

OPINION 6

POWER GAMES
IN NEPAL

MONEY 9

SENSEX RISES 167 PTS,
NIFTY ADVANCES 55.85 PTS

AVENUES 10

TIPS TO ACE
CLAT EXAM

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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CRISTIANO
RETURNS FOR
JUVE TRAINING
12 SPORT

States' go-ahead for Shramik trains obviated

MHA makes States/UTs responsible for receiving, sending migrant workers to/from railway stations



Migrants, not adhering to social distancing norms, gather to get medically screened before boarding a train to Uttar Pradesh during the ongoing nationwide Covid-19 lockdown in Amritsar on Tuesday PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of the ongoing tussle between the Centre and West Bengal, the Union Home Ministry on Tuesday took over the control of operating trains for migrant labourers. Involving powers vested in the Disaster Management Act, the Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla issued new Standard Operating Protocols (SoP) which entitles Railways to allow Shramik Special trains

in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) without any consultation with the State Governments.

The Home Ministry has put the responsibility on the States to inform the migrant workers about the schedule of trains and bring the stranded people to nearby railway stations.

"Ministry of Railways (MoR) would permit movement of Shramik Special trains in consultation with MHA. All

States/ UTs should designate nodal authorities and make necessary arrangements for receiving and sending such stranded persons. Based on the requirements of States/UTs, the train schedule, including stoppages and destination would be finalized by MoR. The same would be communicated by MoR to the States/UTs for making suitable arrangements for sending and receiving such stranded workers," the Home secretary has written in

his note.

Earlier, the railways decided on the allotment of trains in consultation with the States. The problem started when the Centre accused the West Bengal Government of not taking steps to facilitate movement of trains to the State with migrant workers.

"Publicity of train schedule, protocols for entry and move-

ment of passengers, services to be provided in coaches, and arrangements with States/UTs for booking of tickets would be done by MoR. Sending States/UTs and MoR would ensure that all passengers are compulsorily screened and only symptomatic passengers are allowed to board the train.

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200 scheduled non-AC trains from June 1

New Delhi: Providing huge relief to people, specially in the country's small towns and cities, the railways will run 200 special passenger trains from June 1, the national transporter said on Tuesday.

These trains will have non-air conditioned second class coaches and will run daily. They will be plied in addition to the Shramik Special and the air-conditioned special trains which are currently being operated on the Rajdhani routes connecting 15 major cities to Delhi.

All categories of passengers will be allowed to book tickets which will be available online.

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15 more migrants killed in accident

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over dozen of migrant labourers were killed and many others injured in a truck and bus collusion in Naugachhia, near Bhagalpur in Bihar on Tuesday. According to reports, the truck fell off the road after the collision.

The workers had started their journey on bicycles six days ago from Kolkata and they might have boarded the truck somewhere en route. The driver and cleaner of the truck, which was coming from Bengal via Katihar, fled from the spot.

Elsewhere, three migrant labourers were killed and over 12 injured after a vehicle ferrying them overturned on the Jhansi-Mirzapur highway on late Monday night.

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Road Min seeks dedicated lanes for migrants on move

MHA, States requested to give food, medical aids on such roads

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The tragic deaths of migrant workers in road accidents in several parts of the country have forced the Road and Transport Ministry to ask the Union Home Ministry and the States to earmark dedicated lanes for the pedestrians.

These lanes should have provisions for food and medical assistance at certain intervals to facilitate easy movements of migrant workers who have hit the roads to reach their destinations.

Sources said the Home Ministry is in the process of issuing a separate advisory to the States to ensure safety measures for the migrants walking on roads to reach their home.

As many as 1,253 road accidents claimed 456 lives between March 24 and May 19 and left 930 persons injured during the lockdown.

A report submitted to the Centre by a road safety organisation has shown that 180 migrants lost their lives in road accidents which left 694



Locals and policemen stand near the mangled remains of a bus which collided with a stationary truck in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra on Tuesday PTI

Road crashes during lockdown from March 24 - May 19 (5pm)

Total road accidents:	1,253
Total deaths:	456
Total injuries:	930
Migrants deaths:	180
Injured:	694
Essential workers deaths:	30
Injured:	26
Others: Deaths:	246; injured: 210

seriously injured.

According to a study compiled this week, a road crash is 10 times more fatal to someone than getting infected with coronavirus.

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Migrants crowd Bandra station

Mumbai: Hundreds of migrant labourers gathered on an approach road to Bandra Terminus here on Tuesday before the departure of a Shramik Special train for Bihar, leading to chaos in the area for some time. The incident occurred over a month after hundreds of migrant workers had assembled near the Bandra station demanding transport for their repatriation to their native places in the wake of the lockdown.

Delhi on top, Bihar at bottom in test/million

Bengal in eye of Central storm is much ahead of other States

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

A comprehensive data analysis of the Covid-19 testing pattern places national Capital Delhi at the top in terms of number of test carried out per million population followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The worst performer States are Bihar, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh in that order. Interestingly, West Bengal, which drew repeated criticism from the Centre for its alleged inept handling of the outbreak, is ahead of several other States in carrying out Covid-19 identification tests.

The data crunching also reveals while some States have taken the testing protocol very



A healthcare worker collects swab sample of a Gandhi Maidan resident for Covid-19 test at Dharavi slum area in Mumbai on Tuesday PTI

seriously, others have paid little heed to it. As a result, as much as 18-fold gap exists between Delhi and Bihar and six-fold difference between Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

The analysis is based on tests carried out per million populations, which means the size of the State's population and its geographical dimension do not impact the comparative outcome. The test numbers are of May 18.

By Monday, Delhi carried out 1.39 lakh tests, which translates into 7,052 tests per million populations. The national Capital has a very low mortality rate of 1.57 per cent and recovery rate of 45 per cent.

The second placed Andhra Pradesh has carried out 2,58,450 tests for a count of 4,949 tests per million. The southern State has a mortality rate of 2.5 per cent and recovery rate of 66 per cent.

Tamil Nadu, which has seen big spike in cases on daily basis, has carried out 3,37,841 tests for an average of 4,463 tests per million. Tamil Nadu's mortality rate is one of the lowest in the country at 0.7 per cent and its recovery rate stands at 37 per cent.

Delhi's neighbour Rajasthan has carried out a total of 2,43,476 tests, which translates into nearly 3,151 tests for every 1 million people. The State has a recovery rate of 56 per cent and mortality rate of 2.41 per cent.

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Whopping 145 deaths, 6K cases on Tue

50% contribution by Maha in fatalities, 33% in cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A life in several parts of the country started limping back to normalcy on Tuesday following relaxation in lockdown norms, the country saw a massive spike in the number of coronavirus cases with the addition of nearly 6,119 new cases and 145 deaths on Tuesday.

The total numbers of infection across the country swelled to 1,06,446 with Maharashtra alone recording 37,136 cases and Tamil Nadu and Delhi contributing 688 and 500 new cases respectively. Rajasthan also added 338 new cases during the day. The overall addition of new cases for the day stood at 5,931 with number still coming in around 10.30 pm.

The total death toll due to the virus in all the States and Union Territories touched 3,301, according to the Union Health Ministry. The number of active Covid-19 cases stood at 59,799 while 42,307 people have recovered, according to the Union Health Ministry.

"Thus, around 38.73 per

Covid-19
TOTAL CASES: 1,06,448
DEATHS: 3,301
RECOVERED: 42,307

cent patients have recovered so far," said the Health Ministry.

Of the fresh deaths recorded as on Tuesday Gujarat registered high of 25, Bihar recorded nine deaths, West Bengal six, Delhi six, Karnataka three and Odisha one.

Tamil Nadu recorded a high of new 688 cases, Delhi 500, Gujarat 395, Rajasthan 338, Karnataka 149, Uttar Pradesh 145, West Bengal 137, Bihar 72 and Odisha 102.

Maharashtra tops the list of States with highest number coronavirus cases in the country (with its Capital accounting

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	37,136	1,325	9,639
Tamil Nadu	12,448	85	4,895
Gujarat	12,141	719	5,043
Delhi	10,554	166	4,750
Rajasthan	5,845	139	3,232
Madhya Pradesh	5,465	258	2,631
Uttar Pradesh	4,926	123	2,918
West Bengal	2,961	250	1,074
Andhra Pradesh	2,489	52	1,621
Punjab	2,002	38	1,642

for 20 per cent of the cases) at 37,136 cases and a total 1,325 deaths while Gujarat has 12,141 cases and 719 deaths.

