like I'm doing my job. I can name dozens of advocates with political associations who appeared in several sensitive cases and defended highly controversial accused persons. It's the job of an advocate to do this. I've merely

Continued on Page 2

Gurugram: After the direction of

households

with e-passes. Amit Khatri, district magistrate of Gurugram said that he has been following court order and accordingly given direction.

PANDEMIC OF

OBSESSIVE FEAR

The East Delhi DCP said, On the other hand, private "This is totally false. An old forecaster Skymet has assessed video is being used with a malithat monsoon may arrive over Kerala around May 28 (with a cious intent to spread the margin of error of +/- two

further advancement to other future and verify the content parts of the country. before posting it publicly on According to the IMD, the social media in order to curb onset of southwest monsoon the spread of rumours. over Kerala is likely to be response, the MP deleted the slightly delayed as compared to normal date of onset.

tweet without any further clar-Continued on Page 2

LABOUR LAWS' SUSPENSION

Trade unions to go on strike on May 22

New Delhi: Ten central trade unions on Friday gave a call for a nationwide strike on May 22 to protest against the suspension of labour laws by some states during the lockdown period, and also decided to take the matter to International Labour Organization (ILO).

"The joint platform of Central Trade Unions (CTUs) in their meeting held on May 14 , 2020 took note of the critical situation for the working people in the country during the lockdown period and decided to enhance united actions to meet the challenge," a joint statement by 10 CTUs said.

"The joint platform...Has decided to observe nationwide protest day against the antiworker and anti-people onslaughts of the government on May 22, 2020," it added.

While Uttar Pradesh has suspended major labour laws, Madhya Pradesh has tweaked some rules amid the lockdown to spur economic activities. As per media reports, Gujarat, Tribura and many other states are following suit.
The CTUs have also decid-

ed to send joint representation to ILO in this regard. They said that suspension of labour laws violates international commitments on labour standards and human rights.

'Uttar Pradesh government has brought a draconian ordinance titled "Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption for certain labour laws ordinance 2020" under the guise of facilitating economic activities," it said.

With one stroke, 38 laws were made defunct in UP for 1,000 days, and only section 5 of Payment of Wages Act 1934, Construction Workers Act 1996, Compensation Act 1993 and Bonded Labour Act 1976 remain functional, it added.

The laws that have been

Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Act on Occupational Safety and Health, Contract Labour Act, Interstate Migrant Labour Act, Equal Remuneration Act, Maternity Benefit Act etc, it said.

According to the state-ment, Madhya Pradesh government has tweaked labour laws while Gujarat government has decided to increase working hours to 12 from 8 hours. Assam, Tripura and several other states have been

same route, they added. The move came after 8 states — Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar and Punjab — increased the daily working hours to 12 from 8 earlier through exec-

utive order in violation of the

Factories Act, taking advan-

tage of the lockdown situation,

actively preparing to take the

Monsoon may miss its date with Kerala by...

"The monsoon onset over Kerala this year is likely to be on June 5 with a model error of four days. But the monsoon is likely to arrive over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands four days in advance, in the next 48 hours", IMD said.

Normally, the southwest monsoon sets over Kerala on June 1 with a standard deviation of about seven days. Last year, the monsoon onset over Kerala was delayed by seven days. In the last 10 years, the earliest arrival was on May 23 in 2009 and the most delayed on June 8, 2016.

IMD officials attributed to several factors for delay in arrival of monsoon over Kerala that can make the advancement of rains slightly sluggish, including an abnormally high number of western disturbances affecting the western Himalayan

In its initial predictions, the IMD on April 15 had said the country is likely to receive "normal monsoon" this year with an error of five per cent. It has predicted "below normal" rainfall during June, long dry spells in July and "excess rainfall" during August and September - almost similar to last year's pattern. The IMD will, however, come out with month-wise and spatial forecasts of monsoon rainfall in last week of this month or in the first week

On the status of the 2020 southwest monsoon and its advance over the Andaman sea, the IMD said a well-marked low-pressure area currently lies over southeast Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood. It is likely to concentrate into a depression over the same region during next the 12 hours and further intensify into cyclonic storm Amphan over central parts of south Bay of Bengal by May 16.

Oxford's Covid vaccine test on monkevs...

From Page 1

The researchers found that after being exposed to high levels of the novel coronavirus, none of the six monkeys that were given the vaccine developed viral pneumonia. Also, there was no sign that the vaccine had made the animals more vulnerable.

The development has been welcomed as encouraging signs for a vaccine currently undergoing human trials but experts warn that it remains to be seen if it is as effective in humans.

These results support the ongoing clinical trial of the vaccine in humans, the results of which are eagerly awaited," said Dr Penny Ward, visiting professor in pharmaceutical medicine at King's College London.

Sarah Gilbert, professor of vaccinology at the University of Oxford's Jenner Institute who is leading the research, has previously said she has a "high degree of confidence" in the vaccine. "Of course, we have to test it and get data from humans. We have to demonstrate it actually works and stops people getting infected with coronavirus before using the vaccine in the wider population," she said. British drugs giant AstraZeneca has struck up a "landmark partnership" with the Oxford University team and said that 100 million doses could be made by the end of the year if the trials prove successful.

'We're now starting to wait for an advocacy signal to see whether people who've been vaccinated don't get the disease, so that's the next step," said John Bell, professor of medicine at the University of Oxford.

India beats...

According to officials, testing for Covid-19 has been scaled up significantly over the last two months and the capacity has increased to around one lakh tests per day. "To promote Make in India and facilitate domestic manufacturers to get their Covid-19 diagnostics kits validated, the number of ICMR-approved validation centres and laboratories has been increased from

Experts have said no vaccine is expected to be ready for use until at least 2021, as they must be widely tested in humans before being administered to hundreds of millions, if not billions, of people to prevent infection.

Globally, 4,527,811 people have been infected by coronavirus so far, and the total number of deaths from the disease now stands at 303,418.

Can't monitor...

From Page 1

The bench, which also comprised Justices SK Kaul and BR Gavai, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta whether there was any way to stop these migrants workers from walking on the roads. Mehta said states are providing interstate transport to the migrant workers but if the people start walking on foot instead of waiting for transportation, then nothing can be done.

He said authorities can only request these people not

to start walking on foot as using any force to stop them would be counter-productive.

The bench, which said it was not inclined to hear the plea, observed that it is impossible for the court to monitor who is walking and who is not walking. Srivastava had filed the plea soon after the Aurangabad incident in which 16 migrant workers, who were returning to Madhya Pradesh and had slept on railway tracks, were mowed down by a goods train.

Army chief hints at China for Nepal's protest against Mansarovar road

From Page 1

Soon after the opening of the Lipulekh-Dharchula road at a height of more than 15,000 feet, Nepal protested and urged India to "refrain from carrying out any activity inside the territory of Nepal.'

There were street protests also against the new road in Nepal. On Saturday last week, Nepal also said the "unilateral act" was against the understanding reached between the two countries on resolving border issues. It also served a diplomatic note to the Indian envoy in Kathmandu.

Surprised at the neighbouring country's reaction, Naravane said the area East of the Kali river belongs to Nepal. There is no dispute in that whatsoever. The road which we made is in fact to the West of the river. So, I don't know what they are agitating about," he said in a seminar. Stating there have never been any problems on this in the past, he said,

"There is reason to believe that they might have raised the issue at the behest of someone else and that is very much a

The road built by the

General public is hereby informed

that one unknown male name &

address unknown, Age: 35 Yrs.,

Height: 5'4", Shallow Complexion.

He was found dead at Sarvodhya

School, Sector-21, Rohini Delhi on

In this regard a DD No. 02A

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)in Pithoragarh is from Ghatiabgarh to Lipulekh just five kms short of the Line of Actual Control (LAC)facing China. This road will reduce the Kailash Mansarovar yatra by 10 to 12 days.

Elaborating upon the issue, Naravane said "There are little issues as we go ahead as to exactly where the tri-junction (India-China-Nepal) should be." He also stressed that these incidents and the face-offs that occurred last week in Eastern Ladakh and North Sikkim were not related. He also said, "We are dealing with them on a case-bycase basis. I have not seen any concerted design into the faceoffs." On Thursday, he had also said the two countries resolve such issues through mutually agreed redressal mechanism and strategic guidelines given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in two informal summits.

On Friday, he brushed aside any larger Chinese ploy and said such face-offs are very common and it is "business as

LASSIFIED S

THANKSGIVING

Thank You for Holy

Spirit Blessings. Celine.

DY. GENERAL MANAGER (STC)

PD(8868)C

SC stays Gujarat HC order that nullified...

From Page 1 He said the returning officer rejected the postal votes.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, also appearing for Chudasama, joined the arguments after his video link was established and said that one of the fundamental principles is to find out which way were the

He said the election petition was filed by his rival candidate on presumptions and assumptions as the returning officer did not counted 429 votes. He contended that the high court should have called for the 429 votes and seen if they were rightly rejected under the law as one has to see, if results were materially affected due to this move. Salve said there was no link between the minister and the returning officer nor any link or collusion to establish material benefit.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Rathod, said that complete facts were not presented and there are illegalities and manipulation as counting of votes started with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and postal ballots were not even brought till the final round of counting.

He said there is a form 20 A signed by returning officer, which says 429 postal ballot rejected but returning officer tells poll observer that no ballot was rejected. Sibal pointed out that Election Commission of India directions are that postal ballots are to be counted if victory margin is less and in this case it was just 327 votes while postal ballots were 429.

He said that there was collusion between the returning officer and the winning candidate as postal ballots were not counted even though the victory margin was less. The bench said that says returning officer has given reasons for rejecting the postal Sibal said that the Election

Commission of India's instructions are that you have to recount the votes, if postal ballots are rejected.

₹1.63L cr...

From Page 1

A fund of ₹10,000 crore has been set aside for Micro Food Enterprises, with a clusterbased approach of promoting State-wise produce for instance, makhana from Bihar, Kesar in Jammu & Kashmir, mango in Uttar Pradesh, bamboo shoots in North-East, chilli in Andhra Pradesh, tapioca in Tamil Nadu and turmeric from Andhra

Pradesh The Government also allo-

cated ₹13,343 for foot and mouth disease and ₹15,000 crore animal husbandry fund in dairy processing. The Government has launched ₹4,000 crore fund to

promote herbal cultivation in about 10 lakh hectare, she said, adding that the scheme will help generate Rs 5,000 crore income for farmers. Along the bank of Ganga, a corridor of medicinal plants will be devel-

accused persons --- but I did

oped over 800 hectare. Another Rs 500 crore has been earmarked for beekeeping initiatives, helping 2 lakh beekeepers. The Government extend ed Operation Greens from tomato, onion and potato to all fruits and vegetables by pro-viding an additional fund of ₹500 crore.

This money would go into providing subsidy on transportation from surplus to deficient markets as well as on storages including cold storages.

Some people...

From Page 1

On asked why such hostile reaction from the Law Minister, Justice Thipsay said, "All I can say that some people nurture grudge against me since I was all along an uncompromising judge. I know some of my judgment, especially in the infamous Best Bakery case, made some people very unhappy. But I've always been true to my conscience."

"Was there any pressure on you in the Best Bakery case to acquit the accused persons?"

"See this was a very controversial case. It was transferred out of Gujarat by the Supreme Court. The nation's eyes were on this case and the Guiarat Government was obviously extremely concerned about its outcome. I was honto deal with the case. There were both pressure and persuasions from different quarters - including floods of threatening letter and pleas that as a Hindu I should side with the

what a judge should have done. Of course, my judgment had upset some people and they found difficult to forget it. That's why they treat me as an enemy." Justice Thipsay pointed out that during thirty years of his judicial career mostly the Congress was in power both at the Centre and in the State, so majority of his judgments went against the executive decision of the Government. "In fact, I was accused to be

pro-BJP for several of my judgments including quashing a defamation case against Nitin Gadkari when he was Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly and giving bails to two accused of the Malegaon blast case. "My judgments were based on principled enshrined in the Constitution. But today everything is being viewed ism, and social media trolls are let loose against judges who differ with the Government. This is a very sad situation -- and it poses serious danger to our democracy," he said.

Myanmar hands over 22 wanted...

From Page 1

After handing over the 12 rebels from the state to the police in Imphal, the aircraft went to Guwahati.

According to reports, Assam Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta confirmed that the special plane reached Guwahati where the 10 rebels wanted in Assam were handed over to the State police.

The ultras brought back from Myanmar include NDFB (S) self-styled home secretary Rajen Daimary, Sanatomba Ningthoujam of UNLF, and Pashuram Laishram of PREPAK.

The handing of the insurcould be the result of the ties between the two countries wherein New Delhi has steadfastly backed Naypyitaw on the Rohingya issue, sources in

the security establishment said.

continue. Covid-19 case num-

bers in these States are climb-

ing, and are set to climb even

further, with the return of

migrants stranded across the

Kumar has made it clear the

lockdown in his State will be

extended to May 31. He also

said relaxation of guidelines

should be left to district admin-

to present a big challenge for the

Centre, with the populous state

reporting 3,902 positive cases

and 88 deaths, so far. Punjab

Chief Minister Amarinder

Singh is among those who

asked for an extension of the lockdown, stating during the meeting with the PM that "we

must have strong lockdown. I

an extension of the lockdown.

lockdown with modifications

are likely to continue with its

borders are to remain restrict-

ed with conditional access.

State transport will begin in 10

Assam has also called for

Haryana may continue

will ensure a curfew".

Uttar Pradesh is also likely

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

country.

istrations.

DP/133/RD/2020

P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-27581223, 27581812

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

29.04.2020.

deceased may kindly inform the following.

dated 29.04.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Aman

Any person having any information or clue about this

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN COMPANY LTD. (Govt. of M.P. Undertaking) Office of The Dy. General Manager (STC) Banganga Parisar, Shivpuri, Ph. : 0742-220484 Fax No.: 0742-225789, E-Mail: dgmstcshivpuri@gmail.com, Website: portal.mpcz.in

S.H.O

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS Online tenders are invited for following work from eligible Electrical Contractor as per tender specifications. Approx Date & Time of Tender Specification Short Description Cost of Downloading Tender Tender of Tender online sub-Documen mission of (with GST) (Rs. Document Document STC/PUR/20-21/17/ Work under Baroda D/c under 11.72 14.05.20 20.05.20 up to 16:00 Hrs. 0300 dt. 12.05.2020 14:00 Hrs STC/PUR/20-21/18/ Work under Baroda D/c under 14.05.20 20.05.20 up to 0301 dt. 12.05.2020 O & M Dn. Sheopur South 14:00 Hrs. STC/PUR/20-21/19/ Work under Baroda D/c under 14.05.20 20.05.20 up to 0302 dt. 12.05.2020 O & M Dn. Sheopur South 14:00 Hrs Work under Baroda D/c under 20.05.20 up to STC/PUR/20-21/20/ 14.05.20 0303 dt. 12.05.2020 O & M Dn. Sheopur South STC/PUR/20-21/21/ Work under Pandola D/c under 14.05.20 20.05.20 up to O & M Dn. South Sheopur 0304 dt. 12.05.2020 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs. STC/PUR/20-21/22/ Work under Pandola D/c under 14.05.20 20.05.20 up to 206/-0305 dt. 12.05.2020 O & M Dn. South Sheopur 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs STC/PUR/20-21/23/ Work under Sheopur R D/c 14.05.20 20.05.20 up to 0306 dt. 12.05.2020 under O & M Dn. South Sheopul 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs STC/PUR/20-21/24/ Work under sheopur R D/c 14.05.20 20.05.20 up to 293/-0307 dt. 12.05.2020 under O & M Dn. South Sheopur 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs 21.05.20 up to STC/PUR/20-21/25/ Work under Sheopur R D/c under 2.03 15.05.20 0486 dt. 14.05.2020 O & M Dn. South Sheopur 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs STC/PUR/20-21/26/ Work under Pandola D/c under 15.05.20 21.05.20 up to 0487 dt. 14.05.2020 O & M Dn. South Sheopur 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs STC/PUR/20-21/27/ Under Pandola D/c under 15.05.20 21.05.20 up to 6.98 0488 dt. 14.05.2020 O & M Dn. South Sheopur 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs 21.05.20 up to STC/PUR/20-21/28/ Under Baroda D/c under 15.05.20 O & M Dn. South Sheopul 0489 dt. 14.05.2020 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs 21.05.20 up to STC/PUR/20-21/29/ Work under Baroda D/c under 15.05.20 0490 dt. 14.05.2020 O & M Dn. South Sheopur 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs. STC/PUR/20-21/30/ Work under Baroda D/c under 15.05.20 21.05.20 up to 632/-0491 dt. 14.05.2020 O & M Dn. South Sheopur 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs Work under Baroda D/c under 15.05.20 21.05.20 up to STC/PUR/20-21/31/ 9.29 0492 dt. 14.05.2020 O & M Dn. South Sheopur. 16:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs Interested bidders are required to visit www.mptenders.gov.in for necessary bidding details, qualifying

requirements and terms & conditions and also on company's Website portal.mpcz.in

M.P. Madhyam/97359/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

According to Railway Board Letter No. 2018/CE-I/CT/37/GCC/Policy dated

12.05.2020 self attested annexure will also be valid instead of notarized affidavi

NORTHERN RAILWAY

1, 09-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 17.04.2020 to be opened on 21.05.2020

2. 10-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 17.04.2020 to be opened on 21.05.2020

11-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 17.04.2020 to be opened on 21.05.2020

4. 12-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 17.04.2020 to be opened on 21.05.2020

Correction slip - I

Sub: - Tender notice no

. 03-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 06.04.2020 date of opening of tender 19.05.2020 2. 13-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 09.04.2020 date of opening of tender 19.05.2020 $3.\,14\text{-}DRM\text{-}MB\text{-}20\text{-}21\,dt.\,09.04.2020\,date\,of\,opening\,of\,tender\,19.05.2020$ 4. 15-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 09.04.2020 date of opening of tender 19.05.2020

5. 16-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 09.04.2020 date of opening of tender 19.05.2020 6. 17-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 13.04.2020 date of opening of tender 19.05.2020 . 247-DRM-MB-19-20 dt. 02.03.2020 date of opening of tender 21.05.2020

8, 254-DRM-MB-19-20 dt. 06.03.2020 date of opening of tender 21.05.2020 9. 01-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 06.04.2020 date of opening of tender 21.05.2020 10. 02-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 06.04.2020 date of opening of tender 21.05.2020

11. 04-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 06.04.2020 date of opening of tender 21.05.2020 12. 18-DRM-MB-20-21, dt. 15.04.2020 date of opening of tender 04.06.2020 13, 19-DRM-MB-20-21, dt. 15,04,2020 date of opening of tender 04,06,2020 14, 20-DRM-MB-20-21, dt. 04 05 2020 date of opening of tender 04 06 2020

In terms of Railway Boards letter no. 2018/CE-I/CT/37/GCC/Policy dated 12.05.2020 self-attested Annexure XXIV is valid instead of Affidavit verified by Notary public. Other erms & conditions of tenders will remain same

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय चिकित्सालय जबलप्र म.प्र.

क्रमांक/चिकि.क्रय/2020-21/1662 जबलपुर दिनांक 05.05.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय चिकित्सालय जबलपुर में भर्ती मरीजों हेतु लगने वाली अतिअवाश्यक मेडिसिन एवं चिकित्सा सामग्री, सूर मटेरियल एवं एक्स-रे आइटम्स का बल्क क्रय हेतू निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा की शर्ते एवं महत्वपूर्ण तिथियों/अमानत राशि की जानकारी ऑनलाईन www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती हैं। निविदाओं का विवरण निम्नानुसार है। :-

- हॉस्पिटल में लगने वाली सभी मेडिसिन का बल्क क्रय निविदा वर्ष 2020-21 हेतु
- हॉस्पिटल डिस्पोजेबल चिकित्सा सामग्री/एक्स-रे आइटम्स, सुर मटेरियल, का बल्क क्रय निविदा वर्ष 2020-21 हेतु

संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय चिकित्सालय जबलप्र म.प्र.

States to...

From PAge 1 The Prime Minster has

hinted that the lockdown-4 could be of "complete new colour" for the purpose of reactivisation of economy. States were asked to submit their respective unit maps depicting red, orange and green areas with Prime Minister's office by Friday. The current lockdown - the third since it was enforced on March 25 - is scheduled to end on Sunday.

As the Centre prepares to draw a blueprint for the gradual exit from the national lockdown, a number of States are wanting that public transportation, including metro services and flights and restarting of reasonable economic activity in non-containment zones be allowed to bring back the sliding economy back on the rails.

In line with the PM's advice that nation will have to "learn to live with the coronavirus," a few States, despite the scare of coronavirus, are for immediate lifting of restrictions on economic activities. Andhra, for example, has

proposed resuming all economic and public activities in non-containment areas. The southern state has 2,137 COVID-19 cases according to Home Ministry data and 11,422 people in quarantine.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, said after receiving feedback from resi-

dents, he thought some economic activities should be allowed in Delhi except in containment zones. He called for the lifting of more curbs in Delhi - all of which has been designated a "red zone" to suggest a high-concentration of cases. He also reportedly wants resumption of taxi, auto and metro services.

Kerala, a State that relies heavily on tourism for revenue. wants metro services, local trains, domestic flights, restaurants and hotels to be reopened.

Karnataka, which has also done well to contain the viral outbreak, has asked the Centre for permission to re-open restaurants, hotels and gymnasiums - public spaces closed weeks ago to encourage social distancing and check the virus'

Tamil Nadu has also asked for economic activity to be restarted except in containment zones. The request is likely to be viewed with caution, given the State has registered a massive surge in Covid-19 cases over the past few days. Gujarat, which has 9,591

cases and has reported 586 deaths, wants to resume all economic activity in all major urban centres. Maharashtra - the State

most badly affected - is reluctant to open up too much of the economy or too many offices Bihar, Jharkhand and

Odisha have gone the other

way, with all three States ask-

ing for the strict lockdown to

districts. The State is also planning to resume bus services to only Delhi railway station starting May 18. Industrial and commercial activity will increase in the fourth phase of the lockdown.

ified curfew with increased commercial activity will be the major focus. State borders will remain closed with restricted entry. Industrial and commercial activity will slowly pick up.

In Himachal Pradesh mod-

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



Portal for construction workers launched

The Delhi Government on Friday launched a website—edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in/ — for the new registration and renewal of registration of the construction workers in Delhi. The Delhi Government this

Monday also decided to provide financial assistance of ₹5.000 again to the construction workers in the wake of the extended coronavirus lockdown.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Construction Workers' Welfare Board, chaired by Labour Minister Mr Gopal Rai. There are around 40,000 construction workers registered with the board. Development Minister of Delhi Mr Gopal Rai launched this website today.

"There are many unregistered construction labourers

registration is pending. In a bid to solve this registration and renewal related issues, today we have launched a website http://www.edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in/. From tomorrow here the construction labourers can register for a new application or renewal," said Rai. He added, "In this regis-

tration process first, the person needs to register by filing a login form online. The website will have several options but for the new registration or renewal, the person will be needed to select either option no 62 (renewal) or option no 63 (for new registration)."

"In this process the following information will be required: Name, address, contact details, date of birth, self-declaration,

address proof, bank account proof, proof of birth and certificate of 90 days of work from employer or union. Following the submission of these details, an OTP will be sent to the person's mobile no. The person will also get a date on which he or she will be needed to physically visit a designated centre to submit original documents. Thereafter the person will get the labour card and can avail all the facilities," Rai added.

"There are some doubts regarding who all can register themselves as construction workers. According to laws, carpenters, worker grinders, construction site guards, the people who work in concrete mixers, crane operator, electrician, comp operator, Mason (Raj Mistry), tiles stone fitters, welders, coolies and others can apply," said Rai.

Need to set about economic activities: Jain

A midst Covid-19 spread in the national Capital claiming more than 100 lives, Delhi Health Minister Satvender Jain on Friday said that there should be a balance between the fight against Covid and economic activities.

As per health bulletin, corona patients' number is likely to cross 9,000 by Saturday while corona cases are increasing where as the containment zones are decreasing with latest number 78.

Briefing media, Jain said, "I want to repeat that in the last two months we have learned various lessons from the Covid-19. If we wear mask, maintain social distancing and wash hands regularly then people will be 90-95 per cent safer.'

"There was a time when we all thought that this pandemic will be over by May 1 due to summer. But now we have seen that in the Latin American countries also the pandemic is increasing. The temperature of these countries is very high. This shows that we have to learn to live with Covid-19," Jain added.

Citing Covid -19 health report, Jain said that on Thursday, in India, the growth rate of Covid was 5 per cent and earlier there was a time when the growth rate was 20 per cent. I believe that the numbers should be seen in terms of the percentage increase.

We are fighting against the Covid-19 with full effort but now we have to start the eco-

measures should be followed," When the lockdown was imposed at that time we were not prepared to fight this pandemic but now we have prepared ourself to fight this pandemic," Jain added.

On migrants' issue, Jain said,"I will say that there are two kinds of situation. One is the migrant labourers of Delhi and second is the migrant labourer of other states who are passing through Delhi. For the migrants, the Government has arranged stay and food across

"Any such person you meet can be sent to the nearby shelter of the Delhi Government. We are providing lunch and dinner to nearly 10 lakh poor people every day," he added.

Govt suggests ways to Centre for easing curbs

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Government has sent suggestions to the Central Government regarding the relaxation of the lockdown.

According to Delhi Government, the key suggestions from the people are that every person should wear mask at the public places and social distancing should be maintained all the time. People have also suggested that public transportation should start for example buses and metros with limited capacity.

"Regarding malls, people have suggested that in the limited capacity of either 25 per cent or 50 per cent the malls of the city should be opened. They have also suggested that the markets should be opened following either odd-even

rules or only three days a

week," the Health Minister

Satyender Jain said.

Shramik to ferry 4 L stranded migrant workers daily: Railways

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways is all set to run 300 "Shramik Special" trains to transport more than four lakh stranded people per day in a mission mode. More than 12 lakh passengers have been ferried by these special trains back to their home states till now.

Starting from just four trains on May 1, Indian Railways managed to operationalise more than 1,000 such Shram Shakti trains in last 15 days. In a remarkable achievement, a total 145 "Shramik Special" trains were operationalised from various States carrying more than 2.10 lakh passengers back to their home states on 14th May.

"This is for the first time that on a single day, passenger count on Shramik trains



crossed the two lakh mark. These trains began operations with just around 5,000 passengers on 1st May," the Ministry said in a statement.

These trains were terminated in various States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Chattisgarh, Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Tripura,

Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand,

and West Bengal. The Ministry further said that these trains are being run by Railways only after concurrence is given both by the State which is sending the passengers and the state which is receiving them. "Proper screening of passengers is ensured before boarding the train. During the journey, passengers are given free meals and water," it said.

Register daily diaries online, cops directed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Delhi Police Commissioner SN}}_{\text{Shrivastava has urged its department to}}$ adopt newer technology and register daily diaries (DDs) online.

According to the order, since the daily diaries are being received online, except for special reason, hard copies may not be got printed. "All may view the daily diaries online and take necessary action. We may adopt to newer technology and save the paper. All concerned need to be briefed accordingly," the order reads.

The order was signed on Thursday and

marked to all Special Commissioners of Police and Joint Commissioners of Police. A daily diary entry is made when any kind of complaint is lodged and when police believe that there is some prima facie evidence of a cognisable offense being committed, it is registered as an FIR. Making daily dairy paperless is an another move towards digitisation, police said.

Meanwhile on Friday, the Northern Range of Delhi Police conducted briefing sessions for their police staff in all the police stations.

According to Manish Kumar Agrawal, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Northern range, the sessions were conducted by the prominent doctors of their areas, to educate about the safety precautions and to instill a sense of confidence among the police personnel.

₹376 cr for reviving 155 water bodies

A number of dying lakes in the national Capital will come to life soon as Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has taken up the initiative to rejuvenate existing 155 water bodies with the total cost of ₹376 crore.

The civic body has already issued tenders for 59 water bodies in which works awarded to rejuvenate 22 lakes and work is presently in progress at eight sites which are likely to be completed in six months in a phased manner, a senior DJB official said.

The official said that the DJB is also creating new lakes at Dwarka, Timarpur oxidation pond, Rohini, Nilothi, Pappan Kalan and Satpula.

"The lakes at Dwarka, Rohini, Nilothi and Pappan Kalan are being developed by using the treated effluent which was further polished to the standards as mentioned by 'National Green Tribunal' (NGT) for water quality in lakes," he said.

The lakes at Timarpur and Satpula are being created by using raw sewage which will be treated to the standards as mentioned by NGT for water quality in lakes, he said, adding that the rejuvenation of water bodies



and creation of lakes will help in enhancement of ground water recharge and will contribute to fight scarcity of water.

Vice Chairman of DJB Raghav Chadha said, "Rejuvenation of water bodies is pivotal as only through creation of lakes, ground water recharge will enhance which will contribute towards eradicating scarcity of water."

The plan prepared on the premise of bringing incredible innovations in water technology, which will help in conserving water, Chadha said.

"Our commitment is to ensure access to potable clean drinking water and sanitation for all, both as a human right and as a critical element to protect human health during health crisis. The summer action plan prepared this year with an aim to meet summer water demand," he added.

"DJB will work towards maintaining the water treatment plants, increasing the water supply in water-deficient areas, improving efficiency and faster disposal of complaints." he said.

It may be noted that Delhi Park and Garden Society earmarked 1061 water bodies that existed in Delhi. Some of these water bodies dried up due to non-availability of water source and due to change in runoff of catchment and some got contaminated due to inflow of sewage in these water bodies.

अपील



वैश्विक महामारी कोरोना के संकट से उबरने के लिए पूरा देश माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में एकजुट होकर कार्य कर रहा है।

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार, अन्य राज्य सरकारों से समन्वय स्थापित कर प्रदेश के सभी प्रवासी कामगारों, श्रमिकों एवं युवाओं की सुरक्षित घर वापसी के लिए युद्धस्तर पर कार्य कर रही है।

अभी तक, उत्तर प्रदेश के 13.5 लाख से अधिक प्रवासी कामगारों, श्रमिकों एवं अन्य लोगों को स्पेशल श्रमिक ट्रेन एवं उत्तर प्रदेश परिवहन निगम की बसों द्वारा उनके घरों तक पहुंचाया जा चुका है।

प्रवासी एवं प्रदेश में रह रहे कामगारों एवं श्रमिक भाई-बहनों से मेरी विनम्र अपील है - "घर वापसी के लिए पैदल न चलें। साइकिल, दोपहिया वाहनों/ट्रकों से भी यात्रा न करें। ज्यादा लम्बी दूरी चलने से शरीर में पानी की कमी (डिहाइड्रेशन) हो सकती है और आपके स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा को खतरा हो सकता है।

आप जहां हैं, धैर्यपूर्वक वहीं रहें। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने आप सभी की वापसी के लिए नि:शुल्क ट्रेनों की व्यवस्था की है, इसकी विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए आप जिस राज्य में हैं, वहां के स्थानीय प्रशासन/नोडल अधिकारी से सम्पर्क करें, ताकि इन ट्रेनों के माध्यम से आपकी सुरक्षित घर वापसी हो सके।" योगी आदित्यनाथ

किसी भी सहायता हेतु सम्बन्धित प्रदेश के लिए नामित नोडल अधिकारी से या इण्टीग्रेटेड राहत कन्ट्रोल नं. 1070 या मुख्यमंत्री हेल्पलाइन नं. 1076 पर सम्पर्क करें। प्रवासी नागरिक घर वापसी हेतु www.jansunwai.up.nic.in पर पंजीकरण करें।

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Ankit Rajput RBI Employee



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RBI Employee





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मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश



Recovered cases more than active cases in some States

mid all the negativity about Acoronavirus pandemic that has created havoc across India as well as the world, there's good news from some States here where the number of recovered Covid-19 patients has surpassed the number of active cases.

Active Covid-19 cases are the number of total coronavirus cases after deducting the number of recovered/discharged patients and fatalities count. Nationally too, the recovery rate is increasing steadily. About 32.63 per cent patients have recovered so far from

According to the Health Ministry's website, more than 70 per cent of the deaths are due to comorbidities.

The Southern State of Kerala has shown the best performance in managing the

Friday, there are 64 active cases, while 493 people have been sent home after getting treated for the viral infection. It was Kerala where the first Covid-19 case in India was reported on January 30.

Haryana has registered 368 cases against 439 recovered cases while in Telangana 428 positive cases have been reported and 952 people have recov-

Ditto in Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh and a few other States and Union Territories.

In fact, in the last few days, India has seen more coronavirus recoveries than the rise in active covid cases. On Thursday, 1,849 patients were cured of Covid-19 while active cases went up by 1,739. The death toll from coronavirus complications rose by

Overall, the total number of coronavirus cases in India climbed to 78,003, after registering new 3,722 cases in last 24

In Jammu Kashmir, 589 people were discharged and 469 are still under treatment while in Andhra Pradesh 1,252 have been recovered . Atleast 1,007 are still infected with the viral. 48 people have died so far in the State.

Similarly, Madhya Pradesh has reported 2,073 active cases against 2,283 treated cases. In Rajasthan, there are 1,886 active cases while 2,677 have gone home, according the data.

In a pandemic with a low mortality rate like COVID-19, the number of recovered cases must steadily exceed the number of active cases at some stage, provided the exponential as per health experts.

Another solider tests corona +ve at Army HQ

In a precautionary measure, a portion of the Army Headquarters or Sena Bhawan here, is closed for sanitation and disinfection after a soldier posted there was tested positive for Covid-19. Following the laid down process, the army authorities are following the medical protocol like contacttracing of the affected soldier, quarantine and related drill. There is another suspect case of the pandemic there.

Giving this information here on Friday, sources said a floor of the Sena Bhawan was shutdown for fumigation and sanitization drive. With this case, the total number of



personnel in the Army testing positive has crossed the 40 mark. They include 25 patients

PNS NEW DELHI

As Covid-19 is likely to become a part of life, focus is now on daily cleaning and dis-

The aim is to minimise the risk of transmitting

Coroanvirus to people who

inadvertently come in contact

BPDS (Battery-Powered

Disinfectant Sprayer) and

POMID (Pneumatically

Operated Mobile Indoor

Disinfection). Both the sprayer

systems are designed with two

stage spraying units and sepa-

rate storage tanks to clean and

disinfect the indoor areas by

the numbers of fixed and flex-

ible nozzles set in the lower &

the upper tiers. There is also an

industrial variant of the disin-

fectant sprayer which has util-

ity for heavy usage and larger

span of coverage," said Prof.

Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR-

cleaning or disinfecting using

a single chamber storage for

the liquid and are pump-based.

The droplets produced by a

CMERI, Durgapur.

"The mobile sprayers are

with these surfaces.

Scientists develop 2 mobile indoor disinfection sprayers

cancer department of the Army's Research and Referral(RR)Hospital and 14 others in different parts of the

country.

The 24 patients including serving and retired personnel were shifted to another army hospital nearby on May 4. However, no staff was affected by the coronavirus, they clarified.

Similarly, 38 personnel of the Navy tested positive in Mumbai last month and 12 of them were later discharged after due treatment isolation process while the

remaining 26 are still under-

Cong slams Govt over third tranche of economic package

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday lashed out at the Centre's announcement of the third tranche of the economic pack-

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that the package worth Rs.20 lakh crore had proved to be an example of 'voodoo econom-

He claimed that the Union government had disappointed the entire country by failing to translate their promises into reality. Maintaining that farmers and labourers were facing a lot of difficulties, Surjewala accused the Centre of pushing them into a debt trap.

Moreover, he complained that the farmers had not been provided with any financial

help.
Senior Congress leader
Jairam Ramesh said that Friday's announcements were already present in the Union Budget even as he requested Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reveal the revised expenditure figure for the fiscal year 2020-21.

The Congress accused the government of being "insensitive" towards farmers and demanded that the prime minister and the finance minister apologise for neglecting

PNS NEW DELHI

¬erming the Government's I packages to migrant

labourers, farmers and poor a

"cruel hoax", the CPI (M) Politburo on Friday said that

the one nation-one ration

card will be active only in

mid-2021 and pointed out that the NDA regime had

canceled many ration cards in the name of corruption,

which ultimately made the

the polit bureau pointed out

that on Thursday Finance

Sitharaman assessed only

eight crore as migrant work-

ers, while earlier in

Parliament she had said that

there are more than 10 crore

migrant workers in many

In a detailed statement,

Nirmala

poor suffer.

Rahul criticises Niti for failed corona prediction



 $F^{\text{ormer Congress president}}_{\text{Rahul Gandhi on Friday}}$ took a swipe at Niti Aayog, the Government's think tank, for predicting that there would be no Covid-19 cases after May 16. The think tank had said the government's lockdown strategy to control the virus will

Surjewala said the government has not put a single penny in the pocket of farmers or farm labourers through the package and claimed that farmers have lost over Rs 50,000 crore this Rabi season.

"One thing is absolutely clear that the so-called Rs 20-lakh crore economic package has proved to be a jumla package. It reflects the 'voodoo' economics being followed by the prime minister and the finance minister,"

but cruel hoax: CPM

enable that. "The geniuses at Niti Aayog have done it again. I'd like to remind you of their graph predicting the Govt's national lockdown strategy would ensure no fresh Covid cases from tomorrow, May the 16th," Rahul tweeted. The graph, as seen in the picture shared by him, shows the curve predicting new cases peaking around last week of April and then sloping downwards to zero on May 16.

However, there has been no let up in the cases even as the third phase of nationwide lockdown ends this Sunday.

Surjewala said the farmers have lost ₹21,000 crore by distress sale of wheat far below the minimum support price (MSP) and an equal amount through other crops like chana, sarson and masoor, while anoher ₹10,000 crore

> of vegetables and fruits. He claimed that since the markets were shut and farmers have to sell at distress prices as the government was

was lost through distress sale

Packages to poor nothing

commerce therein. Sitharaman

This, she said, resulted in stalling the free flow of agricultural produce and fragmentation of markets and supthe states to encourage the adoption of National Agriculture Market or e-NAM, links all mandis to create a unifarmers secure better prices for their produce.

According to agriculture ministry, the e-NAM platform now has a total number of 1000 mandis across.

This apart, Operation

APMC Act to help farmers earn better during Covid-19

PNS NEW DELHI

In a move to help farmers earn better prices for their products in times of Covid-19 crisis, the Modi Government has rolled out sweeping reforms for the farm sector including a central law (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee –APMC Act) to allow farmers to sell their produce freely and amendment to the sixand-a-half-decade-old Essential Commodities Act (ECA) 1955 moving cereals, edible oils, pulses, onions and potatoes out of its purview.

BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat have already made amendments to the APMC Act to removes restrictions on where the farmer would be able to sell his produce and get better prices by eliminating the middle-

Union Finance Minister Sitharaman Nirmala announced the reforms while detailing the third tranche of financial package. The ECA amendment, besides deregulating production and sale of food products, will provide for no stock limit to be imposed on any produce. A stock limit will be imposed only under very exceptional circumstances like national calamities, famine with a surge in prices. Also, no processors or value chain par-

The EC Act is considered a major impediment in the growth of agriculture sector as traders are scared to buy more on the fear of imposition of stock holding limits anytime.

According to EC Act, if the central government is of opinion that it is necessary for maintaining or increasing supplies of any essential commodity, securing their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices or securing any essential commodity for the defence of India, it may provide for regulating or prohibiting the production, supply and distribution and trade and

announced that a central law will be formulated to provide adequate choices to the farmers to sell produce at an attractive price, barrier-free interstate trade and framework for e-trading of agricultural produce. Farmers are currently bound to sell their produce only to licensees in the APMC, said the minister. This restriction does not exist for any other industrial produce.

ply chain. Also it entailed less price to the farmers. The Centre has also been urging an electronic platform that fied nationwide market to help

Greens will be extended from tomato, onion and potato to all fruits and vegetables by providing 50 per cent subsidy on transportation and storage of these commodities, she said.

German researchers identify potential cellular targets for treating virus that causes Covid

infecting frequently-touched surfaces such as tables, door-knobs, light switches and handles among others. In this direction, scientists at CSIR-CMERI, Offering hope for treatment of the coronavirus infection Durgapur, have developed two indoor disinfection sprayer units to be used for effectively cleaning and that has caused havoc across the world, a disinfecting pathogenic microteam of German organism present on doors, researchers has idenknobs, hospital wards, hospital tified potential cellular beds, surfaces, rooms, halls, targets for treating the building corridors among othvirus that causes Covid-19.

A team of biochemists and virologists at Goethe University and the Frankfurt University Hospital in Germany tested a series of compounds in laboratory models and found some which slowed down or stopped virus reproduction.

According to the researchers, these results now enable the search for an active substance to be narrowed down to a small number of already approved drugs.

Researchers from

both institutions were University. together able to show "However, they how a SARS-CoV-2 infection changes the are based on a cell human host cells. culture system and They used a particular require further testing," Munch added.

The findings show a picture of the proform of mass spectrometry called the mePROD method,

gression of a SARS-CoV-2 infection: which they had developed only a few months previously. whilst many viruses This method makes it shut down the host's possible to determine protein production to the amount and synthe benefit of viral thesis rate of thouproteins, SARS-CoV-2 sands of proteins withonly slightly influences in a cell, according to the protein producthe findings published tion of the host cell,

in the journal Nature.

mePROD-technology

findings," said study

lead author Christian

Munch from Goethe

"Thanks to the

we developed, we were tion to host cell profor the first time able Instead, a SARSto trace the cellular changes upon infection over time and with high detail in our tein laboratory. We were obviously aware of the potential scope of our

CoV-2 infection leads to an increased prosynthesis

with the viral proteins

appearing to be produced in competi-

machinery in the cell.
The researchers suspected this was a weak spot of the virus and were indeed able

significantly

reduce virus reproduction using something known as translation inhibitors, which shut down

protein production. Twenty-four hours after infection, the virus causes distinct changes to the composition of the host proteome: while cholesterol metabolism is reduced, activities in carbohydrate metabolism and in the modification of RNA as protein pre-

cursors increase. In line with this, the scientists were successful in stopping virus reproduction in cultivated cells by applying inhibitors of these processes.

Similar success was achieved by using a substance that inhibits the production of building blocks for the viral

pump sprayer are much larg-He explained that most of er in size and effective coverthe disinfectant sprayers in age of surface is lesser.

systems developed by our lab consist of dual chamber storage for disinfectants and clean-

by the judges of the apex court

in its virtual full court meeting

and it has also been resolved

that Chief Justice of India (CJI)

S A Bobde will keep an eye on

the summer vacation has been

hailed by SCBA (Supreme

Court Bar Association)

President Dushant Dave who

also said that the apex court

should take all steps to help poor

citizens in the present crisis.

The decision to shorten

developing situation.

area for the specified volume

The sprayers are also equipped with mopping fea-

design, better arrangement of tures and extendable arms to nozzles and lesser droplet sizes reach hidden area and clean and therefore sprayed disin- comprehensively. The techfound a taker with Power Tech Mining Pvt. Ltd. (West Bengal) seeking its commer-

cialisation, Prof Hirani said.

SC postpones summer vacation by five-weeks, to function till June 19



PTI NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, which **⊥** has been hearing urgent matters through video-conferencing from March 25 due to COVID-19 pandemic, on Friday decided to postpone its summer vacation by five weeks and declared that it would remain functional from May 18

As per the October 14 notification, the summer vacation would have started from May 18 and concluded on July 5 (both days inclusive) in the apex

period of functioning of the

court," the apex court notifica-

would remain unchanged.

tion said.