Tamil Nadu has 12,448 cases and 85 deaths, Delhi has 10,554 cases and 166 deaths, Madhya Pradesh 5,465 cases and 258 deaths, Rajasthan 5,845 cases and 139 deaths, Uttar Pradesh 4,926 cases and 123 deaths, West Bengal 2,961 cases and 250 deaths, Odisha 978 cases and 15 deaths, Bihar 1495 cases and 9 deaths and Jharkhand with 228 cases and only three deaths.

Mumbai situation is a

cause of concern for the State as Mumbai's Dharavi — the largest slum area — witnessed 1,353 cases.

Similarly, another Capital city Ahmedabad is causing worry with 262 new coronavirus cases in the city taking the number coronavirus cases to 8,945. Ahmedabad has recorded 576 deaths with 21 fresh ones on Tuesday.

Likewise Chennai registered two fresh deaths on Tuesday taking the death toll to 59 in the city with 552 new cases of coronavirus.

Continued on Page 2

SP leader, son shot over road work fight

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In yet another sensational daylight killing during lockdown in Uttar Pradesh, a dalit Samajwadi Party leader, whose wife is also a sitting pradhan, was shot dead along with his son in Sambhal on Tuesday. The incident took place over laying of road in the area.

Soon after the killing, senior officers rushed to the spot and heavy police force was deployed to avert confrontation between the two groups.

Victim Chhote Lal Diwakar (45) is husband of Kamlesh Diwakar, who is a village pradhan of Fatehpur Shamshoi under Behjoi area.

Chhote Lal had a dispute with a family of the village over the road construction work on Tuesday morning. The members of the other family opened fire at Chhote Lal and his son Sunil Diwakar (22), killing them on the spot.

Surprisingly the local residents were engaged in making video of the killing instead of trying to save the victims from the assailants.

CAPSULE

SONIA CALLS MEETING OF OPP PARTIES ON MAY 22

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has called a meeting of Opposition parties on May 22 to discuss the plight of migrants waiting to infiltrate into the Indian side, Jammu and Kashmir's director general of police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said.

JEE MAIN APPLICATION PROCESS TILL MAY 24

New Delhi: The HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has opened the application submission form for JEE Main 2020. Now, the announcement has been made and the JEE Main 2020 application form available again to aid students who dropped study abroad plans till May 24.

OVER 300 TERRORISTS WAITING TO SNEAK IN: DGP

Jammu: Over 300 terrorists are present in launch pads across the LoC in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, waiting to infiltrate into the Indian side, Jammu and Kashmir's director general of police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said.

Amphan weakens but rain, gusts lash Bengal, Odisha

3 lakh people evacuated from coastal districts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Super cyclone "Amphan" weakened into an extremely severe cyclonic storm on Tuesday but still packed enough force to pulverise coastal districts of Odisha and West Bengal where lakhs of people were evacuated from vulnerable areas and shifted to safety, officials said.

As it rumbled over the Bay of Bengal 510 km off the Digha coast in West Bengal, likely charting a north-northeastward course, the two States were on high alert. At least three lakh people have been evacuated from coastal areas and all steps have been taken to deal with any eventuality arising out of Amphan, Chief



Fishermen try to control their boat amid rough sea ahead of the landfall of Cyclone Amphan at Puri beach on Tuesday PTI

Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Tuesday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday spoke to Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Odisha — Mamata Banerjee and Navin Patnaik respectively — and assured them of all possible help to deal

with the situation arising out of Amphan, officials said.

During the telephonic conversation with Mamata, Shah took stock of the situation in Bengal, where the cyclone is expected to make landfall on Wednesday.

Continued on Page 2

BJP, Cong 'at war' after UP Govt says Cong's 1K bus list has autos, taxis

Priyanka secy, UP Cong chief booked for false details

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

The twitter war between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi over the permission for operation of buses for the return of migrant labourers to their homes took a turn for the worse with the arrest of UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar (Lallu) in Agra and lodging of an FIR against Priyanka Gandhi's personal secretary Sandeep Singh and the UPCC chief in Lucknow for furnishing wrong details about

buses.

The Congress has hit back at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath saying he was engaging in cheap politics.

Government spokesman said Ajay Kumar Lallu, who was staging a dharna at Agra, was arrested while an FIR has been lodged against him under Section 420/467/468 IPC for furnishing false details about the buses purported to be for ferrying migrant workers.

In a joint statement Additional Police Commissioner (Traffic) Lucknow, Pundendu Singh and RTO Lucknow, RP Dwivedi, said that the verification of the list of buses provided by Congress showed that over 100 numbers were that of tempos, ambulances or taxis.

Continued on Page 2

Markets deserted on Day 1 in Delhi

Heavy traffic on Capital borders

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After being closed for nearly two months, shopkeepers in several markets across the national Capital opened their shops on Tuesday following the "odd-even" formula while sanitising and trying to establish social distancing protocols to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Also, with relaxations being granted for public movement during the fourth phase of the lockdown, there was a significant increase in the number of vehicles on roads and traffic remained heavy at some places, especially the city borders on Tuesday.

While popular markets like Connaught Place and Khan



Heavy traffic on Ring Road towards Sarai Kale Khan in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Market bore a deserted look in the first half of the day, traders in markets like Tilak Nagar, Karol Bagh and Sarojini Nagar were seen cleaning their shops.

Sushil Khatri, president of the Tilak Nagar Main Market Association, said shops had opened but many were clueless about the odd-even rule.

Continued on Page 2

LIPULEKH, KALAPANI, LIMPIYADHURA

Nepal will reclaim its territory from India: Oli

PTI ■ KATHMANDU



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Tuesday asserted that Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura belong to Nepal and vowed to "reclaim" them from India through political and diplomatic efforts, as his Cabinet endorsed a new political map showing the three areas as Nepalese territory.

Addressing Parliament, Oli said the territories belong to Nepal "but India has made it a disputed area by keeping its Army there". "Nepalis were blocked from going there after India stationed its Army," he said.

"India has deployed its troops in Kalapani since 1962 and our rulers in the past hesitated to raise the issue," he said, asserting, "We will reclaim and get them back."

The Prime Minister asserted that the Nepal Government will make political and diplomatic efforts to reclaim the territory.

Oli also expressed the hope that India will "follow the path of truth, shown by Satya Meva Jayate, which is mentioned in the Ashoka Chakra, the national symbol of India".

The prime minister's remarks came a day after the

Vinay Mohan Kwatra and handed over a diplomatic note to him to protest against the construction of a key road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand.

India has said that the recently-inaugurated road section in Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand lies completely within its territory. Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane last week said that there were reasons to believe that Nepal objected to India's newly-inaugurated road linking Lipulekh Pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand at the behest of "someone else", in an apparent reference to a possible role by China on the matter.

He said there was no dispute whatsoever between India and Nepal in the area and road laid was very much within the Indian side.

The 80-KM-long strategically crucial road at a height of 17,000 KM along the border with China in Uttarakhand was thrown open by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh earlier this month.

India and Nepal are at a row after the Indian side issued a new political map incorporating Kalapani and Lipulekh on its side of the border in October last year.

1,972 returned to Mumbai from abroad under Vande Bharat

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 1,972 Indians have reached Maharashtra by the Union Government's "Vande Bharat Abhiyan special flights from 10 countries.

Announcing this, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said here on Tuesday: "Thirteen special flights brought 822 people hailing from Mumbai, 1,025 from rest of Maharashtra and 125 from other States in the country".

"We expect the Government to operate another 27 special flights to bring back the people from Maharashtra stranded in different countries over the coming weeks," the chief minister said.

Till date, the highest num-

ber of 653 people came from United Kingdom, 243 from Singapore, 150 from the Philippines, 107 from Bangladesh, 107 from San Francisco, 208 from New York and 195 from Chicago (all USA), 201 from Malaysia, 78 from Ethiopia, 16 from Oman, 12 from Afghanistan and 2 from Kuwait, which is the lowest in the list. "All those who have returned from abroad have been sent to precautionary institutional quarantine for 14 days by the state government, including those from other states which are not ready to accept them," Uddhav said.

"Arrangements have been made to send those from out of Mumbai to their respective districts," he added.

Road Min seeks dedicated...

From Page 1

During the last two months, the fatality rate on road stood at 32 per cent compared to 2019 when it was 30 per cent.

Organisations and NGOs working in the field of road and highways safety have demanded certain vital measures which include a dedicated lane free from motor movement to facilitate safe movement of the migrant workers.

Experts have also sought kiosk, food and medical facilities and a mini motorcade system which can ferry the needy like old people, children, divyangs for some distance.

But the most significant and urgent demand of the experts is to allow only trained drivers on long-distance highways and roads and restrict the speed. In case of speed violation, the

owners of the vehicles and drivers should be booked under Epidemic Act besides their prosecution as per the provision under Motor Vehicle Act.

"Yet another mass casualty crash in Bhagalpur district of Bihar has broken the myth that Indian roads are safe during the lockdown due to Covid. Over 450 people have lost their lives and another 930 have been injured in road crashes since the lockdown began on March 24. As many as 39 per cent (180) of these deaths include migrant workers. The reasons for these deaths include driver fatigue, speeding, collisions and pedestrian runaways. State Governments need to urgently implement measures to ensure their safety," said Piyush Tewari, Founder & CEO SaveLIFE Foundation, working on road safety and conducting research on road safety issues comparing with Covid-19 lockdown.

Markets deserted... Amphan weakens...

From Page 1

"Since many shops have opened after 56 days, many are cleaning them and setting things in order. We have requested the police to allow us to open the shops for today. We are waiting for more guidelines from the Delhi Police on the odd-even formula," he said.

Policemen were seen making announcements, urging shopkeepers not to encroach on roads and ensure that crowding doesn't take place outside their shops.

Harminder Singh, who runs a kitchenware shop, said as a precautionary measure, customers will not be allowed inside shops. He also had a rope tied outside his shop and had kept a sanitiser bottle as a precautionary measure.

Connaught Place, which is the commercial hub in Central Delhi, saw traders marking circles to ensure that visitors can ensure social distancing.

Implementation of Rahul's Nyay begins in C'garh

Raipur: Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who announced the launch of the Nyay scheme in Chhattisgarh, the implementation of the scheme has also started from Chhattisgarh itself. The Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana being launched by the Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel from May 21 can be seen as a link to it. The Nyay scheme that Congress had promised to implement in its manifesto was aimed at ensuring minimum income availability of the poor through direct bank transfer. Soon after the Govt formation in Chhattisgarh, work was started regarding the economic strengthening of farmers, tribals and laborers.

Whopping 145...

From Page 1

More than 70 per cent of the deaths are due to comorbidities, the existence of multiple disorders in the same person, it said.

Even as the number continue to surge, the Health Ministry maintained that in terms of case mortality per lakh population, India has so far about 0.2 Covid-19 deaths per lakh population as compared to approximately 4.1 deaths per lakh population for rest of the world as a whole.

The "relatively low death figures" in India represent timely case identification and clinical management of the cases, said the Ministry.

BJP, Cong 'at war'...

From Page 1

"The verification through database of vehicles available on NIC site confirmed that out of 1,049 registration numbers given by the Congress, 879 are of buses, 31 of auto/three-wheeler, 69 of other vehicles while there is no record available of 70 registration numbers," they said.

The Government further claimed that out of the above 879 buses 79 were not having fitness certificate, insurance of 140 buses already expired while 78 were not having both insur-

States' go-ahead...

From Page 1

Social distancing to be observed by all passengers during boarding and travel. On arrival at their destination, the travelling passengers will have to adhere to such health protocols as are prescribed by the destination State/UT," said MHA Secretary's letter detailing the new SoPs in trains. In another letter also the Home Secretary urged the States to have proactive coordination with Railways on handling the migrant labourers movement and dispatching the labourers walking on road to nearby railway stations. The MHA asked States to run more buses to ensure the smooth transition, especially at the inter-State borders.

ance and fitness certificate.

"The Congress has committed fraud as telling lies is in the DNA of the party and the Congress leaders have fooled people to get political mileage out of this crisis," UP Government spokesman Sidharth Nath Singh said in a statement. Enraged over the accusation of giving the registration numbers of autos and two-wheelers in the list of buses, the veteran Congress leader and former MP Pramod Tiwari said that BJP people are trying to malign the Congress and in such a situation, the party will file a defamation suit.

200 scheduled...

From Page 1

"Indian Railways will run 200 non-AC trains daily as per the time table from June 1, whose online booking will start soon," tweeted Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

While the railways is yet to state which routes these trains


King George's Medical University U.P. Lucknow

E-Tender Inviting Notice

Notice No:04/MS/TC/e-tender/2020

Date: 19/05/2020

Online e-bids are invited latest by **19-06-2020** under two e-bid system for

Pest control measures and services in King George Medical University

Lucknow, The details of the tender can be viewed at www.kgmu.org. Tender will be available on e-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/>.

(Medical Superintendent)


NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Email:- dycmmcon@ner.railnet.gov.in, Internet: www.ireps.gov.in, Fax No.: 0551-2282448

TENDER NOTICE No. 01 DATED 18.05.2020

Invitation of tenders through e-procurement system

By Chief Material Manager / Con, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, Invites tenders through e-Procurement system for the supply of the following Items. Complete description of the item and other conditions are available on [website www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Sr. No.	Tender No. D_R Date	Brief Description of Stores	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (₹)
01	17205021A Dt. 15.06.2020	Relay AC Immune Plug in type style QSPA1 DC neutral line slow to pick up 24V, 8F-4B contacts.	716 Nos.	63370.00
02	17205010 Dt. 15.06.2020	SMPS based integrated power supply systems as per RDSO specn. No. RDSO/SPN/165/2012 (Ver-3.0)	14 Nos.	369690.00
03	17195161A Dt. 15.06.2020	Relay AC Immune plug in type style QBCA1 DC biased point contactor for 24V, 2F (2HD) 4b contacts.	700 Nos.	53690.00

(1) Above tenders are available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The firm desires in participating against e/tender are advised to electronically regd. themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtained) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. (2) Advertised tender of Dy. Chief Material Manager/Con, NER, Gorakhpur, are being opened through EPS (E-Procurement System) only. Firms desiring to participate in Dy. Chief Material Manager/Con, NER/GKP should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. (3) In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail. (4) Head of allocation towards cost of Earnest money & SD money is 00844556. (5) Items above is reserved to be procured from RDSO approved source only.

Dy Chief Material Manager/Con/ N.E. Railway/Gorakhpur

CPRO-S/2

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794849555

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Vidisha (M.P.)

Tender Notice

NIT No-14,15,16 /2020

Date 06.05.2020

Online Tender for mentioned below are invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of Work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PCA) (Rs. In lack)	Physical submission (Original EMD & Other Document) at the office of as mentioned
1	2020_PW D_RB_88 645_1	Vidisha	B.T. Renewal	B.T. Renewal work on Karariya Shamshabad road Km. 22 to 37.	1st Call	226.38	Office of the Chief Engineer Capital Zone PDW. Nirman Bhawan, Area Hills Bhopal before 02.06.2020 upto 17.30 PM
2	2020_PW D_RB_88 653_1	Vidisha	B.T. Renewal	B.T. Renewal work on Dhatriyura Hawell to Karrakhedi Madankedi road Km. 4.50 to 7.5 total 3.00 Km.	Vith Call	22.77	Office of the Chief Engineer Capital Zone PDW. Nirman Bhawan, Area Hills Bhopal before 02.06.2020 upto 17.30 PM
3	2020_PW D_RB_88 659_1	Vidisha	B.T. Renewal	B.T. Renewal work in Bais Nagar Nimkhiriya Chheerkheda road Km. 3/6 to 5/10 and Chheerkheda Neemkheda road Km. 1 to 4. total length 6.40	Vith Call	48.06	Office of the Chief Engineer Capital Zone PDW. Nirman Bhawan, Area Hills Bhopal before 02.06.2020 upto 17.30 PM
				Total		297.21	

The documents can only be purchased online from the above websit after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document online is Dated 27.05.2020 up to (17.30) Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

The Original FDR & Other document will be received on Dated 02.06.2020 up to (17.30) through speed post service only in the office mentioned.