The apex court, since March 25, has been holding courts through video confer-"In partial modification of encing due to the nation-wide Notification of even number lockdown to contain the spread dated October 14, 2019 notifyof coronavirus (COVID-19) had suspended ing the list of Supreme Court the entry of advocates and other holidays, 2020 and the summer staff into the high security zone vacation of the court, it is hereby notified that the five-week on the basis of their proximity cards, till further orders. period from May 18, 2020 to The SCBA, on April 11, had appealed to the CJI and his June 19 (both days inclusive) of the summer vacation of the SC calendar 2020 has been companion judges to declare rescheduled and declared as cancellation of summer vacation

working period of apex court in the larger interest of the It said that the earlier notilitigants and interest of justice in fication on the list of holidays view of ongoing nationwide

and treat it as

Apprise us of accommodation to quarantine docs near hospitals: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday asked the Centre to apprise it about steps taken for quarantining doctors and medical staff engaged in fight against coronavirus in accommodations near the hospitals itself. A bench of Justices L

Nageswara Rao, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and B R Gavai, which took up the matter through video conferencing asked Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the Centre, to take instructions and apprise it by next week.

During the hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for doctor-petitioner Arushi Jain, said that resident doctors in Government hospitals, after completing 7/14 days on duty, are supposed to be quarantined. He said these doctors are

quarantined in places where they have to share rooms, bathrooms but it should be done in places, where social distancing can be maintained.

Rohatgi said this type of arrangements would defeat the purpose of quarantining and corona warriors will fall down.

He said the Government should requisition such hotels and guest houses where proper facilities are available and social distancing could be maintained.

He said he was not seeking any adversarial order but is only asking for suitable accommodation with necessary facilities near the hospital for the doctors and medical staffs, who are in forefront of dealing with Covid-19 pandemic.

SC stays Madras HC order asking TN Govt to close liquor shops

The Supreme Court Friday stayed the Madras High Court order which had asked the Tamil Nadu government to close state-run liquor vends on the ground that there was violation of guidelines meant to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the stay on the

high court order by the apex court the state-owned liquor shops may reopen in the state. A bench comprising Justices

of the High Court after taking note of the appeal of Government firm Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) which sells alcoholic beverages in the State. Lawyer Yogesh Kanna, appearing for the State Government, said the top court issued notices to those who had filed the pleas in the high court seeking closure of the liquor outlets in the State.

L Nageswara Rao, S K Kaul and

BR Gavai stayed the May 8 order

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Md. Shahrukh, S/o Lt. Md. Parvez, R/o H.No. 2056, Gali Gajmir Khan, Chandni Mahal, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 64/16 u/s 379/34 IPC, P.S. Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Md. Shahrukh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Md. Shahrukh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Md.

Shahrukh of FIR No. 64/16 u/s 379/34 IPC, P.S. Kotwali, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.06.2020. By order

Ms. Prigya Gupta, Metropolitan Magistrate-08, Room No. 272, DP/205/N/2020(Court Matter)

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

extension of the provision of free foodgrains. Having cancelled crores of ration cards in the name of corruption making the poor suffer, the FM now makes a grand gesture that all families without ration cards will also get 5kg foodgrains and 1kg pulses free. Repackaging schemes like one nation-one ration card that will see the light of the day only by mid-2021, is of little consequence to the sufferings that crores of people face today," the CPI(M) said. O The Left party accused the Finance Minister of misleading the

country by claiming that there was a 40 to 50 per cent increase in MNREGA workdays generated.

O "The only direct benefit is a package of ₹3,500 crores for

a package of ₹3,500 crores for country. "Not a single paisa is being transferred from the Government to any of the worst-affected sections of our specifically migrant workers, street vendors, domestic workers, fishing workers etc. This package is mainly provision of

"The only direct benefit is

extension of the provision of free foodgrains. Having cancelled crores of ration cards in the name of corruption making the poor suffer, the FM now makes a grand gesture that all families without ration cards will also get 5kg foodgrains and 1kg pulses free. Repackaging schemes like one nation-one ration card that will see the light of the day only by mid-2021, is of little consequence to the sufferings that crores of people face today," the CPI(M)

> The Left party accused the Finance Minister of misleading the country by claiming that there was a 40 to 50 per cent increase in MNREGA workdays generat-

> The CPI (M) also said that the Central Government has no right to give any instructions regarding the use of CAMPA funds. It is for State

> Governments in coordinawith local communities, mainly tribal, who are affected by projects to decide how the funds are to



Cong, TMC slam FM's relief package Kerala CM blames Centre for 'indifference'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

ongress and the Trinamool Congress have questioned the potency of Union Finance Minister's Friday declarations comparing it with a budgetary speech that will not only fail to provide immediate relief to the vast cross-section of the poor and migrant workers but also fall short of boosting consumers' purchasing capacity.

"The Government has been talking of huge packages but it failed to appreciate the fact that the so-called package should have found its way into the pockets of the crores of migrant workers. Where is that relief? The biggest package should have first taken care of their hunger and plight that force them to walk hundreds of miles back home. Where is that relief?" Congress leader of Lok

adding the Finance Minister's declaration resembled a budgetary speech.
"Whatever reforms she

spoke about was already in the pipeline and was being dis-cussed for the past several years. We all know that there is an issue with food processing and only small percentage of our products go into food processing. Discussions were already on to give a fillip to the industry which will in ultimate run help the farmers... There is nothing new about these reforms ... but they will yield

result 2-3 years from now... "In the present context will these reforms provide cash to the poor and the marginal people? What will happen to the migrant workers who are walking back home hundreds of miles? What will happen to

'we are not only disgusted but also angry with FM's nonsensical act. The BJP leaders are trying to

befool people with their mathematical jugglery that will make people dream of ₹20 lakh crore'

the people who are starving?

The Government should have transferred some money from its so-called into the pockets of the marginal people. That will be the biggest package. The Government seems to be boosting the supply line but is not taking measures to strengthen the demand line. If demands do not increase, then the whole measure will fall flat."

Congress MP Pradip Chatterjee said "we are not only disgusted but also angry with FM's nonsensical act. The BJP leaders are trying to befool people with their mathematical

states, we have set up an

employment bureau to train

and provide skilled and non-

skilled labourers to the indus-

tries," the Chief Minister said.

dream of ₹20 lakh crore. But the question is will it help the crisis to blow over now? Amit Shah said that the steps will bear results in 5 years when we will become self sufficient. But

what will happen till then? How will we handle the crisis and starvation now? The Government is silent."

TMC MP Saugato Roy said, "the first need of the hour was to provide cash to people to increase their purchasing their purchasing power. That the Government would not do despite repeated requests. Whatever the FM has said will continue to hover as a budget assurances much like it has been happening for

Pro-Trinamool Congress economist Aviroop Sarkar too questioned the efficacy of the pings of a budget speech. "The reforms notwithstanding, there was a need to provide immediate relief to the people provisions of which do not seem to contain in the Finance Minister's announcement. It does not seem to carry any immediate relief to ward off the

crisis." He said "the Government should have taken steps to strengthen the purchasing power of the common people to sustain the reforms that it is initiating now. It should have provided cash to the people to increase demand in the market. Without increasing demand boosting production and supply line will perhaps not yield the desired result.

It will not pull the people out of the crisis they are in due to the corona pandemic."

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala, lambasted the Narendra Modi Government for its indifference to the woes faced by the State following the coronavirus pandemic

Addressing his daily durbar convened to brief about the number of new pandemic cases in the State on Friday, Vijayan said whatever financial assistance the Centre claims to have given as part of the Covid-19 package was what the State would have received even if there was no pandemic.

The State has received a portion of financial assistance due to us from the National Disaster Relief Fund which Kerala would have got even of there was no coronavirus pandemic. The claim being made by the Centre is this regard is

during the press meet. He said the Centre's attitude towards the States have to change.

He said 16 new Covid-19 cases were confirmed in Kerala on Friday. "Out of the 16 cases, seven persons were those who reached the State from abroad while four were from Chennai and two from Mumbai," said the Chief Minister.

As on Friday, there were 576 coronavirus positive cases in Kerala. 80 persons are undergoing treatment in various hospitals. On Friday, 122 persons have been admitted to various hospitals in the State," said Vijayan. Out of the 576 persons test-

ed positive for coronavirus, 311 were those who reached the State from foreign countries and 70 from other States in the

The Chief Minister said

through contacts.

"We are worried about the increase in the number of coronavirus cases in the State. The possibilities for community transmission have become strong in Kerala. As part of strengthening the preventive measures , we will deploy Motor Cycle Brigade to scan the entire areas in districts where the coronavirus positive cases have been notified," said the Chief Minister.

He said police officials will undertake rounds in these areas to check whether those ordered to undergo quarantine restrict themselves to their homes. Vijayan disclosed that 3,732 expatriates have returned to the State by 17 aircraft and three Indian Navy ships. Migrant workers numbering 33,000 have left Kerala by 29

Will take all precautions while preparing road map for Lockdown-4: Maha CM

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI:

 $R^{\text{uling out the possibility of}}_{\text{reopening of intra-district}}$ borders in the State after May 17, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said here on Friday that since the coronavirus crisis was far over in the estate, the State Government would take all precautions while preparing road map for the Lockdown-4 beginning from May 18.

After reviewing the coronavirus situation in the state with the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) colleagues in the state, the Chief Minister said: "Without reopening the intradistrict borders, we will have to take all precautions while preparing road map for the lockdown-4 beginning on May 18. The Coronavirus crisis is not over yet in the state. We will have to seek the help of doctors and members of Task Force in dealing with the situation in the Post-May 18 period".

At the meeting attended among others by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, State Cabinet ministers and senior bureaucrats, the chief minister reviewed the situation that prevailed during the last 55 days of lockdown enforced in three

During the meeting, the issues like the current health situation in the state, the manner in which the health authorities were combating it, law and order, arrangements made by the State Government in sending back the migrant workers to their respective states and the difficulties faced by the state authorities in handing the transportation of migrant workers.

Briefing those present at the meeting, the Chief Minister said that industrial activity had begun in the state after the government relaxed the lockdown norms in green and orange

"After the relaxation of norms in green and orange norms, we had permitted 65 000 industrial units to resume production. Of them, 35000 units had resumed operation and nearly 9 lakh workers had reported to duty. In effect, we have resumed 50 per cent industrial activity in the state. After the return of migrant workers to their respective

> While reviewing the health situation in the state, those present at the meeting discussed the issues like the need for purchase of medical equipment, filling up of vacant posts in Government hospitals and how to relax the norms in the red and containment zones during the lockdown-4 period even while adhering to the pre-

Communal riots in Hooghly: 129 held

PNS KOLKATA

The police have arrested 129 people in connection to the communal flare-up leading to clashes and large-scale arson in the Telinipara region of Hooghly district, Chandannagore Commissioner of Police Humayun Kabir said on

"The police taking strong action. We have reports of people going around inciting communal violence. We are trying to zero in on them and have arrested 129 people. We will soon arrest the masterminds," Kabir said drawing strong criticism from local BJP MP Locket Chatterjee who condemned the Police Commissioner for "playing a partisan game."

She alleged, "the BJP MPs are trying to meet the CP for the past few days but he is not meeting us whereas he is meeting the Trinamool Congress MLAs. The Government is giving free hand to the communal forces to destroy, loot and burn the houses of the local people here."

434 test +ve in TN, total reaches 10,108

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

here are 10,108 persons all over Tamil Nadu who had tested positive for coronavirus as on Friday. The release issued by the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine on Friday evening stated that 434 tested positive for coronavirus all over the State taking the total number of Covid-19 cases to 10,108.

Five persons succumbed to the pandemic on Friday taking the total fatalities in Tamil Nadu to 71. There is some news which offers succor to the people and that is the number of persons discharged from hospitals on a single day. A record number of 359 patients who were cured of the pandemic left hospitals on Friday and this is the highest number to be discharged on a single day in the State, said the release.

Chennai continued to be the epicentre of covid pandemic in the

Municipal Corporation registered 309 coronavirus positive cases out of the 434 cases tested positive all over the State. The capital city has 5,946 coronavirus patients as on Friday.

An important point to be noted is that the number of coronavirus patients got doubled in a single week. On May 8, Tamil Nadu had 5,409 covid patients which breached the 10,000 mark by May 15. The number of persons tested positive for coronavirus has come down (though negligibly) in the last three days. While May 11 saw 798 persons testing positive on a single day, the number came down to 716 on May 12. The next day saw a further decrease as the numbers stood at 509 on May 13.

May 14, the number of covid cases were 447 while May 15 (Friday)saw the numbers coming

Manipur takes back 185 nurses working in Bengal

PNS KOLKATA

What could cause a grave health crisis during pandemic situation the Manipur Government has reportedly taken back at least 185 trained nurses working in various private hospitals in Kolkata and other cities, sources said. These nurses were working in big medical facil-

ities like RN Tagore Hospital, Appollo Gleneagles Hospital. AMRI Hospital, EEDF Hospital and Fortis Hospital sources said adding "most of the nurses have either resigned their posts and left or simply left after they were taken back by the Manipur Government. Sources at AMRI Hospital said nurses from

Odisha and Tripura were also likely to be taken away by the respective Governments. A large number of nurses from Kerala, Bihar, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and other places come to Meanwhile, Bengal on Friday recorded 10 new

deaths taking the total number of deaths to 225. This apart the State saw 84 new cases taking the total number of infections to 2461. Out of these 1460 are active cases. About 829 people have recovered from infection, Health Department sources said adding the containment zones in Kolkata was slightly reduced from 339 early this week to 286 on Friday.

K'taka announces 3rd relief package worth ₹512 crore

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In a major initiative to help crisis ridden maize farmers, BS Yediyurappa led BJP Government in Karnataka has announced a third economic package worth ₹512 crore rupees. In a press conference on Friday, Chief Minister Yediyurappa announced ₹512 crore third economic incentivising ASHA workers, at the forefront in the fight against Covid-19.

Yediyurappa said While around 10 lakh maize farmers will get ₹5,000 each, the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers would get an incentive of ₹3,000 each through cooperative insti-

"About 10 lakh maize farmers are suffering as they are not getting proper price, that is why I have decided to give ₹5,000 relief to each farmer, it is about ₹500 crore commitment," he told reporters. He said there were about 40,250

ASHA workers in the State and each would get ₹3,000 each, which will add up to about ₹12.50 crore.

"Despite the State financial condition being not good we have already announced financial packages for those in distress. First one was ₹1,610 crore, second was ₹162 core, this is the third one,"

One more dies, 69 fresh cases in K'taka, tally 1,056

Bengaluru: A 52-year-old man succumbed to novel coronavirus in Karnataka even as the highest single-day rise of 69 new positive cases was reported, raising the state's tally to 1,056, an

The deceased male resident Chitaguppa town in Bidar had died on Tuesday but his test report on his positive status came on Friday. The deceased had a travel history to Hyderabad and also suffered from Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI).

Chitaguppa is 709 km north of Bengaluru. The new cases were

Thursday to 5 pm on Friday," the health official said.

cases, 539 are still active, 480 patients have been discharged, and 36 others

trainee who was found dead

under mysterious conditions.

During the last 28 years, we

have seen 22 nuns losing their

lives under mysterious condi-

Abhaya of Pius X Convent,

Kottayam. She was found dead

under similar conditions in

the well of the convent on

March 27, 1992 and the Church

authorities claimed that it too

was a case of suicide," said

Luckose Chullikkara, a devote

Catholioc from Kasaragod who

is an office bearer of the

The JSL in a representation

Chief Minister Pinatrayi

Vijayan, a copy of which is with

The Pioneer has demanded

that the probe into the 'alleged

suicide' by Sr Divya should be

handed over to the CBI for an

impartial and judicious inves-

Church officials and the man-

agement of the Convent ruled

that Divya committed suicide

itself evokes suspicion.

The sped with which the

tigation.

The dead include Sister



Out of the 1,056

reported from 5 pm on

have died.

Dakshina Kannada reported 15 cases, followed by Bengaluru Urban and Mandya 13 each, Hassan and Bidar 7 each, Udupi five, Kalaburagi Chitradurga two and Kolar, Bagalkote, Uttara

Nadu

Covid cases spiked in Dakshina Kannda, Bengaluru Urban, Mandya, Hassan, and Of the new cases,

Kannada and

Shivamogga one each. Kolar, Chitradurga, Hassan, Mandya and Shivamogga cases had a travel history to Tamil and Maharashtra. **IANS**

Visakhapatnam espionage case: NIA arrests key conspirator

New Delhi: The NIA on Friday arrested the key conspirator Mohammed Haroon Hazi Abdul Rehman Lakdawaa in Visakhapatnam espionage case from Mumbai.

The case relates to a Pakistan-based international espionage racket which recruitment people in India to collect information on naval movements and submarines besides other defence establishment.

Lakdawala, 49, is a resident of Mumbai and one of the key conspirators in the case origistation, Andhra Pradesh various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Official Secrets Act.

The case involved individuals based in Pakistan and at different locations in India. Pakistan-based spies recruited agents in India for collecting sensitive and classified information regarding locations/movements of Indian Naval Ships and Submarines, and other defence establishments, the NIA said in a statement.

"Investigation revealed that few navy personnel came in contact with Pakistani nationals through various social media platforms such as Facebook, Whatsapp etc, and were involved in sharing classified information in lieu of monetary gains. The money was deposited into the bank accounts of the navy personnel through Indian associates having business interests in Pakistan," the NIA said.

During the course of probe so far, 14 accused persons have been arrested including 11 Navy personnel and one Pakistani born Indian national Shaista Oaiser.

30 more cases, J&K tally at over 1,000

Jammu: The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Friday joined the club of States with more than 1,000 cases of coronavirus. With 30 fresh cases, the final tally touched 1,013 cases.

According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), out of 1013 positive cases, 489 are Active Positive, 513 have recovered and 11 have died. Out of 489 active cases, 438 are from Kashmir and 51 from Jammu division.

According to official sources, "21 fresh cases were detected across Kashmir division while 9 cases were reported positive from recovered fully and were discharged from different hospitals on Friday.

Meanwhile, aggressive testing of all incoming stranded passengers was going on at the gateway of Jammu & Kashmir in Lakhanpur and at Jammu railway station. After mandatory screening these stranded passengers are being accommodated in administrative quarantine centres till receipt of their confirmatory test reports.

Moreover, 28 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals of Kashmir Division. The Bulletin further said that out of 70,306 test results available, 69,293 samples have tested as negative till May 15, 2020.

Out of 21 fresh cases, Srinagar district reported 11 cases from Kashmir division.

Bandipora, which was earlier labelled as hot spot has shown impressive improvement as a total number of 122 cases have recovered so far and only 12 active cases are under observation in hospitals.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work
1.	BCT/19-20/426, DTD. 09-03-2020, DOP. 20-05-2020	STC-VR Section: Repairs to DN take pipe. cross drainage & valley gutter in connection with monsoon work.
2.	BCT/19-20/422, DTD. 06-03-2020, DOP. 20-05-2020	CCG-VR Sec: Dewatering during monsoon 2020 in various section of Mumbai division.
3.	BCT/19-20/443, DTD. 17-03-2020, DOP. 22-05-2020	Santacruz-Virar: Repairs to COP between COP & FOB gaps.
4.	BCT/19-20/423, DTD. 06-03-2020, DOP. 22-05-2020	Vasai Road, Naigaon, & Bhayander: Supply of potable drinking waterby tanker to Vasa Road colony, stations. service building. Naigaon colony along with newly constructed quarters at Bhayander & Bhayander Rest house for a period of two years
5.	BCT/19-20/442, DTD. 17-03-2020, DOP. 22-05-2020	Andheri, Jogeshwari, Ram Mandir Goregaon and Borivali: Painting of platform covering in the jurisdiction of SSE (W-11) BVI.
	BCT/20-21/15,	(Zone 7A-1): Santacruz-Virar Sec: General

DTD. 06-04-2020, repairs & Painting, white washing, colour DOP. 26-05-2020 washing, distempering polishing etc for Kandivali and Virar carshed in the jurisdcition of SSE(W)Borival Zone 3A-1: New works & all ordinary BCT/19-20/451, DTD. 19-03-2020 repairs works in Marine lines-Khar Section in

DOP. 26-05-2020 the jurisdiction of SSE (W-11) Mumba Central under ADEN(W/S)BA Zone 3A-2: New works & all ordinary repairs BCT/19-20/452. works in the jurisdiction of SSE (W)Barny DOP. 26-05-2020 under ADEN(W/S)BA

BCT/19-20/455,

DTD: 19-03-2020.

DOP. 26-05-2020

BCT/20-21/16.

DOP. 26-05-2020

BCT/20-21/49

DTD. 27-04-2020.

DOP. 26-05-2020

BCT/20-21/36,

DTD, 20-04-2020.

BCT/20-21/34, DTD. 20-04-2020, DOP. 26-05-2020

BCT/20-21/35,

DTD. 20-04-2020.

DOP. 26-05-2020

BCT/20-21/37

DTD. 20-04-2020,

DOP. 26-05-2020

DOP-26-05-2020

BCT/19-20/453, Zone 4A: New works & all ordinary repairs works in the jurisdiction of SSE (W-11)-Lower Parel, SSE(W-1) PL & DTD. 19-03-2020. DOP. 26-05-2020 SSE(W)Matunga Road under ADEN (Est/S) Lower Parel. BCT/ 19-20/454. Zone 4A-1: New works & all ordinary repairs works in the jurisdiction of SSE (W)-Pali hill DOP, 26-05-2020 under ADEN(W/S) BA.

Zone 5: New works & all ordinary repairs

works in the jurisdiction of SSE (W)-Lower

Mel-Khar Sec: Supply of Potable Drinking

Water by tankers on Railway Station for a

period of two years for Mumbai Central Laundry at PDGR and on Railway Station on

Mahalaxmi (workshop):- Supply of potable

drinking water by tankers for a period of two year at Mahalaxmi (sports ground),

Mahalaxmi (EMU shop), Mahalaxmi (store)

Zone-C -Churchgate-Virar section -Genera repairs including painting in the jurisdiction of SSE (W-I) Mumbai Central which includes

Mumbai Central station (Main), J.R.Hospital

Quarters in J.R.Hospital, Agripada colony,

Skyscrapper, 14 officers flat, Reservation Office buildings, DRM's office and all service

-General repairs in the jurisdiction of SE(W)

Badhwar Park section at Badhwar Park

colony, including all Railway Officers flats

quarters, all Recreational buildings etc., at

Zone-B :-CCG-VR sec. General repairs in

the jurisdiction of SE(W) Churchgate in section from CCG, (incl) to Marine Lines

(excl) &(incl) CCG Station complex with all

Railway Offices therein, Western Railway

HQ Offices, Service bldgs. including Churchgate Rly. Qtrs. In Churchgate

Horticulture Zone - Churchgate - Virar section

fertilizers, manure seeds, plants, flower pots,

garden equipment and accessories.

Due to technical reasons the above tenders should be treated as cancelled

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Development of gardens of supply of

Parel under ADEN (W/S)BA.

Marine Lines-Khar Road Section.

Mahalaxmi (RPF colony)

buildings in Mumbai Central.

Badhwar Park area in Colaba.

Zone-A:- Churchgate - Virar

CBI probe demanded over nun's death in Thiruvalla

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The death of Divya P John, ▲ a final year novitiate trainee at Baselian Convent at Thiruvalla in Kerala on May 7 has become a controversy with a global collective of Keralaites demanding a CBI probe into the incident.

Divya (21) was found dead under mysterious conditions in the well of the convent on May 7 around 11 am and the officials of the Church term it as a case of suicide. But members of JSL, (Justice for Sister Lucy) a global organisation fighting against the Church officials who excommunicated Sister Lucy Kalapurackal from the religious congregation for her uncompromising stance against exploitation of nuns by some of the vicars and bishops of the Church, expressed their reservation over the attitude of the Church superiors who they allege jumped into the conclusion that Divya had committed

"Divya is the 22nd nun

| BSNL terminates activist Fathima

 $R_{
m who}$ created a furore all over the country in 2018 for her attempt to enter the Sabarimala Temple following the Supreme Court verdict has been terminated from service by her employer BSNL.

The activist, a regular feature in all anti-establishment agitations in the State and popularly known as Telephone Fathima, courted controversy through her postings in the social media which the believers allege hurt the public sentiments. Her semi-nude pictures had created a sensation in the Kerala society. The 35 year old technician

working in one of the telephone exchanges in Ernakulam city has been asked to go on compulsory retirement by her employers. Fathima was arrested by the Kerala Police in May 2018 on charges of fomenting communal hatred in the State through her words and actions and she has been suspended by the BSNL since then.

PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.- VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt.of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi invites online Item rate E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No	NIT No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed	Tender ID No.	Last date & time for submission on of Price Bid
1.	EE/CD- VII/NIT/ 2020- 21/14	Cleaning of Jungle and maintains of Sub Minor 1 to 5 of CTP Network at Burari.	2702 Revenue	6,89,283/-	13,786/-	45 Days	2020_IFC _190632_1	27.05.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs
2.	EE/CD- VII/NIT/ 2020- 21/15	Maintenance & removal of obstruction from Main channel, Saleempur Minor, and Jhroda Minor of CPT Network.	2702 Revenue	11,69,105/-	23,382/-	45 Days	2020_IFC _190635_1	27.05.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs
3.	EE/CD- VII/NIT/ 2020- 21/16	Maintenance & removal of obstruction from Mukundpur Minor.	2702 Revenue	6,89,283/-	13,786/-	45 Days	2020_IFC _190636_1	27.05.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website
- http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility crieria, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted Intending tenderers participating in tendering process in EE CD-VII, I&FC shall uploaded scanned copy of earnest money, Registration of enlistment, Copy of ESI & EPF registration, Copy of Pan Card and Copy of
 - **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** DIP/Shabdarth/0036/20-21 Civil Division - VII

GST registration on the website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in while bidding

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A pinch for migrants

Daily wagers, vendors need cash handouts, not long drawn out policy interventions that aggravate their agony



e must not forget the stark truth. No matter what the Government's reassurances, the fact of the matter is that the reverse migration continues in greater swells. Even though dedicated buses and trains are now running to ferry workers home as they have been rendered jobless and penniless in the cities due to the COVID-19 lockdown, thousands are continuing the long march by road. And various reports indicate that they aren't coming back anytime soon as they feel a thoughtless Government didn't care for them

or provide an actionable alternative before announcing the lockdown. Many have said that they would rather earn little, even go back to subsistence farming, than risk a return to the city that gave them the disease, stigmatised them as carriers, took their jobs and evicted them from their homes as landlords didn't even grant a grace period. Their anger, hurt and determination have already resulted in a chronic shortage of labour across the country and although economic activity may slowly resume through the post-COVID recovery, labour isn't coming either cheap or ready. Which is why the second tranche of the fiscal package for daily wagers and street vendors, again in the nature of policy interventions that never make it to implementation and funds that routinely bleed out before they reach the beneficiaries, makes no sense at all. Nobody can afford to wait or queue up for food doles, destitute labourers need money in hand now. And all the relief announced so far involve an incubation period and will take time to materialise. Farmers and agricultural workers' unions have been consistently demanding an income support of ₹7,500 per month instead but the Government is yet to address the need for a cash component. They had demanded ₹18,000 a year under PM-KISAN for all farmers, including tenants. But other than the routine ₹2,000 installment to a reduced number, nothing has materialised. Nor is there any mention of interest-free loans. In a joint statement, farmers have claimed that while 14.5 crore of them should have benefitted from the PM-KISAN scheme, only three crore had got agricultural loans and that is not as part of any special drive carried out under the lockdown circumstances. Besides, most of the loans are cornered by agri-businesses and large farmers as banks are reluctant to give them to smaller growers. Neither are there any assured remunerative prices for agriculture produce or compensation for supply disruptions and wastage. Although loans have been announced for street vendors, they are expected to take a long time coming, given our procedural hassles and clearances. Verification of over 50 lakh street vendors, who are expected to benefit from an estimated outlay of ₹5,000 crore, is not a fast-track operation. Neither can they wait so long for a working capital of ₹10,000. So no immediate relief for them either. In short, there is just a promise but no clear cut means to honour it.

The Government has attempted food security by pledging foodgrains to even non-ration card holders for the next two months and announcing portable ration cards. But the "one India ration card" will take at least a year to materialise, considering the Government envisages covering eight crore migrants. Till then they have to use their existing ration cards at their native places, one of the reasons that fuelled the exodus in the first place, the prospect of free food. Question is why weren't these measures mulled earlier than dumped as an apologetic afterthought? Wouldn't it have been easier to have an organised network of community kitchens or even food tokens in the short term? A cash dole would have also helped labourers retain some dignity and they could use it as they would their own incomes. A few days ago, there was much noise about returnee migrants being absorbed in projects under MGNREGA. The enrolment numbers did go up initially but have now plateaued out. One, the scheme itself needs funding to expand operations and two, social distancing and new norms in a post-pandemic scenario mean only certain activities can take place. The subsidy scheme for affordable housing has been extended by another year but that's hardly an intervention. For without jobs and incomes, nobody is certainly thinking of awaas yojanas. The Government also has to balance its declaration of ensuring minimum wages and workers' rights while the BJP Governments in States are trying to do away with the complex web of labour laws in a bid to attract sizeable investment. But won't 12-hour work shifts without a concomitant social security net be counter-productive in the end?

Unpleasant homecoming

Vijay Mallya should be on his way home. This is a good signal from the Government to economic criminals



fter a long-winded process through the English courts, it finally appears that fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya's last and final appeal against extradition to India has been exhausted. Despite a last-minute tweet and the use of some pliable retired judges to argue against the extradition, just as that other fugitive Nirav Modi is doing, Mallya seems to have run out of options now. He can still approach the European Court of Human Rights but that court has not usually fallen on the side of those accused of financial crimes. The exhaustive

appeal process, where the Government of India has been assisted by the British Government and Home Secretary Priti Patel, has been thorough. The assistance of her Majesty's Government has been welcome. It is good that the British Government is finally taking a stand against such fugitives from justice and who are making London their home.

One should not suppose that Mallya will be found guilty by the Indian justice system. He must be given a fair trial for he might well be innocent. It is, however, certain that some facts and details will emerge during the case that might leave several politicians, bureaucrats and bankers with red faces. Indeed, some of them might even not want their complicity to emerge. This is why Mallya ought to be given proper security as well as healthcare facilities when he is extradited to India. It is also important that all prisoners being brought back to the country are kept safe from the Coronavirus, which is spreading like wildfire in certain prisons here and across the world, too. It is particularly appropriate in these times of strife brought about by the virus that economic crimes are prosecuted. When millions are in economic distress, those who have stolen money from Indian banks and, thus, the taxpayers, must be made to pay for their crimes if they are successfully prosecuted. However, India must work towards improving prison facilities to ensure that future extradition cases do not drag. This is not just for economic offenders alone. Possibly India should seriously consider having separate types of jails for different types of offenders and criminals. White-collar nonviolent criminals should have different jail facilities. This may not be an idea that can be implemented quickly but it must be something that the Home Ministry should look at going forward.

opānion

Pandemic of obsessive fear

COVID-19 will remain like other viruses but the time has come to march forward. The focus should be on a strategy for lifting the lockdown and on a blueprint for life thereafter



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

he fear of contracting COVID-19 is understandable. There is as yet no cure, no vaccine. An obsessive fear of getting it, however, will worsen matters Making the urge to escape the virus' clutches, the driving concern will conduce to a negative approach, impairing the drawing up of a comprehensive and evolved strategy to cope with the pandemic spreading across India while saving lives, keeping the economy growing and imposing minimum possible hardships on people.

The current strategy considers social distancing to be the most effective way of hobbling the progress of the virus and the lockdown the best way of making social distancing effective. Lauding the lockdown, the fourth stage of which begins on May 18, experts have argued that the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths therefrom would have been much, much higher without it. I will not cross swords with them as I am not an expert in the matter. I can only say that they have gone by modelbased projections, which are sometimes right and sometimes wrong.

Besides, there are serious limitations to the extent to which the lockdown can ensure social distancing. Sixty-five million people or 22 per cent of India's population live in slums where gross over-crowding (often six to 10 people in small rooms), acute poverty and shockingly unhealthy conditions prevail. It is impossible to practise social distancing — to say nothing of working from home in such places or in highly-overcrowded areas which are not slums. Social distancing is only possible among inhabitants of colonies of at least the comparatively privileged and between dwellers of the latter on the one hand and those living in slums and highly overcrowded areas on the other. Those living in the latter are not only more vulnerable to the infection of COVID-19 but to the adverse economic impact of the lockdown.

The majority of the families living in slums and highly overcrowded areas are of migrant workers who are not highly-skilled and are employed on low daily wages. Many of them did not find work everyday even before the lockdown came into force. The halting of economic activity following the lockdown has left them without work and income. Hence the tragedy of long homeward marches by thousands of families, with women often carrying children in their arms.

Against these projections, the harsh fact is that the lockdown has hobbled the economy and imposed untold hardship on secvictims are not only the urban poor, including migrant workers, but rural poor who provide urban areas with supplies and/or depend on money sent by their kin working as migrant labourers in cities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has doubtless announced a ₹20 lakh crore package to kickstart the economy and Finance Minister



Nirmala Sitharaman has filled in with some details, whose main effect will be enhancing cash-flow in the short run.

Much of how things pan out on the ground will depend on the delivery systems comprising Central and State bureaucracies. Neither of the two is celebrated for its efficiency. A great deal will also depend on the manner in which the lockdown is lifted. Of critical importance in this context will be the relaxations permitted during its fourth phase and their implementation. These should be preparatory to a resumption of economic and social life at the pre-lockdown level except in regions and spheres of activity where restrictions are absolutely essential.

There will be pressures to the contrary both from States and sections of the public fed on a diet of apocalyptic predictions about what will follow and the air may well be rent by warnings of a quantum jump in the number COVID-19 cases and deaths therefrom. India, and, for that matter, the world, has never lacked in doomsavers. The country must ignore them every possible step to halt the disease's spread and minimise the number of deaths.

It is imperative to adopt a historical perspective. The world has survived pandemics. A massive outbreak of bubonic plague devastated Europe and IT WILL NOT BE AN

EASY JOB BECAUSE IT WILL REQUIRE **ACTION AT THREE** LEVELS — INTERNATIONAL (RELATIONS WITH **OTHER COUNTRIES**) NATIONAL AND LOCAL. PRESSURE. BORN OF **OBSESSIVE FEAR** OF THE DISEASE. HAS TO BE RESISTED.

SIMULTANEOUSLY,

AFOOT IN INDIA TO

FIND A VACCINE

THE EFFORTS

CONTINUE

AND A CURE MUST

parts of Asia and North Africa during the 14th century. Perhaps the worst phase was between 1347 and 1351 when, according to varying estimates, it killed one-third to as much as 50 to 60 per cent of Europe's population. The numbers cited range from 50 million to 200 million deaths. The same disease claimed an estimated 100,000 lives in London, a quarter of the city's population, during 1665-66. Earlier, the Plague of Justinian (named after an emperor of Byzantium or Eastern Roman Empire) that afflicted his domain in 541-542, killed an estimated 10,000

people a day in its capital,

Constantinople (now Istanbul).
In fact, it is plague that led to the institution of quarantine, which began in 1377 when the Rector of the seaport of Ragusa, which then belonged to the Venetian Republic, prescribed a 30-day, later extended to 40 days, isolation for arriving ships. Anyway, plague provides just one example. Small pox, which has haunted the world for 12,000 years, caused 300 million deaths in the 20th century, In India, it killed 15,000 people, West Bengal. And this despite the availability of preventive vaccination and treatment with anti-biotics. Despite the availability of both, 838,315 cases of cholera were notified to the World Health Organisation (WHO) during the period

between 2004 and 2008. The estimated actual burden of cholera is much higher and in the vicinity of three to five million cases and 100,000 to

130,000 deaths per year. The world has survived the pandemics mentioned above and other instances of mass deaths caused by diseases. It will survive COVID-19 but may have to live with it even after a vaccine and curative medicine are available. Preventive vaccination and effective treatment have not eradicated plague. From 1985 to 2003, 25 countries reported over 43,000 cases to the WHO. The disease continues to occur.

The focus should be on a strategy for the lifting of the lockdown as early as possible and on a blueprint for life thereafter. It will not be an easy iob because it will require action at three levels — international (relations with other countries), national and local. Pressure, born of obsessive fear of the disease, has to be resisted. Simultaneously, the efforts afoot in India to find a vaccine and a cure must continue. Here one must not only look at alloayurvedic and Unani cures as well. The case of Ozone therapy, which is also said to have shown promising indications, needs to be explored, too.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an

SOU NDBIT

There is reason to believe that they (Nepal) might have raised the issue at the behest of someone else. This is very much a possibility.

Army Chief —Gén MM Naravane



If we take the right precautions, we can go and meet our loved ones. I talk to her (Richa Chadha but I wish I could go and meet her.

Actor



I think PM's Atmanirbhar Mission is very important in terms of directions and India is not making a distinction between life and livelihoods in the aftermath of Covid-19.

World Bank's India director -Junaid Ahmad



Congress should be sensitive towards migrant labourers. It should instruct its State Governments to shoulder responsibility, to receive and send people in a proper way.

Union Minister —Dharmendra Pradhan

Task cut out

normal.

Sir — With the Government

planning to further ease lock-

down norms from next week,

what is sure is that cases are

bound to spike. We should be pre-

pared for this as slowly but sure-

ly, the virus will spread to hith-

erto unaffected districts.

Undoubtedly, safety protocols

like wearing masks and using sanitisers will become the new

lockdown will bring another set

of challenges for the Union as well

as State Governments. It will not

be easy for them to enforce social

distancing norms in public

spaces. Second, not all migrant

workers may feel safe to come

back to work as the pandemic has

A gradual easing down of the



ETTERS

made great strides in scientific

technology, it has not been able

to make any strong inroads into

the smartphone/laptop business.

In these areas, China has outdone

most countries across the world.

Though our country has have undoubtedly swamped the

Chinese electronic goods

Better treatment

Sir — It's been a month and a half since the lockdown was imposed and we are still seeing migrants walking home. Why have proper arrangements still not been made to ensure that they return to their home States? If they are being prevented from leaving because of the fear that the virus will spread, what about the fact that many of them are dying without food and water? Are their lives not important? How can we allow some people to die in an effort to save others?

Ibne Giasuddin Kurla

Don't rely on others

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Swadeshi vs Make in India" (May 15). It is heartening that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an appeal to make the country self-reliant and asked to use products "made in India."

It is welcome that our leaders have finally realised the importance of indigenisation of products and are advocating for it. Every industry must now take up

People need clarity, not numbers his refers to the editorial, "Economic rescue" (May

14). In his 33-minute address to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke at length about lofty goals but fell short of giving adequate details for the same. The ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package announced by him sounded like a huge amount — not only does it have a big number of zeroes but it also corresponds to 10 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). But a closer look will reveal that a large portion of it — as much as ₹8.04 lakh crore — is part of the additional liquidity injected into the system by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through various measures over a period of three months. This, besides the financial package of ₹1.7 lakh crore announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on March 26.

To a mathematician, the declared amount may be 10 per cent of GDP but in reality, only about five per cent remains to be injected. The concerns of the common citizen, however, are barely related to the figures. On the same day, a 21-year-old migrant worker was reported to have collapsed and died in Telangana after walking 300 kilometres on his way to Odisha. So when the Prime Minister said that "some important decisions will be announced in the economic package for every section"

this challenge and start manufac-

turing products. But it must be

borne in mind that India cannot

compete with other countries in

every area. Therefore, we have to

get some clear cut ideas in this



people expected some atma nirbhar relief packages for the poor and the salaried middle class. Will the measures for the migrant workers as announced by the Finance Minister actually work to their benefit? The main emphasis of Modi's speech seemed to be the "Make in India" project, his pet scheme which has been a nonstarter from the beginning. The Prime Minister would have done well to clarify the details of this new scheme himself rather than making the people of the country wait for the Finance Minister's speech.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Faridabad

left them in a state of panic. Central and State Governments will have their work cut out for months not just handling a postlockdown scenario but also in striking a balance between our health and economic priorities.

world. Further, Chinese smartphones have literally conquered global markets. Sadly, Indian smartphones are nowhere to be

Yash Naryani

Send your feedback to:

seen. It's better to set achievable targets, like in agriculture. TK Nandanan

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRSTCOLUMN

No laughing matter

COVID-19 makes dentists a vulnerable group of health workers as salivary glands are potential reservoirs for the Coronavirus



JYOTI KAPOOR

entistry completes 100 years in India this year. The first dental college in the country was set up in Calcutta in 1920 to make dental education available here and provide affordable oral care to the community. Today, there are more than 2.7 lakh dentists registered with the Dental Council of India (DCI) and out of this, a meagre 7,239 are employed by the Government sector. A majority of them either work in private hospitals/clinics or are self-employed. Around three-fourths of the dentists are in urban centres and they contribute to the economy of the nation by providing employment to chairside assistants and private biomedical waste collection companies.

Dentists are at the forefront of diagnosing serious illnesses like oral cancer, pre-cancerous lesions, leukemia, diabetes, pancreatic cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, bone loss and so on as a person's oral health offers clues about their overall fitness and problems in the mouth can affect the rest of the body. As more than 90 per cent of all systemic diseases have oral manifestations, including swollen gums, mouth ulcers, dry mouth and excessive gum problems, alert dentists help save lives daily by recommending requisite hospital visits. However, COVID-19 makes dentists a vulnerable group of health workers, as salivary glands are potential reservoirs for the Coronavirus

According to Salivary Glands: Potential Reservoirs for COVID-19 Asymptomatic Infection, published in the Journal of Dental Research in April, "The positive rate of COVID-19 in patients' saliva can reach 91.7 per cent and saliva samples can also cultivate the live virus. This suggests that COVID-19 transmitted by asymptomatic infection may originate from infected saliva. Therefore, the cause of asymptomatic infection might be from the salivary glands. We should not ignore the potential infectivity of saliva alone.'

As dentists and their assistants operate in very close proximity to patients, social distancing is virtually impossible. A typical dental clinic is a closed room with limited ventilation and access to sunlight and many clinics are run in basements. The practice of dentistry involves the use of rotary, dental and surgical instruments such as hand pieces or ultra-sonic scalers and air/water syringes. These instruments create a visible spray containing large particles of water, saliva, blood, micro-organisms and other debris. This spatter travels a short distance and settles down on the floor, nearby operatory surfaces, on the dentist, the assistant as well as the patient

Given the infectious nature of the Coronavirus, it is no coincidence that routine dental care in China was suspended in January and three months later it started to get back to normal with advisories on strict personal protection and measures to reduce and avoid production of droplets as well as aerosols in addition to high-volume aspiration. The Australian Health Protection Principal committee, too, has advised postponement of all routine and non-essential dental care like routine checkups; treatment of broken or chipped teeth; bleeding or sore gums; bad breath; loose teeth (that aren't a choking hazard); concerns about dentures, crowns and bridges; scaling and polishing; fillings and tooth extrac-

Dentists have already started using screening/disclosure forms for patients. However, more changes are going to be required in dental clinics to minimise the spread of COVID-19. The DCI has come up with some guidelines like checking the temperature of all patients entering the clinic. Taking appointments and respecting them to avoid wait times and crowding at clinics. Wearing PPE and appropriately disposing it as well, avoiding intra-oral x-rays, reducing aerosol production and use of high-volume suction and minimising use of three-in-one syringe. These norms will evolve as they put a lot of restrictions on what a dentist can and cannot do. Further, the above guidelines are going to raise the investments needed for treating patients. Is this going to make the cost of dental treatments prohibitive? Will smaller dental clinics be unviable in the future as we learn to live with a pandemic that is not going away anytime soon?

In the times of the Coronavirus, every patient entering the dental clinic has to be treated as a Covid-positive patient and dentists have to take all necessary precautions. So, can the Government help dentists by supplying testing kits, PPEs and other infection-control material and equipment at subsidised rates? Just as the Government is bailing out other sectors and MSMEs, can the Centre consider tax rebates and cuts in duties paid on import of material, equipment and implants by dentists? The fact of the matter is that dentists around the world are facing a catch-22 situation. If they shut shop, they suffer major economic difficulties but if they continue to work, they put themselves and their assistants at risk of becoming a victim of the pandemic. Be it the US. Europe or Australia, dentists have been asked to either reduce hours or shut down completely. The future is uncertain and there is need for Governments, dental associations and private practitioners to come together and find a solution to the vexed issue of providing quality oral care in the times of Covid.