Executive Engineer
PWD. Division Vidisha

G-11308/20

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MECHANICAL WORK YEAR 2020-21

NIT 06/2020-21-DSLBGKT 1. Name of work, location & Completion period - Complete work of comprehensive Housekeeping of Diesel Shed, BGKT, consisting of shed cleaning, Store Depot Cleaning, loco washing, Sand Filling in locomotive and operation & maintenance of ETP & Incinerator Plant and Maintenance of garden area at BGKT shed as per scope of work for two years.

2. Approx. cost of the work - Rs. : 1,72,33,096.00. 3. Earnest money to be deposited - Rs. : 2,36,200.00. 4. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender - Up to 15.00 Hrs on 08/06/2020. Tenders will be opened soon after.

5. Website particular and Address of the office- <http://www.ireps.in> Notice board of Sr Section Engineer (General) North Western Railway, Diesel Shed, Bhagat Ki Kothi (Jodhpur)'s notice board.

487-AJJ/20

Contact help line no. 139 for general complaints.

Delhi on top, Bihar at bottom...

From Page 1

Maharashtra, which is the worst affected State in the country, has carried out 2,82,437 tests, which makes for 2,312 test per million population. The State has a mortality rate of 3.5 per cent and a low recovery rate of 24 per cent.

Karnataka, which has opened up its economic activities in a big way, has carried out 1,51,663 tests, that comes to about 2,305 for every 1 million people.

Similarly, Gujarat, which has also emerged as one of the worst affected States, has carried out 1,48,824 tests, accounting for 2,191 tests per million. Gujarat has a very high mortality rate of 5.9 per cent and recovery rate at 41 per cent.

Odisha, which largely remained untouched by coro-

navirus before the return of the migrants, has carried out 95,776 tests, which make for 2,193 tests per million.

Kerala, which was the first in the country to record a coronavirus case on January 30 and which has since then done well to control its spread, has carried out just 45,905 tests, which accounts for a mere 1,307 per million population.

Punjab, another State which did well to control coronavirus spread before the return of the Sikh pilgrims from Nanded in Maharashtra, has carried out 52,955 tests -- that is 11,774 tests per million, better than many smaller States of its size.

Assam, which is gateway to North-East, where the spread of coronavirus was confined to a single digit in majority of the States, has carried out 37,898 tests, that is 1,105 tests per million.

Bihar will end with wood-

populated States, carrying just 46,996 tests with only 393 tests per million populations. The State has recorded less than 1,500 positive cases and nine deaths, but going by the dismal record on testing the real number could be far bigger. The days ahead could see sharp spike in cases from Bihar.

Telangana is the second worst State in carrying out tests. The State has reported just 23,000 tests for a dismal count of around 630 test per million.

Uttar Pradesh is the third worst State in terms of parameters of testing per million populations. The State has carried out just 1,76, 479 tests. This makes for only 784 tests for every 1 million people in India's biggest populated State.

Then comes the turn of Jharkhand, which has carried out 35,359 tests, which makes for 945 tests per million populations.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BULANDSHAHR CIRCLE, P.W.D, BULANDSHAHR

No. 4267/96M(I)/E-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2019

Date 08-05-2020

E-Procurement Inviting Short Tender Notice

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, S.E. Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, from Date 26.05.2020 10.00 A.M. to 02.06.2020 upto 12.00 Noon. as per the prescribed T-2 of Govt. U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated **02.06.2020 at 12.30 Noon**. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs)	Work Completion	Tender document fee including GST	Contractors Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Renewal Arnargarh Thana Gajrola Via Unchagaon Road (ODR) Km.1 to 7 (870)	66.08	5.30	02 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+2000+G.S.T. Rs.414.0=2714.00	A, B, C (Road Work)
2	Renewal Lakhawati Khanpur Gesupur Basi Ghat Road (ODR) Km. 18 to 26 (675)	81.23	6.06	02 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+2000+G.S.T. Rs.414.0=2714.00	A, B (Road Work)
3	Renewal Of Sikandrabad to Dadupur Neela Mansukgharhi Rittholi Link Road Km. 3 to 7 (700)	40.20	4.01	02 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+2000+G.S.T. Rs.414.0=2714.00	A, B, C (Road Work)
4	New Construction of Dehra to Dehra Nato Ki Madhiya	85.00	6.25	06 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+2000+G.S.T. Rs.414.0=2714.00	A, B, (Road Work)
5	Renewal Of Jahangirabad Khanpur Road (ODR) Km. 3 to 6	42.00	4.10	02 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+2000+G.S.T. Rs.414.0=2714.00	A, B, C (Road Work)

1. The Bid Security and Tender Document Fee must be deposite through Internet Banking only. 2. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 Year and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 Years on chanakya software before Submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on <https://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on uppwd Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid. 3. Terms & Conditions related to bids are available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>.

Executive Engineer
Construction Division-2
PWD Bulandshahr

U.P.: 151490, Date: 14.05.2020
बिज्ञापन वेबसाईट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr Circle,
P.W.D., Bulandshahr

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मंडल क्रं-1, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना

क्र. / जी / 40-87 / सा05(112)

रायपुर, दिनांक /05/2020

एन.आई.टी क्रं 02 दिनांक 24.04.2020 के द्वारा डॉ. भीमराव अम्बेडकर स्मृति चिकित्सालय रायपुर के आई.सी.यु. वार्ड का अपग्रेडेशन तथा परिवर्तन एवं परिवर्धन के लिये नया वार्ड बनाने हेतु आर्किटेक्ट नियुक्त करने बाबत् आमंत्रित निविदा अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।

जी.नं.-80257

हस्ता/ -

R.O. No:- 80830/5

R.O. Date:- 18/05/2020

अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग रायपुर मंडल क्र.-1 रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Cars hog roads, jams at borders on lockdown 4.0 Day 1

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the second day of lockdown 4.0, there was a huge traffic movement across the National Capital, with traffic at snarls at Noida and Ghazipur border ,as UP Police asked for passes from motorists, during morning hours.

Public transport resumed in Delhi on Tuesday with buses, auto-rickshaws and taxis plying on the road, albeit with a limited number of passengers. The Delhi Transport Corporation and Cluster buses resumed services with social-distancing norms and safety measures in place like use of sanitisers and masks to check the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday had announced relaxations in curbs, including reopening of public transport with social-distancing norms, during the extended lockdown that is slated to end on May 31.

Following the traffic movement since Tuesday morning and long vehicle queues at Delhi-Noida borders, the Delhi Traffic Police alerted through Twitter commuters travelling to Noida to plan their trip only if their vehicles have movement passes issued by the authorities concerned.

"As U.P. Police is allowing entry to Noida only for vehicle heaving movement pass issued by D.M. NOIDA. People travelling from Delhi to Noida using Kalindi Kunj barrage flyover and DND flyover may plan their trip accordingly," it tweeted.

A senior Uttar Pradesh Police official said scores of people thronged the Delhi-Noida border Tuesday morning.

"We are checking every vehicle but sometimes it becomes very difficult due to the numbers of vehicles. People with valid passes are being allowed. However, if someone



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

does not have a pass and is carrying some important items like medicine, they are also being allowed," he said.

The official said there were some who had come out only

to roam in the area and they were sent back with a warning.

According to a Delhi Traffic Police officer deployed at the Noida border, most of the vehicles were going from Delhi

officers said over 2,000 traffic police personnel have been deployed on the ground to ensure the smooth flow of vehicular movement across the city and at the adjoining bordering areas.

In the wake of relaxations during the phase four of the lockdown, the volume of vehicles on the roads increased significantly and to manage the movement of traffic, the focus is being laid on regulation in junction management, said Taj Hasan, Special Commissioner of Police, Traffic.

"Police had presence on pickets earlier but now with the increase in vehicles on the roads, we have also deployed our staff on traffic junctions for regulations to ensure smooth movement of traffic and no jams," he said.

Several pickets of traffic police personnel, Hasan said, have been deployed across the city and at the bordering areas.

On the eastern border alone, at least 16 pickets from

the department have been deployed to control traffic, he added.

Since rules were being strictly followed at the UP border and many commuters were not allowed entry, those who were on the stretch of Kalindi Kunj were asked to take

a U-turn, due to which there was a heavy traffic movement, Hasan said.

Traffic officials said even though the volume of vehicles has increased across the city but no reports no major jams have been reported so far.

1L notices issued through SMS, speed post to traffic violators since 1st phase of virus lockdown

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Traffic Police on Tuesday said they have issued over one lakh notices through SMS and speed post for compoundable offences captured on camera since the first phase of coronavirus lockdown.

According to police, the traffic police has issued 1,00,436 notices through SMS and another 80 notices through speed post from March 25 to May 17.

"During the same period, 7,998 notices were sent for violations regarding improper parking which were registered through the 'violation on camera app,'" said police.

Traffic police officials said in the coming weeks, they would be prioritising action against improper parking and lane violation to decongest driving space on the road and to make driving safer.

Meanwhile, NS Bundela, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic said that to protect the health of its personnel and to ensure public safety, the traffic police has opted for electronic enforcement of traffic over physical enforcement.

"It is now focusing on contactless traffic enforcement drive with maximum use of camera-based violation detections through 'violation on camera app', traffic sentinel, red light violation detection and tripod mounted laser speed gun cameras,"said Joint CP.

"We have also distributed

immunity booster kits, encouraged practice of yoga among traffic staff to ensure good health. With the help of public traffic ranges, the department had also arranged food and distributed mask and sanitizers to the needy," he said.

Counselling session on coronavirus has also been organised for traffic staff through webinars with the help of doctors from prominent hospitals, he said.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCPs) of each traffic range have been nominated as Nodal Health Officer for briefing and sensitizing the staff regarding prevention and protection from COVID-19, he added.

Besides, the traffic police in association with the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indraprastha Gas Ltd and Eicher Motor Ltd organized a road safety and corona sensitization campaign for commercial vehicle drivers at Burari ground and more than 3000 kits were also distributed to them, the senior officer said.

Safety kits were also distributed to drivers at the border areas by the concerned DCP traffic of south, outer, west and east range, he added.

For disposing of camera-based traffic violations, virtual court was established on May 13 which will further strengthen the traffic discipline in the city and till May 18, it had received 32,722 non-compoundable offences for disposal, officials added.

Healthcare workers in hospitals must adopt safety measures: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the guidelines of Union Health Ministry, the Delhi Government on Tuesday issued an order on measures to be adopted by healthcare workers deployed in Covid and non-Covid areas of hospitals.

The Union Health Ministry had on Friday issued an advisory, asking healthcare facilities to activate their Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC), which is responsible for implementing the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) activities and organizing regular training on IPC for its workers.

The nodal officer will be identified to ensure that healthcare workers in different settings of hospitals use PPEs appropriate to their risk profile, as detailed in the guidelines issued by the ministry, and they have undergone training on IPC and are aware of common signs and symptoms, need for self-health monitoring and

prompt reporting of such symptoms, a government official said.

The official further said that the move is taken as preventive measures after the Health Ministry issued guidelines on various measures including isolation and quarantine for healthcare workers deployed in Covid and non-Covid areas of hospitals.

According to health ministry advisory, a nodal officer (Infection Control Officer) shall be identified by each hospital to address all matters related to Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs).

The nodal officer also has to make provisions for regular (thermal) screening of all hospital staff and ensure that all healthcare workers managing COVID-19 cases are provided with chemo-prophylaxis under medical supervision, the ministry had said.

The advisory also suggested on actions for healthcare workers. "They need to ensure

that all preventive measures like frequent washing of hands/use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers and respiratory etiquettes (using tissue/handkerchief

while coughing or sneezing) are followed at all times.

It also asked healthcare workers to follow social distancing and use masks to pre-

vent transmission or acquiring infection."

Pregnant/lactating mothers and immuno-compromised healthcare workers shall inform

their medical condition to the hospital authorities for them to get posted only in non-Covid areas," the advisory said.

52 dengue cases reported this year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With four fresh cases reported last week, the number of people suffering from dengue in the national Capital has reached to 52 this year. Meanwhile, no new cases of malaria and chikungunya reported in last one week.

The number of people diagnosed with malaria and chikungunya stand at 39 and 18 respectively.

Out of total dengue cases, 18 patients who diagnosed with the disease belong to Delhi while 23 patients traced here were from different states and other 11 patients did not

provide their address.

Mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 1619 households and 1870 legal notices have been issued this year, according to data released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

The dengue breeding checkers have checked 3543681 houses and also issued challans to 59 numbers of office and residential premises till May 16.

A senior SDMC official said that all the preventive steps have been taken to reduce the cases. "The key to prevention of Dengue is ensuring there is no clean

stagnant water in homes and around, which does not allow the Aedes mosquitoes to breed, and therefore dengue cannot spread," he said.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had last month chaired a high-level review meeting on prevention and control of vector borne diseases and stressed on the importance of innovative awareness drives, community participation and cooperation of all the stakeholders in changing the situation of Covid-19 to prevent such diseases.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mos-

quito thrive even in dirty water. Doctors have advised people to take precautions and ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae around them. They have urged people to wear full-sleeves clothes and use mosquito nets.

The malaria parasite is transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitoes, which bite mainly between dusk and dawn. According to World Health Organisation malaria is caused by the protozoan parasite Plasmodium. Human malaria is caused by four different species of Plasmodium: P falciparum, P malariae, P ovale and P vivax.

NDMC gets 3-star rating in garbage free cities category

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Tuesday certified as 3 star rating city under the garbage free cities category by Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs.

In an event held at New Delhi, Hardeep Singh Puri ,



Ministre of State for Housing and Urban affairs announced the result of smart rating of garbage free cities in which NDMC certified as 3 star rating for the assessment year 2019- 2020, the NDMC said in a statement.

The 'Star Rating Protocol' was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in January 2018 to institutionalised a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.

21-yr old stabbed to death in Neb Sarai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old man was stabbed to death over a petty issue in south Delhi's Neb Sarai area. Police said that the incident occurred on Saturday and one accused has been arrested while two juveniles have been detained.

The victim has been identified as Rohit (21), a resident of Sangam Vihar.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on Saturday, police received information that a man had been stabbed in Sangam Vihar.

"On reaching the spot, the victim was found dead. One Virender, who sustained injuries on his elbow, was also found at the spot," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police .

"During enquiry, it was revealed that eight to nine people were playing ludo on mobile phone in the jungle behind Sangam Vihar on Saturday evening. Meanwhile,

three to four persons came there and started pelting stones on them," said the DCP.

"When the other persons left the spot, the accused stabbed Rohit on his chest and also injured Virender. Later, the accused fled from the spot. The dead body of deceased was sent to AIIMS Hospital," said the DCP.

"During investigation, the eyewitnesses revealed the name of accused as Aarif (20), a resident of Sangam Vihar, and two juveniles. On the basis of the information, raids were conducted at their possible hide-outs and Aarif was nabbed, the Deputy Commissioner of Police said.

"Interrogation revealed that a quarrel had taken place between Aarif and Rohit, following which Aarif threatened the victim of dire consequences. Aarif also disclosed that one Ram Babu and two juveniles were also involved in the crime. Thereafter, the juveniles were also apprehended," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

NEW DELHI: More than four lakh people have registered at the Delhi Government's website for going home, with the city Government arranging transport for about 65,000 migrants, the official data said.

Speaking to IANS, an official said a fresh order has been issued by the Delhi government directing for publicizing the weblink <https://epass.jantamavard.org> among stranded persons and also counselling the migrants against travelling on foot and walking on railway tracks.

"More than four lakh people have registered at the website for going home. About 65,000 have been sent to their home states since the travel was allowed," the official told IANS on Tuesday.

The official said transport is being arranged for more and more people as more requests are coming each day.

"This is an ongoing process. After we receive a request, we forward it to their home state and after their approval, the demand for a train is forwarded to the Ministry of Railways," the official said.