(The writer is a dentist by profession)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

analysis

MATCHES COULD START AS SOON AS JUNE 12 **BUT ALL 11 REMAINING ROUNDS OF FIXTURES** WILL TAKE PLACE IN EMPTY STADIUMS.

—LA LIGA PRESIDENT





THE RISK OF CONTAGION IS EVERYWHERE. THEREFORE I THINK THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH BECAUSE IF YOU DO, YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE. —FC BARCELONA SUPERSTAR

LIONEL MESSI

Embrace a new way of life

As more and more countries come out of lockdowns, we have to learn to live with the virus as economic suicide will help no one



SURAVI SHARMA

veryone around the world, including policy-makers, governments and even the World Health Organisation (WHO), has come to realise that the Coronavirus is a pandemic that isn't going to die out soon. Even after a lockdown of seven weeks, the number of infections and deaths in India is surging and it's an inevitable moment we've arrived at. Inevitable not only from an economic but also medical (care)

As India comes out of the lockdown in phases, hospitals in the country, both government and private, will have to deal with a huge backlog of life-saving surgeries and procedures. The country's fragile health system will now have to contend with crushing demands for specialist surgeries, ICU beds, life-saving medicines and an acute shortage of healthcare workers to handle the potential flurry of non-Covid patients around OPDs and wards.

It is probably time that the patients of the pandemic are managed like sufferers of a chronic disease and not as the only disease affecting the masses, to ease off the strain on the rest of the population needing treatment. However challenging the treatment, isolation and healthcare worker-protection protocols for COVID-19 are, it should now join the other illness curves of the country's healthcare system. We have to find ways to resume life and return to a somewhat "newer version" of the old times, but this time with the Coronavirus living among us.

We are aware that we are now entering a new world, a new era. We all have no other way but to live with this invisible enemy and thrive for the sake of our financial and social well-being.

The argument to justify the lockdown — the The argument to justify the lockdown — the moral and ethical perspective — that it saves lives, is now getting shifted and is under intense scrutiny because of the immense strain it puts on economies and lives. Lockdowns in various States have shut down the vaccination programmes for infants and children in a country which has a dense population and a plethora of infectious diseases. A whopping 4.4 lakh people died of infectious diseases. A whopping 4.5 lakh people died of infectious diseases last year and this lockdown will tious diseases last year and this lockdown will raise the incidence of childhood deaths and disfigurement from polio, tetanus, diphtheria or vaccination programmes in our country will be felt for many years to come. It is a heavy price to pay. We are basically exchanging one disease burden for another.

Many Indians have already been suffering from the trajectory of the Coronavirus as it is delaying life-saving cancer surgeries, cardiac procedures and other treatment protocols. It is time we decide how much more can these be delayed.

Governments in States with low incidence of the Coronavirus — and there are many — should fill this decision void by allowing hospitals to proceed with surgeries and life-saving treatment manoeuvres as soon as possible. Hospitals may need special Covid wards and other temporary facilities until there are effective therapies and a vaccine available in the market at the fag end of this year or early next year. We now have to try and return to a world reimagined for the age of the Coronavirus, where social distancing, appropriate hygiene standards and Government-



IT IS PROBABLY TIME THAT THE PATIENTS OF THE PANDEMIC ARE MANAGED LIKE SUFFERERS MASSES, TO EASE OFF THE STRAIN ON THE REST OF THE

HOWEVER CHALLENGING THE TREATMENT, ISOLATION AND HEALTHCARE WORKER-PROTECTION PROTOCOLS FOR COVID-19 ARE, IT SHOULD NOW JOIN THE OTHER **ILLNESS CURVES** OF THE COUNTRY'S HEALTHCARE





OF A CHRONIC DISEASE AND NOT AS THE ONLY DISEASE AFFECTING THE imposed restrictions for better public POPULATION health management are infused into NEEDING nearly every activity of ours — a way of life that is likely to persist until a vac-TREATMENT.

> We have to start living everyday life as is being done in South Korea. The Government authorities should release a well-researched guide containing advice on situations like going to the movies (refrain from crowding the elevators or entry gate to the screens or shouting) and attending social occasions (greet people with folded hands or wave at someone instead of shaking hands, hugging or even tapping on shoulders). The new social customs and man-

cine or treatment is found and is ready

for use in the market.

dates in Beijing, Hong Kong and Seoul, as well as Sydney, Australia, and Taiwan - countries that have successfully SYSTEM controlled the pandemic — offer a realbe common to people all over the globe. In these countries, people are going out but physical distancing, masks, gloves, alcohol sprays and a few public restrictions have become the new normal. Governments are trying to keep the virus at bay while creating enough space for economic and social activity. Officials are testing new sanitation and social-distancing guidelines, like introduction of masks on trains and buses and mandatory temperature checks outside restaurants and malls.

In Hong Kong, tables at restaurants are mandated to be spaced at least five feet apart and customers are handed bags to store their masks while dining.

In South Korea, baseball games are devoid of fans and players can't spit on the field. The spectator galleries are filled with colourful banners and mannequins to give the players a feel of a full stadium. Beauty salons in Sydney are back in business with abundant supplies of

masks, gloves and hand sanitisers. At

some salons, magazines are no longer

handed out to customers and beverages are no longer being offered. A few governments are imposing guidelines on how many people can gather. In Sydney, residents are allowed to host only two guests at a time in their homes, while officials in Hong Kong have prohibited more than four people

gathering in public places. In Taiwan, this number goes up to 500 people at a time for outdoor gatherings.

Advisories recommend avoiding air travel and instead opting for road trips, as one knows who all have been inside his/her car and their health status, the places where the vehicle has been and what all the surfaces inside the unlike an aircraft which is used by the public. A road trip may lengthen your journey but that's a need of the current

Out of all the challenges of resuming life after a lockdown, reopening schools and educational institutes is the biggest. As it is classrooms are hotbeds of germs and close contact, both physical and social. But we know, as a society we won't be able to truly function until we can send our children to school for regular hours. In Sydney phase-wise reopening of schools is being done. They are holding classes one day a week for a quarter of the students from each class, and are slowly expanding the class size. They will continue to do so until the end of June. In the Chinese city of Hangzhou, an elementary school has asked children to make their own hats

with three-feet- long cardboard wings to learn about social distancing. As they attended school with their hats on, they answered questions from teachers about the incubation period of the Coronavirus and its symptoms and precautions to be taken. In Taiwan, schools have cancelled the morning assemblies and mandated students to wear masks and wash their hands frequently. They have been asked to refrain from hug-

have been asked to refrain from hugging, laughing close to one another or speaking while they eat. Contact sports are being discouraged.

Technology is lending a big helping hand to governments and businesses that now have to adjust and adapt to the demands of social distancing. In Secul in some movie theatres, robots Seoul, in some movie theatres, robots are set to offer customers information like details of movie schedules, and the location of restrooms or elevators. Snacks are distributed through zero

Apps are being used to track the health and travel history of residents, and they are mandated to show their data through QR codes to gain entry into restaurants, office buildings and apartment complexes.

Old standards are suddenly not ood enough anymore. Physical distancing is one thing that is definitely here to stay. Many people in the countries that have come out of lockdowns after weeks and months say they are left with no choice but to embrace the changes the virus has brought to their lives. We have to learn to live with the virus as economic suicide will help no one. We all have to try and come to terms with the restricted ways and spontaneity of life.

(The writer is an author and a doctor by profession)

Keep nature front and centre

All our future financial and economic systems should value fixing of broken relationships with nature to minimise the potential risks of such pandemics in times to come



VIVEK SAXENA

ockdown, social distancing, restricted train services, no flights, taxis, job losses, salary cuts and no business! Could we, the socalled superior species, inhabiting "Mother Earth", empowered with knowledge, research and innovations, ever have imagined in our wildest dreams such a scenario of hardships, horrors, threats and uncertainties at the beginning of a new decade? Whether the global crisis brought on by COVID-19 is rooted in the disruption of ecosystems, illegal wildlife trade and so on, or embedded in the race for world economic supremacy through some sort of biological warfare, is hard to tell. Debates will continue without conclusive evidence. However, while rebuilding the ruptured economy and redefining the pathways for future development, we need to remember that an invisible virus has the power to stop us in our tracks. It has crippled the economies of the world, curbed lifestyles, disrupted supply chains, threatened our very survival by bringing large sections of populations in all geographies under the threat of extreme poverty and hunger. It has widened social inequalities, triggered reverse migration and emerging social unrests of different dimensions.

However, due to the pandemic our rivers are cleaner. We are breathing clean air. The sky is a clear blue in cities that have not seen it like this in many years. We can actually see the stars now and snow-clad mountains are visible

from distant cities after decades. All of a sudden we have peacocks dancing in the streets, an increasing number of birds chirping in the trees

and surprise visits from precious wildlife in cities and towns all over the

As we wait for a breakthrough by the scientific community working hard to come out with a vaccine or drug to combat the virus, we have ample time to think about life. What future do we want? What are the lessons learnt from this outbreak? Are we willing to take responsibility for our action in bringing this virus upon the

Recent pandemics are a direct consequence of human activity, particularly our global financial and economic systems that value economic growth at any cost. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, CK Mishra, has shot off a letter to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, emphasising that, "There is a consensus among scientists that a rise in zoonotic diseases like Nipah, Avian Influenza, Zika and Coronavirus is linked to the loss of biodiversity and forests. Hence we are urging corporates

to invest in biodiversity conservation." The vast illegal wildlife trade, humanity's excessive intrusion into

nature, unsustainable extraction of natural resources and extreme anthropogenic pollution sources are to be blamed for the disconnect.

So what seeds are to be sown now for a sustainable era? Certainly, we want a cleaner, greener future and a more equitable world for everyone. We need to halt further destruction of nature. Future financial and economic systems should value fixing of broken relationships with nature to minimise potential risks of such pandemics in times to come. COVID-19 also forces us to look into the way we develop our cities; the way we grow our food; the way we develop businesses; the way we respect and value nature; the way we conserve species; the way we degrade natural resources; the way we consume; the way we recycle waste and the way we inhabit and care for planet Earth. We need to fix our broken relationship with nature.

During and post the global pandemic, businesses in all geographies will be striving to ensure their short and long-term viability. While their immediate efforts will focus on revival, renewal and reconstruction, companies must also continue to think and act for the long-term. Recovery and reconstruction packages and new business models involving multi-trillion dollars will be rolled out. New normals in terms of business opportunities and practices will emerge. In any version of a sustainable future, there will be a fundamental need for companies to integrate circular economy principles. Respective industries have to introspect and redefine their role in valuing, restoring and protecting the natural world on which we all depend. Sectors involving agriculture, airlines, transport, fossil fuel-dependent energy sectors, mining and so on, need to adopt ecological ethics and morality in business practices.

Self-compliant and redefined business practices should pledge for zero

pollution of water resources, ambient air, efficient waste recycling, land degradation neutrality and adhering to the strictest environmental standards. Citizens also need to be responsible by adopting sustainable consumption lifestyles that include transport, food, mobility, housing aimed at minimising our carbon footprints.

A global "one health" approach needs to be broadened on the principle of "human health can be ensured only through care of nature, Mother Earth and the surrounding ecosystems' health." The health of people is intimately connected to the health of wildlife, the health of livestock and the health of the environment. It would be great if we could at least preserve what is left of nature.

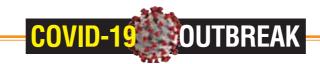
Headlines like, "Planet Earth is under repair", "Mother Earth is under shutdown" also remind us of our responsibility to ensure a safer, cleaner and habitable planet for our survival, otherwise nature has its own ways to address and punish defaulters. While

nature has tremendous destructive powers, it has immense healing powers, too. Protecting nature is an investment in our future.

"I am not polluting." "I will not degrade nature." "I will love wildlife." "I will not allow others to harm nature." These should be the guiding principles of ecological ethics for everyone. Humanity has to coexist with nature.

Whatever new narrative and norms will emerge post-Coronavirus, the above basic principles of ecological ethics and care for nature need to be integrated into everything that we do. This means all stakeholders, including policymakers, governance frameworks, businesses, communities in all geographies, need to pledge for a sustainable future and a better reconstructed world to avoid probable risks of re-emergence of such pan-

(The writer is an IFS officer and Country Representative, International *Union for Conservation of Nature)*



Around the Globe

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said over 150 million Pakistanis have been affected due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown as he urged the provinces to allow public transport to resume operations, reiterating that the country could not afford an indefinite shutdown. Addressing media with his core team to highlight the steps taken to tackle the coronavirus pandemic in the country, Khan said Pakistan cannot impose lockdown like the US, Europe and China. He said that already the lockdown has badly situation in the country. segments, including 25 million people who lived on daily or

Without wearing a face mask himself, President Donald Trump toured a mask distribution centre in Pennsylvania on Thursday and announced plans to replenish the US strategic stockpile of medical equipment depleted by the coronavirus outbreak. Trump, a Republican who is running for re-election in despite his administration's quidance to Americans to wear them and new White House rules requiring that staff wear

Moscow authorities on Friday began free coronavirus testing for all residents. Under the programme announced by Mayor Sergei Sobyanin, tests for coronavirus antibodies, a marker of infection, will be conducted at 30 clinics throughout the city. The programme will allow officials "to know precisely how many Muscovites had coronavirus and developed immunity, how many people are infected or are suspected to have coronavirus," the mayor said in

a blog post on Thursday. French doctors faced off with **President Emmanuel Macron** at a leading Paris hospital Friday, demanding more investment and a rethink of the country's once-renowned public health system that found itself quickly overwhelmed by tens of thousands of virus patients. Macron acknowledged mistakes in reforming the national hospital system, which has faced years of cost cuts, leaving medical facilities in one of the world's richest countries short of staff, masks and breathing machines needed to

Taiwanese computer chip giant TSMC announced on Friday it will spend \$12 billion on a state-of-the-art semiconductor foundry in the United States, creating thousands of jobs. The announcement is a win for President Donald Trump who has pushed for major chipmakers to set up shop inside the US. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the world's largest contract microchip maker, produces the processors that provide the computing muscle for everything from iPhones, laptops and games consoles to servers and critical internet infrastructure. Construction for the facility in Arizona is set to start in 2021 with production of 5-nanometre chips — the smallest and fastest on the market — beginning in 2024 TSMC said.

China has reported 15 new Covid-19 cases, including 11 asymptomatic ones, taking the total number of coronavirus infections in the country to 82,933, health authorities said

Europe relaxes virus restrictions

But cases flare elsewhere

AP ■ BERLIN

the pioneer

Several European countries where coronavirus infections have slowed moved ahead Friday with relaxing border restrictions, while the US reported a record drop in retail sales that threatened stores and weighed down the sinking economy. Infection flare-ups in Mexico and elsewhere served as a reminder the pandemic is far from over.

Slovenia, which has been gradually easing strict lockdown measures, declared that the spread of the virus is now under control and that European Union residents could now enter from Austria, Italy and Hungary.

Germany prepared to open its border with Luxembourg at midnight and to increase the number of crossings open from France, Switzerland and Austria. Travelers will still need to demonstrate a "valid reason" to enter Germany, and there will be spot checks, but the goal is to restore free travel by June 15.

In the US, retail sales tumbled by a record 16.4% from March to April as business shutdowns caused by the coronavirus kept shoppers away from stores. The Commerce Department's report Friday on retail purchases showed a sector that has collapsed so quickly that sales over the past 12 months are down a crippling 21.6%.

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	1,465,259	87,303
Spain	2,74,367	27,459
Russia	2,62,843	2,418
UK	2,36,711	33,998
Italy	2,23,885	31,610
Brazil	2,08,031	14,267
Germany	1,75,223	7,933
Turkey	1,46,457	4,055

The sharpest drops from March to April were at clothiers, electronics stores, furniture stores and restaurants. A longstanding migration of consumers toward online purchases is accelerating.

Elsewhere in the U.S., the

Grand Canyon National Park was scheduled to reopen Friday to allow visitors in for day trips but not overnight. Some regions in New York were also expected to reopen.

Back in Germany, states agreed to drop a mandatory 14day quarantine for travelers entering from the EU and several other European countries, including Britain, said Armin Laschet, the governor of the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

In northern Europe, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania removed travel restrictions between the Baltic nations, which Estonian Prime Minister Iuri Ratas called "another step toward normal life."

Austria and Switzerland also moved ahead with easing some border restrictions, and Austria reopened all cafes and restaurants.

have been confirmed worldwide. More than ,<mark>735,775</mark> people have recovered to date

Restaurants were reopening in more German states as well, and the country was to resume professional soccer on Saturday after a two-month hiatus.

In Australia, many Sydney cafes and restaurants opened again as New South Wales, the country's most populous state, granted permission for them, as well as places of worship, to reopen with up to 10 people so long as distancing rules are in

Many Catholic churches across the state opened for private prayer, confession and small-scale Masses.

In Japan, some schools, restaurants and other businesses started to reopen after the country lifted its national coronavirus emergency, while keeping in place restrictions in limited urban areas like Tokyo where risks remain.

The head of the World **Health Organization**'s Europe office, Dr Hans Kluge, warned that distancing guidance and other protective measures were more important than ever.

"It's very important to remind everyone that as long as there is no vaccine and effective treatment, there is no return to normal," he said on French radio Europe-1.

'This virus won't simply disappear, so the personal behavior of each of us will determine the behavior of the virus. Governments have done a lot, and now the responsibility is on the people."

Worldwide, there have been more than 4.4 million coronavirus infections reported and more than 3,00,000 deaths, while nearly 1.6 million people have recovered.

Ahead of **Mexico**'s plan to partially reopen key industries such as mining, construction and auto plants on May 18, authorities sounded a note of concern as the country reported its largest one-day rise in

coronavirus case numbers. There were 2,409 new

Covid-19 test confirmations Thursday, the first time that number has exceeded 2,000 in one day. Deaths have neared 4,500, and there were signs that hospital capacity was nearing its limit in Mexico City, the hardest-hit area. The Health Department reported that 73% percent of the city's general-care nospital beds were full. The percentage was lower for intensivecare beds, but that was partly because of the expansion of improvised ICU units at hospitals and other venues.

In Brazil, news website G1 reported that 900 people in Rio de Janeiro were waiting for an intensive-care bed in one of the state's overwhelmed units. President Jair Bolsonaro warned of looming "chaos" as he once again lambasted governors and mayors who introduced lockdowns in cities to limit spread of the new virus.

FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 China asks US to 'meet halfway'

BEIJING REACTS AFTER TRUMP'S

China on Friday reacted guardedly to US President Donald Trump's threat to "cut off" the bilateral relationship between the world's top two economies and asked America to meet it halfway in the fight against the coronavirus.

Relations between the two countries nosedived after the coronavirus outbreak, which originated from the central Chinese city of Wuhan, and spread to other parts of the

The pandemic has claimed over 85,000 lives in the US, the highest in the world.

Trump, who has been pressing China to agree for an inquiry into the origin of the virus, including the allegation that it emerged from a bio-lab in Wuhan, further hardened his rhetoric on Thursday by threatening to cut off US ties with Beijing.

Reacting to Trump's threat, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian reacted guardedly, saying that the relationship is in the fundamental interest of the two countries. "To maintain the steady development of China-US relations is in the fundamental interests of the people

in both countries, and is conducive to world peace and stability," Zhao said.

"At present, China and the US should continue to strengthen cooperation against the epidemic, defeat the epidemic as soon as possible, treat patients, and restore economy and production. But it requires the US to meet halfway with China," Zhao said.

There has been increasing pressure on Trump from American lawmakers to take action against China. 'There are many things

we could do ... We could cut off the whole relationship," Trump said on Thursday in an interview with Fox Business News. You'd save USD 500 billion if you cut off the whole relationship." Trump said that his relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping is "very good" but added: "right now I just don't want to speak to him". Trump's threat followed after China on Tuesday released a new list of US products which will be exempted from the second round of additional tariffs on American products.

Trump launched a trade war with China in 2018, demanding Beijing to reduce a massive trade deficit of over USD 539 billion.

Chinese city quarantines thousands over new cluster

AFP ■ BEIJING

Amajor city in northeast China has quarantined over 7,500 people after it discovered three new coronavirus cases in the past five days as the region sees a surge in infec-

China has largely brought the virus under control after months of lockdowns and curbs on travel, but fears of a second wave have risen as clusters have emerged in northeast provinces and in the central city of Wuhan.

Shenyang, a city of around 7.5 million, reported its first new local case in 89 days on Monday, and a further two new local cases on

Its Government confirmed Thursday that the new cases were linked to a cluster in the city of Shulan, nearly 500 kilometres away in neighbouring

Ireland to start easing lockdown restrictions

AP ■ LONDON

Treland's Prime Minister, Leo ■ Varadkar, has confirmed that the lockdown restrictions in his country will start to be eased from Monday. Varadkar said in a tweet

that it is "safe to proceed" with

the first stage in the Government's plan to ease the restrictions. Earlier this month, the Irish Government set out a road map of how to reopen

society. Each one of the five stages will be staggered three weeks apart. From Monday, groups of up to four people, who can be family or friends, may meet outdoors within 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) of home. And some

struction, can return to their jobs, while the rules on exercise have been relaxed. And garden centers, as well as other primarily outdoor retail businesses, will be able to reopen. Social distancing rules have to

US senator unveils 18-point plan to hold China accountable for virus outbreak

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A top US senator has unveiled an 18-point plan, including enhancing military ties with India, to hold the Chinese Government accountable for its "lies, deception, and coverups" that ultimately led to the global Covid-19 pandemic. The prominent suggestions

are moving manufacturing chain from China and deepening military-strategic ties India, Vietnam and Taiwan. "The Chinese Government maliciously covered up and enabled a global pandemic that has caused misery for so many Americans. This is the same regime that locks up its own citizens in labour camps, steals ica's technology and jobs and threatens the sovereignty of our allies," said Senator Thom Tillis, presenting his detailed,

18-point plan on Thursday. "This is a major wake-up call to the United States and the rest of the free world. My plan of action will hold the Chinese

lying about Covid-19; sanctioning the Chinese Government while protecting America's economy, public health, and national security,

The plan seeking to create a Pacific Deterrence Initiative and immediately approve the military's request for USD 20 billion in funding. It also calls for deepening military ties with regional allies and expand equipment sales to India, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Encourage Japan to rebuild its military and offer Japan and South Korea sales of offensive military equipment, it said.

"Move manufacturing back to the US from China and chain dependency on China. Stop China from stealing our technology and provide incentives to American companies to regain our technological advantage. Strengthen cybersecurity against Chinese hacks and sabotage," the plan stated.

Teenagers get brief respite from **lockdown in Turkey**

AP ANKARA

Teenagers left their homes for the first time in 42 days, taking their turn for a few hours of respite from Turkey's coronavirus lockdowns. People over 65 and

younger than 20 have been

under curfew for the past sev-

eral weeks. This week, the gov-

ernment began allowing them to go outdoors for a few hours as part of a program of reduced controls. Youth filled parks and main streets and outside malls Friday as the curfew was lifted

between 11 am and 3 p.m. Some played basketball or soccer or flew kites in parks, HaberTurk television reported.

Senior citizens were permitted out Sunday and young homes Wednesday.

The Government has announced a "normalisation plan" as the number of coronavirus cases dropped last week. However, it also warned of tougher measures if infections

Workers in protective gear sanitize beneath the baroque sculpted bronze canopy of St. Peter's Baldachin inside St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, Friday, May 15. 2020. Churches in Italy are preparing to reopen to the public for masses from May 18 after Italy partially lifted restrictions last week following a two-month



Passengers arrive at the Barcelona airport, Spain, on Friday. Travellers arriving in Spain from overseas start from Friday going into a 14-day confinement as the country takes timid steps toward re-opening borders with eyes set on reactivating the crucial tourism industry



Grave diggers wearing protective suits bury a Covid-19 victim as relatives and friends stand at a safe distance, in the section of a cemetery reserved for coronavirus victims in Kolpino, outside St.Petersburg, Russia, on Friday

Desperate Venezuelans turn to cow blood soup amid lockdown

AGENCY ■ SAN CRISTOBAL/

Cince Venezuela went into its Ocoronavirus lockdown. dozens of needy people have been lining up at a slaughter-house in the western town of San Cristobal to pick up the only protein they can find for free: cattle blood.

Mechanic Aleyair Romero, 20, goes twice a week. He lost his job at a local garage and says boxes of subsidised food from the Government of President Nicolas Maduro arrive too slowly.

"I have to find food however I can," said Romero, holding a coffee thermos dripping with blood the slaughterhouse gives away.

Though cow's blood is a traditional ingredient for "pichon" soup in the Venezuelan Andes and neighboring Colombia, more people have been seeking it out since the Covid-19 crisis.

In a proudly carnivorous nation, few are happy about eating more blood instead of meat - a kilo of which costs

about two times the monthly minimum wage.

Increased consumption of cattle blood is, like stripped mango trees, a striking symbol of hunger as Venezuela's economy, already suffering six years of hyperinflationary implosion, has been nearly shuttered in response to the pandemic.

Though numbers of reported deaths and cases from the virus appear modest, Venezuelans are suffering from the economic shutdown and delays in the state food distribution program known as CLAP, for years the most important source of food for many.

The situation is hitting the provinces hardest because distribution is tilted toward major cities including Caracas, according to nutrition-focused charity Čitizenry in Action. The government has for

years given the capital priority

access to services including water and power.

In Caracas, 26.5% of families receive CLAP boxes, compared with only 4% of families in areas such as "Los Llanos"

in Action says. "It's not the virus that's going to kill them, it's hunger," said Edison Arciniegas, direc-

(The Plains) region, Citizenry

tor of the group.
Even before COVID-19, the United Nations called Venezuela one of the world's 10 worst humanitarian crises in 2019, noting that 9.3 million of the 30 million population c onsume insufficient quantities

Some 5 million people have migrated as a result,

US on track to pull troops from Af despite turmoil

is on track to meet its commitment to the Taliban to withdraw several thousand troops from Afghanistan by summer, even as violence flares, the peace process is stalled, and Kabul struggles in political deadlock.

US officials said they will reduce to 8,600 troops by July 15 and abandon five bases. And by next spring all foreign forces are suppose to withdraw, ending America's longest war. Yet the outlook for peace is cloudy at best. In the absence of Afghan peace talks, the Trump administration may face the prospect of fully withdrawing even as the Taliban remains at

war with the government. That has concerned some lawmakers, including Rep. Liz Cheney, a Wyoming Republican and member of the House

She says the United States needs to keep a military and intelligence presence in Afghanistan to prevent extremist groups like al-Qaida and the Islamic State's Afghan affiliate from forming havens from which to attack the U.S. 'Withdrawing U.S. troops

from Afghanistan won't end the war — it will just let the terrorists win," she told The Associated Press.

Some question whether US-Taliban agreement signed in Doha, Qatar, on Feb. 29, which the Trump administration billed as "a decisive step to achieve a negotiated peace," was instead mainly a withdrawal agreement. President Donald Trump had campaigned on bringing troops home from foreign wars. *AP*

US sees 'convincing case' to name Cuba as sponsor of terrorism: Report

Washington: The US is considering returning Cuba to its list of state sponsors of terrorism, a senior Trump administration official told Reuters on Thursday, a move that would mark another major blow to increasingly tense relations between Washington and Havana.

There is a "convincing case" that Cuba should be placed back on the US blacklist, in part because of its continued backing for socialist Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and the refuge it gives to leaders of Colombia's ELN rebel group, the official said.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the official did not rule out that a decision on Cuba's re-listing could come by the end of the year. Agency

Biden says he would not pardon Trump or block probes

Democratic candidate Joe Biden said that if he wins the presidency he would not use his power to pardon Donald Trump or stop any investigations of Trump and his associates.

"It is not something the president is entitled to do, to direct a prosecution or decide to drop a case," Biden said Thursday on MSNBC. "It's a dereliction of duty." The former vice president

made his statement in response

to a voter who asked him on

Lawrence O'Donnell's show,

"The Last Word," whether he

would "commit to not pulling

a Gerald Ford in giving Donald

Trump a pardon under the pretense of healing the nation."

Biden responded, "I commit," before offering a more lengthy explanation of his view that the president must allow the Justice Department to operate without interference.

Ford became president in 1974 when Richard Nixon resigned under the threat of impeachment Ford later pardoned his

predecessor before any criminal charges related to the Watergate burglary could be filed. Ford went on to lose the 1976 presidential

The House impeached Trump in December on charges related to his effort to

withhold congressionally appropriated funds from Ukraine in exchange for officials there assisting Trump in sullying Biden. The Senate acquitted him in February on a nearly party line vote.

Biden also said on O'Donnell's show that voters who believe the former Senate staffer who has accused him of sexually assaulting her in the early 1990s probably shouldn't cast their ballots for him in November.

"I think they should vote their heart, and if they believe Tara Reade they probably shouldn't vote for me," Biden told O'Donnell. "I wouldn't vote for me if I believed Tara

Hong Kong shop offers 'tear gas' flavor ice cream

Tear gas is among the new flavors at a Hong Kong ice cream shop.

The main ingredient is black peppercorns, a reminder of the pungent, peppery rounds fired by police on the streets of the semi-autonomous Chinese city during months of demonstrations last year.

"It tastes like tear gas. It feels difficult to breathe at first, and it's really pungent and irritating. It makes me want to drink a lot of water immediately," said customer Anita Wong, who experienced tear gas at a protest. "I think it's a flashback that reminds me of how painful I felt in the movement, and that I shouldThe flavor is a sign of sup-

port for the pro-democracy movement, which is seeking to regain its momentum during the coronavirus pandemic, the shop's owner said. He spoke on condition of

anonymity to avoid repercussions from the pro-Beijing government. 'We would like to make a flavor that reminds people that they still have to persist in the

protest movement and don't ose their passion," he said. He tried different ingredi-

ents, including wasabi and mustard, in an effort to replicate the taste of tear gas. Black pepper, he said, came closest to tear gas with its throat-irritat-

INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 -

World Bank approves \$1 bn loan

¬he World Bank on Friday A approved a USD 1 billion loan to support India's efforts for providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The "Accelerating India's Covid-19 Social Protection Response Program" will support the government's efforts towards a more consolidated delivery platform - accessible to both rural and urban popula-

tions across state boundaries. This takes the total commitment from the World Bank towards emergency Covid-19 response in India to USD 2 billion

A USD 1 billion support was announced last month towards immediate support to

Equity benchmark BSE Sensex ended marginally

lower after a choppy session on Friday as investors weighed the

fiscal impact of the govern-

experts, participants fear that

the Rs 20 lakh crore package

may not result in direct and

immediate boost to demand,

raising doubts over the coun-

try's economic revival in the

After slumping over 350 points during the day, the 30-

share index pared most losses

to settle 25.16 points or 0.08 per

slipped 5.90 points, or 0.06 per

in the Sensex pack, cracking

4.70 per cent, followed by Axis

Bank, IndusInd Bank, Hero

MotoCorp, Sun Pharma and

ICICI Bank. On the other

hand, Bharti Airtel, Asian

Paints, Tata Steel, NTPC, HUL

and Reliance spurted up to 2.68

Tender Notice

Dtd:-14.05.20

TR-C-9-2020RI Dtd:-14.05.20

NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH

HSAM BOARD, KAITHAL

HARYANA SEET

H.S.A.M. BOARD, PANCHKULA.

HVPNL, ROHTAK

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA

During the week, the

per cent.

Similarly, NSE Nifty

M&M was the top laggard

cent lower at 31,097.73.

cent, to close at 9,136.85.

According to market

ment's economic stimulus.

The multilateral lending agency is also in discussions with the government to provide assistance to India's micro, small and medium enterprises, said World Bank Country Director in India Junaid Ahmad in a webinar with media.

The response to the Covid-19 pandemic around the world has required governments to introduce social distancing and lockdowns in unprecedented ways, he said.

These measures, intended to slowdown the spread of the virus have, however, impacted economies and jobs - especially in the informal sector. India with the world's largest lockdown has not been an exception to this trend.

Of the USD 1 billion commitment, USD 550 million will

v-25.16

Bharti Airtel 2.68 M&M

GRAPHICS.

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

Asian Paints 2.08 Axis Bank -3.30

Tata Steel 1.81 IndusInd -2.24

Sensex declined 544.97 points

or 1.72 per cent, while broad-

er Nifty fell 114.65 points or

1.23 per cent. Besides uncer-

tainty over the effectiveness of

the fiscal stimulus package, the

spike in Covid-19 cases in the

country is weighing on investor

unchanged after hovering in a

range, taking a pause after the

recent dip. It opened margin-

ally higher but the gains fizzled

Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE between Dabhoi - Badoli Section on Vadodara Division of

Western Railway in connection with Electrification of Existing BG

Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC

of Western Railway in connection with Electrification of Existing BG line

Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of SCADA between PRTN-DB-CTD,MYG-SMLA,DB-CDD-KEVADIYA section on BRC Divn of Western Railway.

Modification of HT overhead power line of MGVCL, Railway track crossing between Anand - Khambhat, Vasad - Kathana, AKV - Raj and KBRV - VDTL Section in connection with execution of RE work

line Between Dabhoi - Chhota Udepur Section

of WR. Sanction in budget 18-19 from CORE to WR

Like us on : f facebook.com/WesternRly

"Markets settled almost

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

n Ankleshwar Raipipla Section on Vadodara Division

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

CONSTRUCTION OF MINT SOIL TESTING LABORATORY IN

NGM PUNDRI (M.C. PUNDRI) (DEPOSIT WORK OF AGRICULTURE DEPTT.) + 2 OTHER WORKS

E-TENDER AUCTION FOR DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED/SWEEPING OF VARIOUS CROPS

PROVIDING AND FIXING OF SOLAR LIGHT IN WARD NO

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF PUF PANEL INSULATION AS PER SPECIFICATION

PDG. CONNECTIVITY OF SYNCHRONIZING PANEL WITH 2NOS. D.G. SET 500 KVA IN AGRO SHOPPING MALL SEC-20 AT PANCHKULA CONST. OF AC KIOSK, 132KV BREAKER, 33KV BREAKER AND CAPACITOR BANK FOUNDATION AT 132KV S/STN MACHIBOLITY

MACHHROULI PROVIDING MINI HIGH MAST IN THE PARK NEAR H.NO

871, SEC-7, PKL, UNDER MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA. (RECALL) 14 OTHER WORKS

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of the tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

sentiment, experts noted.

1.73 Hero Motor -2.06

1.63 Sun Pharma-1.63

Markets end marginally lower

Bank stocks slide; post weekly loss

BSE Sensex MAY 15 NSE Nifty MAY 15

International Development Association (IDA) — the World Bank's concessionary lending arm and USD 200 million will be a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), with a final maturity of 18.5 years including a grace period

of five years. The remaining USD 250 million will be made available after June 30, 2020.

The programme will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Finance.

In a release, the World Bank said the new support will be funded in two phases - an immediate allocation of USD 750 million for fiscal year 2020 (fiscal year starting July 1, 2020) and a USD 250 million second tranche that will be

▼-5.90 **1**

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

Bharti Airtel 2.77 Zee Ent. -3.63

Asian Paints 2.14 Bharti Infra -3.15

out in no time and it inched

further lower. The FM has

been announcing the stimulus

details for the last two days and

hopefully, all the details will be

out by Sunday...It seems like

markets are awaiting further

details before making any reac-

tion," said Ajit Mishra, VP

Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Sitharaman on Thursday

announced a Rs 3.16 lakh crore

package comprising free food-

Finance Minister Nirmala

Approx. Cost of

₹17,58,36,818.00

₹19,74,31,489.35

₹4.70.47.859.60

₹1.85.80.140.60

हरियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

CLOSING DATE 09.06.2020

CLOSING DAT

CLOSING DATE 27.05.2020

रियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

Tata Steel 1.71 UPL

2.62 Axis Bank -3.27

made available for fiscal year

Ahmad addecd the Covid-19 pandemic has also put the spotlight on some of the gaps in the existing social protection systems.

This platform draws on the

country's existing architecture of safety nets - the PDS, the digital and banking infrastructure, and Aadhaar - while positioning the overall social protection system for the needs of a 21st century India.

"What Covid-19 had done is that it has actually gotten the government to create linkages between the system and begin to move the social protection system of India, what I think will be the 21st century system.

"It is in this context we have put in USD 1 billion following USD 1 billion in health

grains for migrant workers, Rs

2 lakh crore concessional cred-

it to farmers and working capital for street vendors in a bid

to help those hit hard by the nationwide lockdown.

tranche of the stimulus package

post market hours on Friday,

she said the measures will focus

on giving relief to agriculture

bankex, auto, finance, IT

healthcare and capital goods

indices fell up to 1.42 per cent

while telecom, metal, energy,

power, oil and gas, basic mate-

rials and FMCG rose up to 1.81

per cent. Broader midcap and

smallcap indices fell up to 0.31

per cent. World equities ticked

higher as investors focused on

graded resumption of eco-

Seoul closed with gain's, while

Shanghai and Hong Kong set-tled in the red. Stock exchanges

in Europe were trading on a

rupee provisionally settled 2

paise lower at 75.58 against the

Date of Date of Opening

05.06.2020

08.06.2020

08.06.2020

05.06.2020

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH

https://etenders.hry.nic.in

https://etenders.hry.nic.in

ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN

http:vitaindia.etenders.hry.nic.in www.vitaindia.org.in

https://etenders.hry.nic.ir

https://www.hvpn.org.in

https://etenders.hry.nic.in

14.05.2020

14.05.2020

14.05.2020

14.05.2020

On the currency front, the

positive note in early deals.

Bourses in Tokyo and

nomic activities.

US dollar.

₹10,29,200/-

₹11,37,200/-

₹3,85,200/-

₹2,42,900/-

AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.)

16.11 LACS

1 LAKH

91.22 LACS

20000/-

6.07 LACS

7.75 LACS

47.06 LACS

Sectorally, BSE realty,

and allied industries.

Announcing the third

programme which will be around the small and small enterprises...," he said.

Ahmad added the World Bank was in the process of discussing a MSMEs programme with the Government.

He said liquidity has come into the market through the monetary and fiscal policies and "the challenge now is to take that liquidity and bring it into the hands of the MSMEs... We will be coming in to support that. Where exactly and how much is something that we are in discussion with the Government".

Replying to a query on the 20-lakh-crore package announced by the government, Ahmad said it is a "very important statment by Government".

Gadkari expresses displeasure over delays in according green nod to projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday expressed displeasure over inordinate delays in according environmental clearances to projects, saying it causes hindrances in execution of works.

Observing that files seeking environment and forest clearances are sometimes stuck for as long as two years, Gadkari said "by then the bank (sanctioning the loan) runs away and the account turns

The union MSME minister said there was "no time clause" for according time-bound clearances, causing delays in giving no-objection certificate to projects.

Addressing a webinar on higher education organised by industry body Ficci, Gadkari who also holds road transport and highways portfolio — exhorted Indian educational institutions to forge industrial tie-ups and collaborate with foreign universities to attract overseas students for increasing their economic viability and mitigate the impact of the

Covid-19 pandemic on them. Gadkari also highlighted government plans to form joint ventures in micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector, upgrade technologically and attract foreign

Stating that there are 1.5 lakh deaths in 5 lakh road accidents in the country every year, the minister also proposed that students from IITs and other engineering institutes could be engaged in carrying out road audits to identify "black spots" through assessing various defects in road designing including curves and traffic density.

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

9416315354 hsdcl@gmail.com

9350496582

NAVEENDHANKHAR@GMAIL.COM

9968604725 vitablb@gmail.com

0172-2583789

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

0184-2266003

9812100311 tpkl2019@yahoo.com

RO NO. 80903

01746-222374 xenkaithal1.hsamb@gr

NPA (non-performing asset)".

projects hit due to Covid

"What's more, the Centre has divided districts into red, orange and green zones based on the extent of contagion. Only insitu construction is allowed in red zones until the next announcement. CRISIL Research's analysis of over 270 under-construction national highways indicates the Top 10 states account for 80 per cent of the projects," it said.

Projects are most at risk in four of these states Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh — that account for over

Mobile phone firms write to Shipping, Aviation Ministries for waiver of demurrage charges

companies have approached shipping and civil aviation ministries seeking waiver of demurrage charges for cargo which could not be lifted during

While the shipping ministry had waived entire demurrage charges due to lockdown restrictions. Civil Aviation Ministry had given waiver for half of the charges during the period. Mobile devices industry body India Cellular and Electronics Association said despite the order of the ministry. some of the ports, container freight stations and shipping companies are not waiving the charges. ICEA said the Government has taken several decisions to help industry which includes 100% waiver of demurrage charges during lockdown.

Road Min seeks suggestions on MVA amendment on emission, noise

PNS NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has invited suggestions and comments from all stakeholders, including general public on the proposed amendment in the Motor Vehicle Rules, regarding compliance to Emission and Noise Standards.

A notification to this effect has been issued. The draft notification is regarding revision of form 22, Road worthiness Certificate for compliance to Emission and Noise Standards, issued by the manufacturer or importer or registered E-rickshaw or E-cart association in case of E-rickshaw or E- cart.

"This form has amalgamated the existing two tables to a single table for the sake of simplicity and added some pollutant parameters in line with next stage emission norms," said the official.

Earlier too, the Centre had invited suggestions and comments for the proposed amendment of Rule 115 to mandate BS VI level emission norms for Quadricycle with effect from April 1, 2020.

The proposed emission norms (Tail pipe emission, OBD) are in line with European norms. Existing BS IV mass emission limits are in line with Euro 4 mass mission limits for L7e-C category vehi-(equivalent to Quadricycle).

The proposed emission limits as BS VI are in line with Euro 5 mass emission limits which will be applicable from 01-01-2020 in Europe. Threshold limits for emission pollutants, conformity of production (CoP) frequency and sampling plan have been proposed.

Top 10 States account for 80% of under-construction NH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top 10 States, including Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh account for 80 per cent of the under-construction national highway projects hit due to the Covid-19 outbreak, Crisil Research said on Friday.

Construction of national highways came to a grinding halt with the nationwide lock down imposed on March 25 to However, to the relief of developers, the Government allowed resumption of construction from April 20, subject to clearances from district administrations, it said.

But activity remains stalled due to severe shortage of labour and raw material, and difficulty in securing requisite clearances, it said in a statement.

a third of the projects, it said.

New Delhi: Mobile phone the lockdown period.

Rainath approves setting up of testing facilities for domestic Defence industry

PNS NEW DELHI

With the objective of giving a boost to the domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing capabilities, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday approved the launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) with an outlay of Rs 400 crore. This allocation will enable creating state of the art testing infrastructure for this sector.

Giving details of the project, officials said here the Scheme would run for the duration of five years and envisages to set up six to eight new test facilities in partnership with private industry. This will facilitate indigenous defence production, consequently reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.

The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75 per cent government funding in the form of 'Grantin-Aid. The remaining 25 per cent of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) whose constituents will be Indian private entities and State Governments.

The SPVs under the Scheme will be registered under Companies Act 2013 and shall also operate and maintain all assets under the Scheme, in a self-sustainable manner by collecting user charges. The equipment/systems tested will be certified as per appropriate accreditation. While majority of test facilities are expected to come up in the two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs), the Scheme

is not limited to setting up Test Facilities in the DICs only,

Rajnath Singh commissions Coast Guard ship, two interceptor boats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday commissioned through video conference here a ship and two Interceptor Boats (IB) into the Indian Coast Guard in Goa. With the latest inductions, the Coast Guard now has 150 ships and boats and 62 aircraft.

The ships, on joining the fleet, will be deployed extensively for Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, coastal security and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter of duties, to safeguard the maritime interests of the nation, the Coast Guard said here. The ship 'Sachet' is the first in the series of five off-

shore patrol vessels (OPVs) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
The IBs C-450 and C-451

are indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Shipyard Hazira.