The order, signed by the Delhi Chief Secretary, said District Magistrates should check around railway stations and ISBTs to ensure that migrants are shifted to the nearest shelter homes in the district by buses arranged by the administration.

"The Delhi Chief Secretary has directed that it has to be ensured that the movement of stranded migrant workers who are willing to go their home states is facilitated and the stranded migrant workers appropriately persuaded and counselled that they should not be walking on road and railway tracks when they can travel in buses, trains," the official said.

The order, according to the official, also said that the information on the arrangements for travel in special buses and Shramik specials should not be widely disseminated among migrant workers. The Chief Secretary, in the order, a copy of which is with IANS, also said that the provision of food and lodging should be made for the migrants and finally district Nodal Officers or additional



District Magistrates concerned should make their travel plan state-wise and integrate them with the scheduled trains leaving Delhi.

"Special buses from railway stations, to ferry the passengers arriving by trains to their home, shall be engaged wherever public/personal transport is not available, subject to maintaining proper social distancing norms."

The order said necessary security arrangements should be made by the police at all places in order to facilitate smooth movement of stranded

persons.

"State Nodal Officers in coordination with the State/UT specific Nodal Officers and District Nodal Officers shall assess the requirement of additional trains for migrant persons and convey the same to the Ministry of Railways," the order said.

The order came days after the Chief Secretary ordered the officials concerned to ensure that the migrant workers do not walk on roads or railway tracks and should be taken to the nearest shelter facilities, if found doing so.

As per the official data, over 18,000 people were housed in about 340 shelters across the city. The government has also arranged about 1,900 Food Centres catering to over million beneficiaries daily twice.

Thousands of migrants are stuck at different places away from home due to sudden announcement of the lockdown from March 25.

The workers have started returning to their native villages and hometowns on foot or in overcrowded vehicles, resulting in deaths and fatal accidents.

IANS

Rly starts operating its most powerful locomotive WAG 12

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has become 16th country in the world to join the elite club of producing high horse power locomotive (12000 HP) indigenously under 'Make in India' programme.

The locomotive manufactured by Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt. Ltd. (MELPL) will help to decongest the saturated tracks by improving average speed and loading capacity of freight trains

The Ministry claimed that the high horse power locomotive is operationalised on broad gauge track in the world for the first time. The locomotive made its maiden commercial run between Deen Dayal Upadhaya Station to Shipur Monday.

"The loco is named WAG12 with Number 60027.

The train departed from Deen Dayal Upadhaya Station at 14:08 hrs in long haul formation for Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway, consisting of 118 wagons which travelled from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhaya Jn to Barwadih via Delhi-on-Sone, Garhwa Road," the ministry said in a statement.

The Ministry said that it was a proud moment for Indian Railways, as it became 6th country in the world to join the elite club of producing high horse power locomotive indigenously.

The Madhepura factory is the largest integrated green field facility built to the highest standards of quality and safety with production capacity of 120 locomotives and spread across a massive 250 acres.



"The locomotive with twin Bo-Bo design having 22.5 T (tonnes) axle load is upgradable to 25 tonnes with design speed of 120 kmph. This locomotive will be a game changer for further movement of coal trains for Dedicated Freight Corridor," it said, adding that the locomotives can be tracked through GPS for its strategic use through embedded software and Antennae being lifted through the servers on ground through microwave link.

"The locomotive is capable of working on railway tracks

with conventional OHE lines as well as on Dedicated Freight corridors with high rise OHE lines," it said.

The ministry further said that the locomotive has air-conditioned driver cabs on either side. The locomotive is equipped with regenerative braking system which provides substantial energy savings during operations. "These high horse power locomotives will help to decongest the saturated tracks by improving average speed of freight trains," it added.

The design was completed for the whole locomotive in a record time of four to six months and despite the initial hiccups and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it could not dampen the spirit of August initiative of IR, surpassing all odds we could

secure the permission of the Bihar Government to resume operations at the Madhepura Factory putting the project back on track.

As part of the project, factory along with township has been set up in Madhepura (Bihar) with capacity to manufacture 120 locomotives per year. "The project will create more than 10,000 direct and indirect jobs in the country. More than Rs 2000 Cr has been invested in the project by the company," it added.

The project started in 2018 and the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the project on 10th April 2018. The prototype locomotive was delivered in March 2018. Based on the test results having design issues, the complete locomotive including bogies has been redesigned.

65,000 migrants sent back to home States by trains: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said till now , around 65,000 migrants from Delhi have been sent to their home States by train. Delhi government is seeking permission from different states to send back their citizens stranded.

On migrants and construction workers issue, Delhi Labour Minister Gopal Rai also interacted with nodal officers digitally.

Delhi government has given Rs5000 financial assistance to construction workers.

While Delhi government has allowed construction activities in Delhi, Rai said that workers can register themselves on web portal - www.edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in to get assistance from the government.

Rai said that 40000 workers have received financial assistance from the government till date. The Minister has directed nodal officers to collect labourers and construction

workers' data so that timely assistance could avail them.

This may be noted that in May month, few construction workers could not get the assistance as they weren't registered with government's e-portal thus Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi has launched the web portal.

Meanwhile ,Delhi has reported 500 fresh coronavirus cases in last 24 hours largest single - day spike. With this , the total number of coronacases now 10, 554 of which 5,638 are active cases and 166 fatalities.

33% corona patients later suffer from post-traumatic stress

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As countries world over battle the Covid-19 contagion, a new epidemic in the form of mental health disorder is on the anvil.

Researchers in the UK have found that one in three people infected with coronavirus later suffers symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including depression and anxiety.

PTSD is an anxiety disorder caused by very stressful, frightening or distressing events. The estimates are based on an analysis of multiple studies of SARS and MERS, two outbreaks caused by different strains of coronavirus, as well as the effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection on people in hospitals wherein they developed mental health disorders after an average of almost three years.

One in four people hospitalised with Covid-19 also experience delirium during their illness, which can increase risk of death or extend time in hospital, the researchers said in their study published in The Lancet Psychiatry.

While the long-term effects of Covid-19 were not addressed in the study, the effects of previous coronavirus outbreaks suggest long-lasting mental health problems. Overall, people infected by one of the many types of coronavirus may experience psychiatric problems, both while hospitalised and potentially after they recover.



- Researchers in the UK have found that one in three people infected with coronavirus later suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including depression and anxiety
- PTSD is an anxiety disorder caused by very stressful, frightening or distressing events
- One in four people hospitalised with Covid-19 also experience delirium during their illness, which can increase risk of death or extend time in hospital, the researchers said in their study published in The Lancet Psychiatry
- The team analysed 65 peer-reviewed studies and seven recent pre-prints that are awaiting peer review. These included data from more 3,500 people who have had one of the three related illnesses
- When data for patients with Covid-19 was examined, the scientists found evidence for delirium in 26 of 40 intensive care unit patients and more mild symptoms of agitation in 40 of 58 intensive care unit patients

“Most people with Covid-19 will not develop any mental health problems, even among those with severe cases requiring hospitalisation, but given the huge numbers of people getting sick, the global impact on mental health could be considerable,” said co-lead author of the study Dr Jonathan Rogers at the University College London (UCL) Division of Psychiatry.

“Our analysis focuses on potential mental health risks of being hospitalised with a virus infection, and how psychiatric conditions could worsen the prognosis or hold people back

from returning to their normal lives after recovering.”

The team analysed 65 peer-reviewed studies and seven recent pre-prints that are awaiting peer review. These included data from more 3,500 people who have had one of the three related illnesses.

When data for patients with Covid-19 was examined, the scientists found evidence for delirium in 26 of 40 intensive care unit patients and more mild symptoms of agitation in 40 of 58 intensive care unit patients.

“To avoid a large-scale mental health crisis, we hope

Emergency dental procedures banned in Red zone

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With dentists, auxiliaries and patients at high risk of cross-infection in a dental clinic during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Union Health Ministry has banned any emergency dental procedures in the Red zone while in Orange and Green zones such services will be allowed with restrictions.

The same will, however, still remain closed in Containment zones complete-

ly but tele-consultancy can be done for those seeking such facility.