The two 30 metre long boats are capable of achieving speeds in excess of 45 knots and designed for high speed interception, close coast patrol and low intensity maritime operations.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/C/CW/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work: "S&T work (Indoor & Outdoor) for Provision of Distributed Electronic Interlocking at Mundahal Kalan and Garhi stations alongwith block working and associated telecom work in c/w new line Rohtak - Maham - Hansi on Delhi Division of Northern Railway. Approximate cost Earnest Money Rs. 5,68,500/- (Rupees Five lakh sixty eight thousand five Completion Period 06 (Six) months Date, Time & Place Tender will be available on www.ireps.gov.in website from

16.05.2020 to 11:30 Hrs. on 08.06.2020 and will be opened on for submission 08.06.2020 after 11:30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from and opening of tender 25.05.2020 to 11:30 hrs on 08.06.2020 and will be opened or 08.06.2020 after 11:30 hrs.

Address from

8. Opening of tender

Northern Railway website i.e. on www.ireps.gov.in from where tender form 16.05.2020 to 08.06.2020, bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms a conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. No. 178-Sig/CW/32/95 Dated: 15.05.2020 1111/2020

The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dv. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under SINGLE Packet Syster for the under noted work:-"Plantation of 2310 no of plants, transplantation of 70 Name of work and location Railway in Delhi area Delhi Rohtak Section 04 MONTHS Completion period of Rs. 72.31 LAKH Approx. Cost of work Earnest Money amount Rs. 144630/-(to be deposited Online) Sale /availability of tende Tender documents will be available on IREPS web document on Railway site i.e www.ireps.gov.in from 22.05.2020 to 05.06.2020 upto 11:30 hrs. Web side 05.06.2020 upto 11.30 hrs. Tender documents can of tenders be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f 22.05.2020 to 05.06.2020 Date & Time for 05.06.2020 at 11:30 hours (immediately after submission of E-tender closed of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system. Financial bid of the .eligible and opening of tende

tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date

05.06.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed

and time to be notified later on.

of uploading of tender

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE **GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA**

Tender Notice No.370-ACS-C-SSB Dated: 05.05.2020

Public Works Division, Pune - 411 001 Phone No. 020/26122485 & 26122414 Fax No. 020/26122485 Web:- www.mahapwd.com & e-mail:- pune.ee@mahapwd.com E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 1 FOR 2020-2021 (Short Period)

Corrigendum No. 2

This office e-Tender Notice No. 1 For 2020-2021 and Corrigendum No. 1 Published in Daily New Paper and any technical reasons Please read the changes for Work Name, Estimated Cost and Tender time schedule

as mentioned below for Work No. 4. Name of Work Providing, Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTV, LAN, Telephone, Wireless, Fire Fighting & Fire Detection services in addition to Installation of Tensile Fabric roof and Miscellaneous civil works in G+11 Multistoried Building and Mortuary Building at Sassoon General Hospital and B.J. Medical College, Pune **Estimate Cost** :- Rs. 7,25,58,500/-Dt. 30/05/2020 @ 18.00 hrs. Last Date of Sale of Tender Document Pre-bid Meeting. Dt. 26/05/2020 @ 11.00 hrs. In the Office of The Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, New Central Building, Pune -1. Last Date of online : Dt. 30/05/2020 @ 18.00 hrs. Submision of Tender Dt. 02/06/2020 @ 10.00 hrs. (If Possible) Period of online Tender opening

Executive Engineer, Public Work Division, Pune 411001.

14.05.2020 3.15 CRORE dfo.ynr-hry@nic.in www.haryanaforest.gov.in 347.25 LACS PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT https://etenders.hry.nic.in 26.05.2020 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH RENEWAL COAT BY PROVIDING 20MM THICK PC ON DIGHAL RAILWAY STATION ROAD IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT (ROAD ID 10028) + 1 OTHER WORK ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING ESTATE HEALTH SERVICES IN NEW BUS STAND, TARAORI TOWN DISTT. KARNAL. PROVIDING & INSTALING I NO. TUBE WELL (250 MM 200 MM 1/D] UP TO DEPTH 152 MTR. IN NEW BUS STAND TARAORI TOWN DISTT. KARNAL AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 1 OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 1 OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 1 OTHER PROTECTION WORK OVER SUKHNA BRIDGE X-ING PINJORE TO KALKA ROAD IN PANCHKULA DISTT. (AT RUPEES 25.95 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.ir 46.91 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PINJORE TO KALKA ROAD IN PANCHKULA DISTT. (AT KM. 3.00) + 6 OTHER WORKS

UP-GRADATION OF 100 TO 200 BEDDED CIVIL HOSPITAL AT NARNAUL IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT (CM ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 20561 DATED 13.11.2017)

ENGAGING THE PLACEMENT AGENCY FOR PROVIDING SERVICES FOR DEPLOYMENT OF UN-SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED, SKILLED, SKILLE PWD (B&R) CHANDIGARH PINJORE TO KALKA ROAD IN PANCHKULA DISTT. (AT 2.76 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, JHAJJAR 01251-257258 50000/ https://etenders.hry.nic.in dfojajjar@redi 0124-2320874 eed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in 14.05.2020 25.05.2020 EMD 3.82 LACS DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

8607592660

RO NO. 80898

SHRADDHA KAPOOR

A lot of us are feeling anxious and caged during this lockdown. Imagine being taken away from your home and being locked for your entire life? Animals have feelings just like us. They get depressed when separated from their natural habitats. Why should we believe that we have the right to take



BHUMI PEDNEKAR

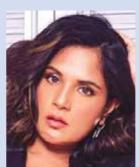
I wanted to learn Kathak for a long time as my mother is a trained Kathak dancer. So for about an hour in evening this is what me and my mom do. She is quite enjoying it and I'm loving learning it from her. I am also using my time to read something at a stretch and making full use of the time at



SHORT

CELINA JAITLEY

When I gave birth to my first set of twins, I realised that after delivery a woman's body becomes very weak and we need to take special care of ourselves. I was low on vitamins, energy, bone density, and calcium. I would feel extremely weak. Weight training helped me a lot post-preg-



CIRCUITS —

RICHA CHADHA

I made videos on my phone and just forwarded them to my staff because I want them to be safe and healthy through this period. Obviously, taking care of them financially is my duty but I also wanted them to know the proper guidelines to follow social distancing when they step out to buy their groceries and other



One of the fun thing was to play as Scott. He is regular person who has been thrust into this world. So I think when you watch him in *Civil War* and even in the Ant-Man films, you try to process everything vou know of.



BRAVE NEW WORLD

There is no going back to business as usual when we emerge from the pandemic. AMITABH TANEJA, chairman of SCAI, PUSHPA BECTOR, executive director of DLF Shopping Malls, RAJNEESH MAHAJAN, CEO of Inorbit Malls, RASHMI SEN, Group COO — Malls of The Phoenix Mills Ltd, PANKAJ RENJHEN, COO of Virtuous Retail and MUKESH KUMAR, CEO of Infiniti Malls, describe how we shop, eat and spend our leisure at malls is all set to change. By Ayushi Sharma

you enter the mall parking area and are waived away by the attendant that there is no space. Deciding to subvert the inconvenience, you park in the nearby area and walk towards the mall, where you are halted at the entrance and asked to wait as the number of people inside is already one customer per 75 sqft Gross Leasable Area (GLA). After more than 45 minutes, you enter the mall but not before thermal checks and passing through a sanitisation tunnel. Once inside, distance markers indicate where to stand. Deciding to pick up clothes? You can take assistance of the virtual mirror, which will show you how a garment looks on you without trying it on. If you want to grab a quick bite, be prepared for plexi sheets in front of the Quick Service Restaurants in the food court. And yes, if you want to head to the washroom, you might have to wait there, too, as only the alternate urinals are in use. Welcome to the new normal.

Earlier, a plan to pick up shoes, clothes and grocery would inevitably mean a trip to any of the malls that dot the city's landscape. Whether we picked up the things that we had set out to or not was always debatable but what we did end up doing was venturing out, socialising and eating — rituals that we took for granted. It was a part of the normal, as we knew it, before a microscopic virus turned the idea on its head

Amid the life of absolute uncertainty, fear and concern, the Coronavirus pandemic has left nothing untouched and thus, severely impacted every business. It is not easy to imagine the post-pandemic scetake a long time for retail to return to normal

The Shopping Centres Association of India (SCAI) recently hosted the third of SCAI Mondays, a series aimed at redressing the unprecedented challenges posed to the Indian shopping centre development ecosystem by the pandemic. Many retail leaders feel that the idea of opening shopping malls can actually help accelerate the economy, of course, keeping a stringent and comprehensive set of measures to ensure a safe and hygienic environ-

ment. The virtual roundtable, titled Retail and Shopping Centres: 2020-21 and Beyond, was moderated by S Raghunandhan, president-commercial, Bhartiya City Developers. The panelists included — Pushpa Bector, executive director of DLF Shopping Malls, Raineesh Mahajan, CEO of Inorbit Malls, Rashmi Sen, Group COO-Malls of The Phoenix Mills Ltd and Pankaj Renjhen, COO of

Virtuous Retail. Going by the news that the situation will take some time to return to normal, it will be quite interesting to see how shopping malls would welcome consumers post-lockdown. On the other side of the spectrum, as per the surveys and research conducted by DLF Shopping Malls, it was found out that there will be two categories of consumers post-lockdown — first being those who desperately want to get back to pre-pan-



added.

experience when they return," she

As far as the retailers are con-

cerned, Pushpa told us that they are very eager to open their stores. Some are little skeptical and worried, while others are confident of coming out stronger once the lockdown demic life and the second category ends. She said, "Currently, they are would be of those who will be more also concerned about their inventocautious of visiting malls. ry. Despite having so much stuff, Pushpa Bector, executive directheir spring and the summer collections are lying in stores, untouched tor of DLF Shopping Malls, shared that it appears that people's anxieties and unsold. We need to sort this out won't settle anytime soon. But that together by helping them ease it out. does not mean that the consumer Marketing in the coming days will will not return to malls. In fact, become one-to-one in nature, with

lots of data exchange. A lot of digital marketing along with hyperlocal according to a recent survey done by NFX for SCAI, approximately 70 per cent of consumers are willing to return to malls within a fortnight of marketing will come into action." Now, the question arises if the lockdown phase would affect the their opening up. Shopping priorities might change and preference may be Indian retail consumption growth given to essentials, but the activity rate? Rashmi Sen, Group COO will definitely take place. "We also see Malls of The Phoenix Mills Ltd, interest in segments like electronics believes that India is the most attracand beauty, which could attract a tive retail market of the world today large part of the consumers visiting and its consumption story is very malls after these open up. The fact strong. "I don't think two months of remains that there is pent up lockdown can dent the consumption demand, consumers are looking at growth rate of India. We have seen ways to release their energy and what better place than malls?" said she. that during demonetisation too, the sales rate picked up by the end of the year," said she. One change that Pushpa predicts

in consumer behaviour is a rise in "If you look at the Indian econnationalism where 'Made in India' omy, agriculture and Integrated brands would be preferred more in Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) are large components of the

be fast," added Rajneesh Mahajan, CEO of Inorbit Malls.

Rashmi feels that the challenge is similar worldwide. It is not only India. Be it forthcoming malls or or almost zero growth will be shortlived. "For us, the safety and the confidence of consumers are priorities as we will be initiating strong protocol measures for our retailers and consumers. I would not be worried about whether the consumers will be coming or not but our main concern, in the initial period, would be restricting footfalls actually. The shopping behaviour in the short-run will be very subjective and necessity-led rather than leisure-led," she said. Moreover, there would be people concerned about venturing out into crowded places initially. In order to overcome this, Rashmi explained, "The focus would be on inculcating confidence in consumers that malls are a safe place for shop-

Phoenix's marketing budget earlier was huge with many activities and events — which would not take place now. For the next three months, they won't organise any outdoor activity. The focus will be on the loyalty programmes to stay connected with the consumers so that they can get real-time information.

Similarly, communication would be Virtuous Retail's first strategy. 'The first bit of marketing will be giving out a message emphasising on developing comfort and confidence of the customers to visit the shopping mall. We will also be highlighting the steps and measures that we would be taking to ensure their safety and making the consumers aware of

GDP. If these two sectors continue to run strong, I think the recovery will them. Moving forward, we know we cannot go with the traditional marketing strategy which we had in the past. I think this is going to be a much more focused approach," shared Pankaj Renjhen, COO,

Virtuous Retail. developers are planning to adopt for ensuring the safety and sanitisation of the place and people, Amitabh Taneja, chairman of SCAI, shared that the organisation has developed a stringent and comprehensive set of SOPs. These guidelines have been developed after several consultations with captains of the industry and taking references from global best practices implemented by countries like Singapore, Germany and China, where the malls have started opening slowly. For instance, he pointed out, "Thermal screening of every customer will be done before s/he enters the malls. There will be controlled entry and exit. Malls will be operational from 12 pm to 9 pm on all days initially. At any given point, we would have only one customer per 75 sqft Gross Leasable Area (GLA), which is the amount of floor space available to be rented in a commercial property."

However, the checks would not end here. Anyone entering the mall including staff, visitors, contractors would have to undergo mandated temperature screening and checks. Distance markers will be installed at the entry points, cash counters and help desk. There would also be category-wise opening in various phases in accordance with government directives. The first phase will be dedicated to essential services and products in super market, infant clothing's, eyewear, WFH electronics, apparel, personal care, salon and spa with 50 per cent of capacity and prior appointments only. The second phase will be dedicated to food court and F&B outlets. The last to open would be multiplex and entertainment centres. In case of dine-in outlets, the seating arrangements where contact less menus and digital invoices will be encouraged. There would be repeated sanitisation and cleaning of all the common areas of the mall premises including toilets, lifts and entrance areas every 30 to 60 minutes. To restrict the entry, only 50 per cent of total parking capacity would be operational. The number of customers allowed in the washrooms would be restricted according to the size and only alternate urinals would be allowed to be used. Quick Service Restaurants (QSR) would have plexi sheets (transparent sheets) at front areas with separate cash and serving windows to minimise physical contact. These are some of the recommendations and top-line measures I have highlighted. A detailed 48-page SOP is in place and circulated across the industry for implementation," he

Major portion of any mall is dedicated personal shopping clothes, shoes or accessories. And trying before buying has always been the norm when readymade garments are being purchased. Here comes in the aspect of touch and feel. So in a situation, where maintaining distance is the only solution, how will customers ensure that the outfit or the accessories they are trying out is safe? Mukesh Kumar, CEO of Infiniti Malls, has a solution for this, too. He said, "We don't really see a big challenge for top wear, which can be purchased without even trying.

That completely depends on the customers. However, for bottom wear, one usually prefers the concept of 'try and buy. To tackle this issue, retailers are working on a model where customers can take two to three gar-ments home and return those which don't fit. Then those tried pieces will have to be sent back to the manufacturing unit to be sanitised. Meanwhile, the fresh stock can be used for trials. This is pertaining to the size. Disinfecting of all such goods will become a normal and routine procedure for each and every other shop, be it footwear, apparel or jewellery. Here, trust on the brand you are purchasing from will become very important.

"Also, there are technology available where buyer can just place the garment on them and see in the mirror how it looks. It's know as virtual fitting rooms," added he. COVID-19 has changed every-

thing, right from the way we travel to how we shop. So will there be a rise in online shopping as well? And can virtual reality, a welcome escape from the pandemic, ever be a substitute for the real thing? Well, there is no denying that online shopping has seen quite a surge. But that is also owing to limited options in the brick and mortar space when the lock-down was first announced, feels Amitabh. He said, "We must understand that online is yet another channel for retailing and it will always coexist with the traditional ones. Some categories could work better online, while some would be preferred in the brick and mortar format. We are still a country that believes in touch and feel. This is a phase that will pass will perhaps start looking at online for shopping for essentials, medicines, home furnishing products, women's accessories and more."

Malls have experiential offerings like cafes, theatres, entertainment zones and a few other things. However, these would not attract visitors now as these were the first casualties of social distancing and public health protocols. It is likely that these would be the last to emerge from the lockdown as well, feels Mukesh. "But if we will go by the guidelines that the government finally sets out for the opening of malls, it could be the other way round. As part of the exhaustive SOPs we created, abundant precaution has been taken to ensure safety, social distancing guidelines are adhered too and reopening will need to be done in a calibrated manner," said he.

From a consumer's perspective, it seems like the next six to seven months are all about surviving and reviving. Rajneesh concluded the webinar saying, "I think we would be able to see the consumption level going higher from what we had in FY2019. On the shopping centre supply side, I see a slowdown and most of the malls which were ready to open now may have to delay a little. Their progress will be derailed due to this lockdown."

Normal, the word, is all set to be redefined when it comes to all our experiences.

We must understand that online is yet another channel for retailing and it will always coexist with the traditional

ones. Some categories could work better online, while some would be preferred in the brick and mortar format. We are still a country that believes in touch and feel.

—AMITABH TANEJA

According to a recent survey done by NFX for SCAI, approximately 70 per cent of consumers are willing to return to malls within a fortnight of opening up. We are ready and plans are in place to make sure that the consumers get a safe and hygienic experience when they return. -PUSHPA BECTOR

If you look at the Indian economy, agriculture and Integrated **Taxonomic Information** System (ITIS) are large components of

the GDP. If these two sectors continue to run strong, we would be able to see the consumption level going higher from what we had in FY2019.

—RAJNEESH MAHAJAN

India is the most attractive retail market in the world today and its consumption story is very strong. Two

months of lockdown can't dent the consumption growth rate of the country. We have seen that during demonetisation too, the sales rate picked up by the end of the year.

The first bit of marketing will be giving out a message emphasising on developing comfort and confidence of the customers

to visit the shopping mall. We know we cannot go with the traditional marketing strategy which we had in the past. I think this is going to be a much more focused approach.

—PANKAJ RENJHEN



and return those which don't fit. Then those tried pieces will have to be sent back to the manufacturing unit to be sanitised. Meanwhile, the fresh stock can be used for trials. Trust on the brand will become very important.

—MUKESH KUMAR

DEBATE 60 MINUTES

THE STAND-OFF

Film theatres being shut indefinitely has forced producers to release their films on OTT platforms. Shoojit Sircar's Amitabh Bachchan and Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer Gulabo Sitabo and Anu Menon's Shakuntala Devi with Vidya Balan in the lead are some of the big ticket releases that will be streamed on Amazon Prime Video. Not surprisingly, a war of words between the cinema halls' association and the multiplexes ensued. Here is what the key players have to say



The first salvo fired

forced many producers to release their films on OTT platforms. However, mutiplexes anticipated the release of all these films throughout the vear. They believe it would dilute the essence of theatres and affect their profits too.

Kamal Gianchandani, CEO, PVR Pictures said: "As PVR we believe that the

pandemic has experience the labour and demand by force on a creative genius of our filmmakers. This has been so for decades and not just in India but globally. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has caused an unfortunate shutdown of cinemas. We are confident, once we get to the other side of this crisis, there would be enough and more pent up demand from cinegoers who have been cooped

sustained basis, once we reopen. Needless to say, we are disappointed with some of our producers deciding to go straight to the streaming platform/s. We were hoping that they would accede to our request to hold back their film's release till cinemas reopen. That said, this is not the first time films are being premiered on a streaming to weeks. We are likely to see exhibition has regularly of cinemas."

faced competition from new emerging distribution platforms over the last many years, and it has continued to enjoy cine-goers patronage and affinity. I would also like to use this opportunity to express our appreciation for all the producers who have publicly voiced their support for the theatrical platform and have decided to reschedule their releases to

AND THE REPLY

→he Producers Guild of India defended their decision through a letter are in unprecedented times, facing one of the greatest public economic emergencies of our lifetimes. This is a time for the entire film industry to come together with empathy and support for the difficult predicament that each of our constituents finds themselves in producers, distributors, exhibitors, daily wage earners and technicians, to the thousands of people whose lives and livelihoods are in some way dependent on our industry.

Hence at a time like this, it is disappointing to see abrasive and unconstructive messaging from some of our colleagues in exhibition Statements that call for "retributive measures" against producers who decide to take their films direct to OTT platforms — especially at a time cinemas unfortunately closed for the foreseeable future - do not lend themselves to a constructive or collaborative dialogue on the

The production sector (just like the exhibition sector) is suffering hundreds of crores of losses on a daily basis-

way forward for the industry.

□Elaborate and expensive sets erected for under-production films have had to be taken down due to no date in sight for shoots to resume, with the sunk cost of the set and studio rentals to be borne completely by producers — as insurers refuse to cover the cost. Shoot schedules have had to be abruptly cancelled due to the lockdown, with huge cancellation charges being borne completely by the producer — again with no support from insurers. □Interest costs are mounting

on amounts raised to fund films, with producers having to date the reopening | bear this auditional collections." | with no date in sight for producer.



cinemas to re-open; in fact with the knowledge that cinemas may be one of the last sectors of the service sector likely to be given permission to re-open. Re-opening of cinemas is

bound to be staggered across the country, with each state government rightly making its own decision appropriate time to re-open cinemas in their state, depending on the intensity of the outbreak there. Producers of Hindi film will have to wait for cinemas across the entire country to re-open, as the economics of the business require an All India release. For cinemas to be open across the entire country, it is clear we are sometime away. □Even when cinemas re-open

across India, there is no guarantee that the Overseas theatrical market (which is a key component of the economics of Hindi films) will have resumed. Even if it has in some countries, it might not empathises with have in others, hence leading to predicament of the other,

should be prepared for lower occupancies. One, because of the social distancing norms that will be both mandated and necessary for public safety. Secondly, because of the inevitable concern that concern that cinema-goers will have about

In addition to this, there will be a huge backlog of releases, and the smaller and medium scale films especially will suffer from sub-optimal showcasing in addition to all the concerns above. Given this combination of factors, it is only natural that producers who have already invested heavily in their films theatrical revenue assumptions that are no longer feasible, will seek out all avenues available to recover their investment and to stay in business. At a time like this, it is important that each stakeholder understands and the

venturing back into public

spaces.

counter-productive for the entire value chain.

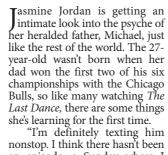
The Producers would like to emphasise that we unequivocally passionately supportive of the theatrical release of films, and a theatrical release will always be the preference for movies that conceptualised as cinematic experiences. But these are unprecedented times for all the reasons mentioned above, and it is imperative to see things in that context. For producers to continue to keep producing" the films that light up our cinema screens, they need to continue to be in business in the first place.