Further, in case of emergencies, patients in this zone can seek ambulance services to travel to the nearby Covid dental facility, according to the guidelines issued by the Ministry on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has further said, “Due to the high risk associated with the examination of the oral cavity, oral cancer screening under National

Cancer Screening program should be deferred until new policy/guidelines are issued.”

“All routine and elective dental procedures should be deferred for a later review until new policy/guidelines are issued,” it further added.

Meanwhile, the guidelines have also identified a list of protocols which need to be followed, in the clinics and dental hospitals irrespective of the zones.

The Ministry has asked the dental clinics to ensure venti-

lation and air circulation with natural air using exhaust blowers, avoid ceiling fans. In case of window or split air conditioning system, they should be frequently serviced.

Use of an indoor portable air-cleaning system with HEPA filter and UV light has been advised. It also has encouraged telephonic screening as the first contact to get all necessary medical history and if the patients show symptoms of Coronavirus, the dental care appointment should be post-

poned for three weeks except on dental emergencies.

The dental professionals have been asked to encourage the use of Aarogya Setu App among the patients. Earlier, the ministry’s guidelines stated that dental care settings invariably carry the risk of Covid-19 infection due to the specificity of its procedures, which involves face-to-face communication with patients, and frequent exposure to saliva, blood, and other body fluids, and the handling of sharp instruments.

HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES WORKPLACE GUIDELINES ON CORONA

No need to close entire office, disinfect & resume work

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of opening up of more offices and workplaces following lockdown relaxations, the Union Health Ministry has issued a set of guidelines detailing Do’s and Don’ts on preventive and response measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 in workplace settings.

As per the guidelines, there is no need to close the entire office building and stall work in other areas of the office. Work can be resumed after disinfection as per laid down protocol if there are one or two

cases of coronavirus. The disinfection procedure will be limited to areas visited by the patient in the past 48 hours.

The Ministry said that if there is a larger outbreak, the entire building will have to be sealed for 48 hours for thorough disinfection. All the staff will work from home till the building is adequately disinfected and is declared fit for re-occupation.

“If any individual is found to be suffering from symptoms suggestive of Covid-19, it must be immediately reported to the concerned central or state health authorities as well as on

the helpline number 1075,” as per the guidelines.

“Any staff requesting home quarantine based on the containment zone activities in their residential areas should be permitted to work from home” it said.

“A risk assessment will be undertaken by the designated public health authority (district RRT/treating physician) and accordingly further advice shall be made regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection,” said the Health Ministry.

It said, “The necessary actions for contact tracing and

disinfection of workplace will start once the report of the patient is received as positive. The report will be expedited for this purpose.”

Simple public health measures like respiratory etiquettes, physical distancing of at least one meter, mandatory use of face covers or masks and practice frequent hand washing for at least 40 to 60 seconds even when hands are not visibly dirty and use of alcohol based hand sanitizers for at least 20 seconds are the mandatory steps that the staff has to be followed to keep the virus at bay.

NTA reopens online application form for JEE Main till May 24

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the representations received from various students who were scheduled to join colleges abroad but are now keen to pursue their studies in the country due to the changed circumstances arising out of Covid-19, the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday announced to give one last opportunity to fill the form of JEE (Main) 2020 till May 24.

This is also applicable to other students who have not been able to complete the application process or submit online Application Form for JEE (Main) 2020 due to one reason or another.

While HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank announced the NTA decision of dates’ extension, he also launched a mobile app called the ‘National Test Abhyas’. The App has been developed by NTA to enable candidates to take mock tests for upcoming exams such as JEE Main, NEET under the NTA’s purview.

A senior HRD Ministry official said the app has been launched to facilitate candidates’ access to high quality



mock tests in the safety and comfort of their homes since there was a demand for making up the loss to students due to closure of educational institutions and NTA’s Test-Practice Centers (TPCs) due to the continuing lockdown.

Students across the country can use the App both online and offline to access high quality tests, free of cost, in a bid to be fully prepared for the upcoming JEE, NEET and other competitive exams.

Speaking at the occasion, the HRD Minister said, “This timely launch is designed to ensure that no student is left behind in getting exposure to practice testing, especially when Student’s loss due to closure of educational institutions is to be compensated

and NTA’s Test-Practice Centers are shut due to the Covid-19 lockdown.”

Over the last year, edutech as a sector has witnessed a lot of innovation especially in leveraging advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, going beyond simple digital distribution of content.

Every student is unique and requires specific guidance to detect and overcome gaps in knowledge and test taking strategy.

The test report on the NTA Mock Test App comes with a detailed breakdown of students’ performance through which they can understand their personalised path to achieving better scores in their entrance examination.

CBI alerts Centre, States on malicious software that steals banking data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Based on inputs from Interpol, the CBI has alerted the States/Union Territories/Central Agencies on a threat from a malicious software that uses a banking Trojan Cerberus which deploys its app to trick users into installing it on their smartphones.

This Trojan uses an update related to Coronavirus pandemic and primarily focuses on stealing financial data such as credit card numbers and two-factor authentication details.

“Based on inputs received from INTERPOL, CBI has issued an alert relating to a banking Trojan known as Cerberus. This malicious software takes advantage of Covid-19 Pandemic to impersonate and send SMS using the lure of Covid-19 related content to download the embedded malicious link, which deploys its malicious app usually spread via phishing campaigns to trick users into installing it on their smartphones,” said the CBI which is the nodal agency for Interpol in India.

The dubious app can use overlay attacks to trick victims into providing personal information and can capture two-factor authentication details, the agency said.

Last week, the CBI had

- The CBI alerted the States/Union Territories/Central Agencies on a threat from a malicious software that uses a banking Trojan Cerberus which deploys its app to trick users into installing it on their smartphones

- This Trojan uses an update related to Coronavirus pandemic and primarily focuses on stealing financial data such as credit card numbers and two-factor authentication details

issued an alert relating to drug trafficking in the garb of shipments for Covid-19 protective equipment. The alert was also based on inputs from the Interpol.

“Based on inputs received from INTERPOL, CBI has issued an alert relating to international drug trafficking activities taking advantage of this global pandemic scenario and of possible drug shipments concealed in cargo relating to Covid-19 protective equipments,” the CBI had said in a statement last week.

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh, Rajkot and Surat in Gujarat, Mysuru in Karnataka, Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra have got five-star rating for being garbage-free cities. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has got three star rating while Delhi Cantonment, Vadodara, Rohtak are among ‘one-star garbage free cities’.

Incidentally, some of the five-star rated cities are corona hotspots. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data, Surat, Rajkot, Indore, Mumbai (including Navi Mumbai) and Mysore have reported 1127, 80, 2565, 21,385 and 89 confirmed cases of coronavirus so far.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Tuesday certified six cities as 5-Star garbage-free cities, 65 cities as 3-Star, and 70 cities as 1-Star cities. According to the ministry, as many as 197 cities applied for 7 star rating and none of them qualified. The cities include Vijayawada, Trupati, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, Ahemdabad, Karnal, Bhopal, Ujjain, Khargone, Katni, Bhurhanpur, Chhindawar, Singrauli, Thane, Shridi and Jalgaon were among the 65 cities accredited ‘3-Star’ rating. The performance of municipalities of Bihar, West Bengal and North eastern states

were not up to the mark.

Chhattisgarh’s small town Ambikapur, having population of less than two lakh, came to limelight last year when the city got second in the Swachh City ranking. According to officials, Ambikapur is the only local body in the country, which runs a ‘garbage café’ for rag-pickers which will provide free food in exchange for plastic waste. The concept of this cafe is that people can get their plastic waste weighed and enjoy a warm meal in return. The cafe has been set up by Ambikapur Municipal Corporation (AMC). Chhattisgarh’s nine cities got three star rating which include Patan, Bilaspur, Bilhai Nagar and Jashpur Nagar.

The NDMC, which got the three star rating, had won the ‘cleanest small city’ award for the second consecutive year under Swachh Surveykshan 2019 in the category includes cities with populations of one to three lakh.

Only 3 per cent of Delhi’s geographical area and population come under the NDMC, but it is considered the seat of political power in India. Mysore is the only city in south India which got five star rating.