The production fraternity would like to work to work with the collaboratively exhibition sector to ensure that once cinemas do re-open across the country, we do all we can to bring audience back in large numbers to experience our films in the way they were always meant to be enjoyed at the theatres.

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

An unmatched passion

JASMINE JORDDAN shares what it was like growing up as the daughter of MICHAEL, his legacy and what can turn one of the most intimidating basketball players into putty



an episode, a Sunday where I haven't been like, 'This happened let me know your thoughts," says the youngest and only daughter of his three adult children with Juanita Vanoy. (Jordan has 6-year-old twin girls with current wife Yvette Prieto Jordan.) "I was super young, so I'm really taking this in as a fan."

The 10-part docuseries, airing on ESPN in the United States and on Netflix elsewhere, details the 1998 Bulls' season, Jordan's final year with the team and the organisation's last championship. While it focuses on the challenges and triumphs of Jordan's illustrious basketball career, it also delves into personal tragedies, such as the murder of his father, and scandal, such as his public gambling habits.

Jasmine Jordan shared about growing up as his child, his legacy, and what can turn one of the most intimidating players in the history of basketball turn into silly putty.

□Everybody's been going crazy over *The Last Dance*. What's been your perspective?

It's been incredible to watch.

You know, I didn't get any previews or anything like that, so I'm watching it real time with everyone else and really just taking it in as a fan, essentially. So it's been really eye opening. I think if you remove the basketball aspect and all the accolades he aspect and all the accolades he achieved for obvious reasons, I think I'm definitely learning that my dad was really trying to take in the pressures and the expectations and not allowing it to weigh on him and really manifesting it to his own. ...I've definitely been seeing him really take on that role

seeing him really take on that role

and embracing that role and not

running from it and really becoming the greatest player to ever play the game. That's because he always wanted to do that.

□When you see some of those like emotional moments, do you

recognise that person as your Some of them, yes. Some of them I do. I know when it comes to the game, his passion is unmatched. His energy's unmatched. So when he's going at

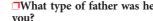
Steve Kerr or checking Scottie and

trying to get that fire and tenacity

out of them, I'm like, 'Oh, yeah,

me just so I can get an A out of a test or two. (laughs) And I'm just trying to pass school, I'm not even winning championships. So that is definitely totally him. □What type of father was he to

that's Dad.' I mean, he'll do that to



I was definitely a daddy's girl growing up. And, you know, he still calls me 'Princes' to this day and I'm almost 30. ...He definitely wanted to coddle and protect and nurture and baby me as much as he can. But you also knew the harsh reality of the burden that I was going to have to endure the older I got. So he wanted to make sure I had tough skin. And I understood that, hey, there's going to be a target on my back.

☐How did your relationship, or did it, change after your dad

When he was playing, he did his best to be as involved as he could be while I was growing up. He made sure to take me to school when he could or go to my recitals and dance and things like that that I was a part of. So once he retired, it definitely was a change in gears, and it was something that he and I really had a conversation about. really had a conversation about. It's like, "Okay, you're done. So how do we work on the relationship? How do we even make it stronger than what it was like?" So we definitely really worked hard and put forth that effort because obviously once you effort because obviously once you take something you love away from somebody, it's that hole -

it's a void. So do you fill it or do

you just adjust? He definitely adjusted versus trying to find something else to fill it, and that's something I appreciated. ... That's how we're so close today.

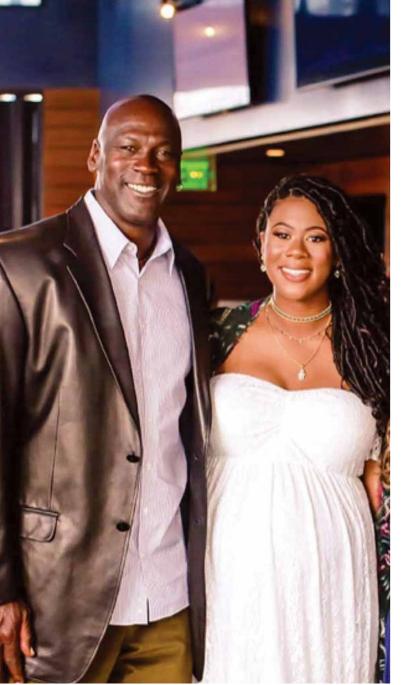
□What type of grandfather has he been to your son?

He's silly putty. My son has hire wrapped around his fingers already. He's been very hands on and very involved in my son, even and very involved in my son, even during these crazy times. He FaceTimes everyday or Zoom or something just so that way, that relationship can continue to cultivate and bond and grow. But no, my dad would probably let my son get away with murder at this point. ...It's an incredible relationship to see them develop.

□I'm surprised your dad has been this open, just being a fan. So are you surprised at his

candor and his openness?

Absolutely. It's definitely surprising because my father is very private. He doesn't like to comment on social matters or he doesn't like to respond to things when people want him to. He definitely likes to move methodically on his terms and on his time. And then with saying that, seeing the documentary unfold and he's getting emotional and he's sharing his insight and perspective, it's been incredible to really see. And I love it because it gives him that human nature that I think people forget. You know, he is this incredible phenom, and he's the G.O.A.T., and everything along those lines. But he's also



T20 WC may shift to 2022

¬he option of shifting the upcoming T20 World Cup to 2022 is expected to be put on the table when the ICC Board meets on May 28, a member of world governing body's influential Board said on

Friday.

A cloud of uncertainty hangs over the T20 World Cup in the wake of coronavirus pandemic and shifting it may find favours with Cricket Australia, feels the Board member.

The ICC flagship event is scheduled in Australia from October 18 to November 15.

The ICC Board Meeting will be preceded by the Cricket Committee meeting to discuss playing conditions including applying sweat and saliva on the ball.

It is expected that ICC's Events Committee headed by Chris Tetley will present multiple options.

We are expecting three options from the ICC Events Committee. First option is having World T20 as per schedule with 14-day quarantine with crowd being allowed. The back-up for this option could be tournament in-front of empty stadium. The third option could be shifting the tournament to 2022," a Board

The Board meeting will also discuss twomonth extension for Chairman Shashank Manohar but primarily the focus will be on decid-

the Test Series against India to go as scheduled in vember-December. The series is crucial

financial health. 'CA wouldn't be too unhappy if the World T20 is

shifted to 2022. At the

ing the fate of T20 World Cup.
Of late, Cricket Australia and their top players including present and former, have been aggressively campaigning for Cricket Australia's

ICC is made up of members. If members decide that bilateral series are more important, you can't discount

"Also ICC might find its cash flow being hampered but it's a short-term problem. If the tournament happens in

> Cricket Australia CEO Kevin Roberts had earlier expressed the board's desire to host a five-Test series against India but citing quarantine

> > The deferment will

also mean that the cash-

rich Indian Premier League,

which is a parallel industry in itself, will get the much-needed window if the Covid-19 pan-

demic is under control by then.

The Indian team can travel to

cited a few problems which

The Board member also

Australia after the IPL.

 $B^{\text{oard of Control for Cricket}}_{\text{in India (BCCI) President}}$

Sourav Ganguly feels the five-

Test series, proposed by

Cricket Australia against the

traditional four-match rub-ber, will not be feasible later

IANS NEW DELHI

5 Tests against Aus

not possible: Ganguly

guidelines amid the coronavirus pandemic, Ganguly has stated it seems a difficult task to squeeze in an additional match considering time con-

"I don't think it will be possible for India to participate in five Tests. There will be limited-overs games and plus we have to consider the 14-day quarantine guidelines. All this will extend the tour," Ganguly was quoted as saying by Mid-

2022, the parent body may lead to deferment of T20 doesn't lose anything World Cup. because it's deferment "The costs of quarantine not postponement," the board member

arrangements for 16 teams with support staff plus TV crew will be huge. Add to that if in some of the countries, normalcy doesn't return, whether travelling will safe by then," he added.

"So it can't be postponed by few months, say February-March, 2021. It's not a great idea as we have Women's ODI World Cup and the two ICC events should not clash. The Women's World Cup is a much safer bet, there will only be eight teams."

SLC requests BCCI not to cancel scheduled Lanka tour

PTI ■ COLOMBO

With uncertainty hovering over India's limited over tour of Sri Lanka due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the country's cricket board (SLC) has requested BCCI to seriously consider touring the island nation for their scheduled series

India is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka for three one-dayers and as many T20Is in June-July, which is currently under threat due to the global health crisis.

According to a report published in *The Island*, SLC has indicated its willingness to play the limited over series in late July in an e-mail and are awaiting a reply from BCCI. "Sri Lanka Cricket has sent

an e-mail to their counterparts at Board of Control for Cricket in India requesting the possibility of resuming bilateral crick et later in July," the report said.

According to the report, an official said that "they would have to follow strict quarantine rules and the series might take place behind closed doors considering the safety of fans."

However the BCCI brass is clear that unless there are clear directives from Government and proper travel advisories in place, they won't be able to commit any thing at the moment.

Coming back won't be easy, but ready for challenge: Iyer



Shreyas Iyer plays shot against Kiwis

IANS NEW DELHI

Chreyas Iyer's last three ODI Oknocks before the coronavirus outbreak brought the world to a standstill read 103, 52 and 62. Interestingly, all the knocks not just came on New Zealand soil, but also at the much-talked about No 4 position in the Indian batting lineup. But the Mumbaikar doesn't wish to sit on past laurels and is already thinking of the route he will take to continue from where he left when live action resumes.

While Shreyas says he cannot wait for cricket to start, he also accepts that the road back to the international stage will not be easy and it will require a just bring back muscle memory, but also to get into the zone.

"Yes, we will need a few net sessions for sure to get the timing back (as a batsman) and also to get the muscle memory working. Will be holding the bat after a while also to have players standing around as you face bowlers bowling at 140kph, it will not be easy to come back into that zone and it will need a few training sessions as also the mental memory to settle down completely.

"It is not going to be easy, but at the same time we are professionals and we have played for so many years to reach this stage, so it will not take us very long. It will be a good challenge for us to overcome and get started with cricket," he explains.

Shreyas also feels that Live cricket will also help the Indian public look forward to life in a positive way as cricket is a religion in the country.

"I would be very keen to go out and play because that is what I am waiting for. You do realise that cricket is a religion in this country and if we go out and play and it is there for people to view on television, it will be a huge positive as things will start moving towards normal and people will also be entertained," he pointed.

Don't reduce women domestic games to cut costs: Healy to CA

MELBOURNE: A cash-strapped Cricket Australia must not sacrifice the number of matches for women to cut costs when it restructures the domestic schedule, feels star wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy.

A shortened season is being speculated with CA struggling to stay afloat in the wake of the coronavirus break

The women matches in the domestic women competition Marsh Sheffield Shield and the Women Big Bash League are not lucrative compared to the men's cricket but hosting them still burns a hole in Cricket Australia pocket. However,

Healy says cutting the games for women would not be prudent.

ously doesn't sit great. We don't want to lose any cricket. It'd be a real shame," Healy, who is a board director of the Australian Cricketers Association (ACA), told The Unplayable Podcast.

cricket we get to play. We don't get to play much 50-over cricket in our domestic competition and that's something that us as a playing group have been

"(Playing less games) obvi-

"Especially the WBBL, it's such a great tournament for us and it's the bulk of the

> really pushing for in the last few years, that the WNCL

competition is looked after." Healy also said that with

women 50-over World Cup scheduled in February, losing games could affect players' per-

"We don't want to lose any cricket. I don't feel our domestic players get to play enough as

"We'll have to wait and see what sort of decisions are made. Healy said investment in women cricket must not be

It's such a shame that this (pandemic) has happened and we've potentially lost a bit of momentum, but I think we can pick that up pretty quickly once we get back rolling and (by) making sure we invest properly in the women's game and make sure it thrives in the

Women's IPL will be great for Indian cricket: Mandhana



Smriti Mandhana in action during T20 WC

NEW DELHI: Swashbuckling India opener Smriti Mandhana feels a full-fledged women's Indian

acknowledged the efforts BCCI

"The BCCI has put in a lot podcast The Doosra.

"I'm sure a lot of IPL style matches will take place for a year or two. A five or six-team IPL for women will be great for Indian women's cricket specially for the World Cups," she The southpaw hopes the gap

between the domestic and international cricket that exists in women's cricket in the country right now will be bridged soon. "Women's cricket in Indian

is growing massively, specially the domestic circuit. But there's still a lot of gap between competition between international and domestic circuit which I think will be bridged in 2-3 The Indian women's team

has taken huge strides since entering final of a World Cup in 2017 and coach WV Raman feels the side has the potential to become the best in three years.

Asked if she feels the same Mandhana said "We've grown a lot as a team specially after the 2017 WC. T20 format is not one of our strengths before but we last two World Cups."

"Not just this one in Australia, but the one we played in West Indies was a very good World Cup unfortunately we lost to England. What Raman sir said will happen. But I can't say in how many years maybe next year or in 3-4 years or 5 years but I'm certain it will happen," she

Jamieson gets Kiwi contract

CHRISTCHURCH: Pace sensation Kyle Jamieson's "outstanding" performance against India in his debut Test series early this year on Friday earned him a central contract from New Zealand Cricket for the 2020-The 25-year-old Jamieson

earned the Man of the Match award in his ODI debut against India, before grabbing the Player of the Match award for taking a five wicket haul in the second Test at Hagley Oval. Overall, Jamieson grabbed nine wickets and averaged 46 with the bat in the two Tests against Virat Kohli's men.

"Kyle's performances against the might of India were nothing short of outstanding and at 25 years of age he's certainly got a big future," selection manager Gavin Larsen said.



Kyle Jamieson plays shot against India AP

Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel and South African-born batsman Devon Conway were also offered contracts for the first time for the next one year.

The contracts will officially commence from August 1 and players have until May 22 to accept or decline the offer.

"It's really exciting to offer contracts to Kyle, Ajaz and Devon who have all impressed over the past 12 months,"

Conway, who had migrated from South Africa in 2017, will become eligible for national selection in August this year. The 28-year-old had a topped the domestic batting charts in the last two seasons.

Patel, who also has a solid first-class record, has been in the mix in Tests for the past one and a half years.

Among the players to miss out were batting duo of Colin Munro and Jeet Raval and spinner Todd Astle, who retired

from red-ball cricket in January. Jimmy Neesham, Will Young and Tom Blundell have

all retained their contracts after being added to the list last sea-

USTA planning for New York US Open

AFP ■ LOS **ANGELES**



Association is pressing ahead with preparations to stage the US Open in New York this year but is "aggressively" drafting alternative plans for the tournament, a spokesman said.

With New York the epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, the US Open's apparently precarious place on the sporting calendar has faced increasing speculation in recent weeks. Multiple reports have suggest-

ed that USTA officials are mulling a possible switch of the August 31-September 13 tournament to either Indian Wells or Orlando in an effort to evade the clutches of Covid-19. However, USTA spokesman

Chris Widmaier said in an e-mail on Thursday that the organisation's sights remained firmly set on staging the Open at its regular venue "The USTA's goal is to hold the

2020 US Open in New York on its

currently scheduled dates," Widmaier said, describing planning for the tournament as "ongo-"We understand that there is a

great deal of speculation regarding the USTA's planning for the 2020 US Open," he added. "We would like to clarify that

while we are exploring every possibility around the US Open, the potential to shift the event location or date is not at the forefront at this point in time." Widmaier added, however,

that because of the "uncertain and rapidly-changing environment" caused by Covid-19, the USTA had been "aggressively modeling many other contingencies, including scenarios with no fans."

A final decision on plans for the US Open would be taken next month, in "mid-to-late June", Widmaier said.

Silverstone to stage two GP

Flick doubts Bayern's fitness

"We will use it to replace a tired

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz

player. In the weeks with a lot of

Rummenigge claims the Bundesliga

will have a global audience of "bil-

lions around the world" this week-

end, with the English, Spanish and

'More than 200 countries

will be watching," Flick said.

"So we have an enormously

large audience and we want to

deliver a top performance.
"The whole world will be

"If we manage to ensure that the

Flick also said that his players

looking at Germany, to see how we

season continues, it will send a sig-

have the chance to sit out games, but

only the injured trio of Philippe

Coutinho, Corentin Tolisso and

Niklas Suele are unavailable for

could have decided not to play -

without consequences. But they are

all in, except for those who are

"If a player had doubts, he

Italian leagues still suspended.

games it's great."

get it done.

nal to all leagues.

LONDON: Britain's Silverstone season begins in Austria. prix during the Formula One season, subject to UK Government approval, circuit chiefs said on Friday.

Silverstone managing director Stuart Pringle told the BBC that an agreement in principle had been reached with Formula One to hold the races at the central England circuit, immediately after the

BERLIN: Bayern Munich boss Hansi

Flick admitted on Friday that he is

unsure whether his players are

match fit ahead of the Bundesliga

hold a four-point lead ahead of

Sunday's game at Union Berlin.

clubs, only received the go-

ahead to resume full team

training last week. "We don't

know if the team can hold out

over 90 minutes," said Flick.

"We have trained well and

each last Sunday.

where we stand.

used to waste time.

situation."

played three matches of 20 minutes

"They were played at a very high intensity, but we don't know clearly

"We have to just deal with the

Flick welcomed the decision by

the German league to approve plans

to allow five substitutions instead of

the usual three, but hopes teams do

not abuse the temporary rule change.

very happy, especially in this situation," Flick said. "I only hope it is not

"I have two more options, so I'm

Defending champions Bayern

Bayern, like Germany's other

restart this weekend.

that Silverstone and Formula One have reached an agreement in principle to host two races behind closed doors this summer," he said.

"However these races will be subject to Government approval, as our priority is the safety of all involved and strict compliance with Covid-19 reg-

Premier League can make a difference in tapping the talent which would help the national team do well at the global level. is putting in to make it a reality.

of effort, first we had an exhibition match kind of women's IPL two years ago then there was a very successful IPL with three teams. And this year it was supposed to be four teams," Mandhana said on the BBC

Messi accepts 'risk' of possible La Liga return

AFP ■ BARCELONA

ionel Messi says he is Comfortable with footballers returning to play again as La Liga prepares to restart the season in Spain next month.

La Liga president Javier Tebas has circled June 12 as the ideal date for matches to resume.

Barcelona sit top of the table, two points ahead of Real Madrid.

Players in Spain have started working individually at training grounds as part of a strict and staggered programme, with five players already put into quarantine after testing positive for coronavirus. "The risk of contagion is everywhere," Messi said in an interview with Mundo Deportivo, published on



When you leave the house the risk is already there, so I think you can't think about it too much because otherwise you'll not want to go out anywhere.

"But we also understand it is essential to comply with protocols and take all the possible measures of prevention. Going back to training is a first step but we shouldn't get complacent and we must continue taking all the necessary precautions and assume we have to start playing games but behind closed doors."

Messi also spoke about Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez, whom Barcelona are reportedly keen to sign this summer. Martinez is viewed as a long-term replacement for the 33-year-old Luis Suarez. "If I'm honest I'm not sure if there were or are nego

tiations right now for him, I have no idea," Messi said. Lautaro is an impressive striker, especially because I think he is very complete — he is strong, he dribbles well, he has an eye for goal, he knows how to protect the ball."



English pacer James Anderson

LONDON: England's cricketers will be handed a box of balls each only for their individual use and they can't apply saliva on them when they resume training next week ahead of the scheduled Test series against Windies and Pakistan.

The England and Wales Cricket Board announced that a pool of 30 cricketers will be prepared for the planned start of international cricket this summer. Training will be held as per the Governmentapproved guidelines.

A "one skin per ball" policy will be implemented for the sessions at 11 county grounds where players will train at different times to ensure social

Eng players told to

use own set of balls

"We need to mitigate as many of the risks as we possibly can. At one venue guys may train individually but with the same coach — a single coach for four or five bowlers. But with social distancing they shouldn't be close enough to pass anything on. It's essential we stick to these guidelines," said Giles.

The Guardian reported that the players have to use only the individual box of balls assigned to them and the balls must remain in their kit bags when not in use.

Bowlers will be having one-on-one sessions with coaches from Wednesday and the batsmen will enter the nets two week later.

"Players have been told to travel by car, bring their own clearly marked water bottles regularly sanitise hands and make a swift departure afterwards before showering at home," the newspaper stated.

A two-metre distance has to be maintained with the coach and the physio will be the only one wearing a PPE kit.

When the batsmen resume net sessions, they must not pick the ball up and pass it back to the coach, instead they will kick it or use the bat to hit it back.

No Indian athlete to compete

abroad this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

thletics Federation of India APresident Adille Sumariwalla on Friday ruled out any track and field athlete taking part in any international event this year in view of the Covid-19 pandemic as their safety is paramount.

It is therefore implied that no Indian will take part in the prestigious Diamond League meets, starting from August 14. The likes of Tokyo Olympics-bound javelin throwers Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal Singh will miss them.

"We are not interested in sending our athletes abroad before 2021 till we have a far better idea. The safety of our athletes is paramount. So, no Diamond League for our athletes. The athletes who are now in national camps will also preferably be there for the next three months," Sumariwalla said at an online interaction in the presence of World Athletics chief

Sebastian Coe. "The plan is the athletes will compete in five events in Indian circuit starting on September 12 and they will have some sort of off-season after October. Next year, we plan to have training (programmes) in Europe if the situation allows and then they can reach peak form during the Tokyo Olympics," he added.

Kane wants assurances before PL is back

LONDON: England captain Harry Kane says players are waiting for safety guidance from the Premier League after the Government said it was "opening the door" for the return of football next month. The Premier League

hopes for a return to action on June 12, with matches behind closed doors. Tottenham striker Kane is willing to take the next step, moving from individual training to small group sessions, but suggested more information was



"I don't think anyone knows the right answer at the moment," he told ITV's Good Morning Britain programme.

players are looking forward to playing again as soon as possible but we know we want it to be as safe as possible too.

"From what I have heard obviously I haven't seen too much of my team-mates — at the moment everyone is OK. We want to see how the Premier

"I think the majority of

Kane confirmed that he, along with the rest of the Spurs squad, had taken initial tests for coronavirus, with no positive results following their return to

that looks like."

League gives us a plan and what