Announcing the star rating for garbage free cities, Union Housing and Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the coronavirus crisis has brought forward the

importance of sanitation along with solid waste management. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the present situation could have been much worse, had it not been for the critical part that Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban has played in the last five years to ensure a high degree of cleanliness and sanitation in urban areas, the Minister added.

In the recent phase of Star Rating Assessment, 1435 cities applied. During the assessments, 1.19 crore citizen feedbacks and over 10 lakh geo-tagged pictures were collected and 5175 solid waste processing plants were visited by 1210 field assessors. While 698 cities cleared the desktop assessment, 141 cities have been certified with Star Rating during field assessment.

Puri also launched the revised protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities at the event. The protocol has been devised in a holistic manner including components such as the cleanliness of drains & water bodies, plastic waste management, managing construction & demolition waste, etc. which are critical drivers for achieving garbage-free cities. This year 1,435 municipal entities participated in the garbage free ranking competition, finally after several verifications 141 cities have been ranked

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Sl.No.	Job No./ Work Name	Amount
1	19/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-21. M/o Green Belt (R/o boundary wall & footpath) sector-119 & 120.	Cost Rs. 27.84 Lacs
2	21/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21. M/o Green Belt (R/o boundary wall & footpath parallel) A, B & E block in sector-15.	Cost Rs. 37.52 Lacs
3	24/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-21. D/o Park, (Sh PF Open gym) Sector-01, D-I (National Skill Training Institute Women) with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.91 Lacs
4	25/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-21. D/o Park, (Sh: P/F Open gym) Sector-62, C-58 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.91 Lacs
5	26/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-21. D/o Park, (Sh P/F Open gym) Sector-14A along with camp house No-08, With Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.91 Lacs
6	33/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-2021 M/o Park with two year Maintenance, Block-A, B and C Sector-67	Cost Rs. 34.60 Lacs
7	31/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-2021 M/o Park with two year Maintenance Sector-18 Multilevel car parking ground floor near Atta peer park. Savitry Market and near G-50 and car parking 1st to Vth Floor, Noida	Cost Rs. 29.03 Lacs
8	37/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-2021 M/o RSP Service Road Along MP-IIIRD Village Basai T-Point to Sector-121 around the ajnara Homes and next to Ajanara Gol Chhaker Upto Hindon Pusta Along MP-IIIRD with two year Maintenance Noida	Cost Rs. 31.68 Lacs
9	40/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-2021 M/o Green Belt with two year Maintenance (Master Green) Sector-67 Noida	Cost Rs. 48.07 Lacs
10	41/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-2021, M/o Park with two year Maintenance Under Ground car Parking Sector 16A, Noida	Cost Rs. 25.51 Lacs
11	42/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-2021, M/o Green Belt with two year Maintenance Sector-14, 15, 15A, 16B, Noida	Cost Rs. 37.25 Lacs
12	42/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o all park sector-30 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 29.04 Lacs
13	58/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o RSP Sector-50 Bridge to DSC Road With 02 Year maintenance. (DUST FREE)	Cost Rs. 29.95 Lacs
14	59/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, Re D/o Park Sector-50, E-5 And Near Temple.	Cost Rs. 40.57 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by Date 03/06/2020 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on Date 04/06/2020 at 11:00 AM.

Office: Sector-39, NOIDA Director (Hort.), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS AT UDHNA-JALGAON SECTION

Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt. Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008.
Invites E-tender as per details given as follows.

Sr. No	Executive	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and location	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD ₹
1	DEN (central) BCT	BCT/20-21/81 dt.18.05.2020	UDN-JL SCE :- Zone 12-A General repairs in the jurisdiction of SE(W), VYA between km. 0.00 to km. 77.60 between Udhna (Excl.) Ukai Songhad (Incl.)	4000000.00	80000.00
2	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/20-21/82 dt.18.05.2020	UDN-JL SEC :- Zone 13-A General repairs in the jurisdiction of SE(W), NWU between Km. 77.60 to km. 154.622 between Ukai Songhad (excl.) Nandurbar (Excl.)	4500000.00	90000.00
3	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/20-21/83 dt. 18.05.2020	Udhna - Jalgaon sec. :- Zone 14-A General repairs in the jurisdiction of SSE(W), NDB between km. 154.622 to km 212.482 between Nandurbar(Incl.) to Sindhkheda (incl)	10000000.00	200000.00
4	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/20-21/84 dt.18.05.2020	Udhna - Jalgaon sec. :- Zone 15-A General repairs in the jurisdiction of SE(W), AN between km. 212.482 to Km 301.470 between Sindhkheda (excl.) Jalgaon (Excl.)	6000000.00	120000.00
5	DEN (Central) BCT	BCT/20-21/85 dt.18.05.2020	Udhna - Jalgaon sec. :- Zone 12-B Painting, White washing, Colour washing, Distemping polishing etc in the jurisdiction of SE(W), VYA between Km 0.00-77.60 between Udhna (excl) Ukai Songhad (Incl)	600000.00	12000.00
6	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/20-21/86 dt. 18.05.2020	Udhna - Jalgaon sec. :- Zone 13-B Painting, White washing, Colour washing, Distemping, Polishing etc, in the jurisdiction of SE(W), NWU between 77.60 to km 154.622 between Ukai Songhad (excl.) Nandurbar (Excl.)	700000.00	14,000.00
7	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/20-21/87 dt.18.05.2020	Udhna-Jalgaon Sec. :- Zone 14 B: Painting, White washing, Colour washing, Distemping, Polishing etc., in the jurisdiction of SE(W), AN between Km 154.622 to Km 212.482 between Nandurbar (Incl) and Sindhkheda (incl)	800000.00	16000.00
8	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/20-21/88 dt.18.05.2020	Udhna-Jalgaon Sec. :- Zone 15 B: Painting, White washing, Colour washing, Distemping, Polishing etc. in the jurisdictions of SE(W), AN between Km 212.482 to Km 301.470 between Sindhkheda (excl.) Jalgaon (Excl.)	800000.00	16000.00
9	DEN (Central) BCT	BCT/20-21/89 dt.18.05.2020	UDN-JL Section :- Providing pumping arrangement at water logging area at LHs No. 6,39,40,49,52 & 54 (Total 6 Nos LCs) under ADEN-AVA.	953481.60	19100.00
10	DEN (Central) BCT	BCT/20-21/90 dt.18.05.2020	Udhna -Jalgaon Section :- Reconditioning of Tongue rails, SE and Slide, chairs etc., under ADEN-Vyara section	291828.80	5800.00
11	DEN (Central) BCT	BCT/20-21/91 dt. 18.05.2020	Udhna-Jalgaon Section :- Hiring of Heavy road motor vehicle 9.00 tonne, capacity for transportation of P-way material day to day P-way maintenance under SSE (P. way) Bardoli for the period of 24 months.	2118255.50	42400.00

Date & time of submission : on 18.06.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & time of opening: on 18.06.2020 till 15.30 hrs.
Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non-refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.irops.gov.in. **Manual offers will not be considered.**

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9-03

Date & time of submission :- on 18.06.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & time of opening: on 18.06.2020 till 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non-refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.irps.gov.in. **Manual offers will not be considered.**

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CRPF orders enquiry after expired polio vaccines given to some infants at medical camp

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF has ordered an enquiry after expired polio vaccines were allegedly administered to some infants at a medical camp organised by a private doctor at the campus of Special Duty Group (SDG) at Pushp Vihar in Saket here on Saturday.

The SDG mans the outer cordon of Prime Minister’s security ring both at his official residence as well as during outdoor functions. The wife of a jawan, whose child was ‘immunised’ with such vaccine, has also written to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah complaining about the incident through communication that was also sent to the paramilitary chief AP Maheshwari, officials said. “Immunisation program was not official. Around 50 children of SDG/CRPF who were due for vaccination could not be administered the vaccines due to lockdown. Parents of these children had tied up with a clin-

ic that was facilitated into the camp to vaccinate after observing Covid-19 protocols,” a CRPF spokesperson said.

“It is learnt that four doses out of 116 got expired on 30.04.2020. An enquiry has been ordered by CRPF Medical Directorate and report is likely to be received soon and findings of the report will be taken to its logical end as per the facts,” the spokesperson added.

The private clinic was headed by Dr RK Sinha, a paediatrician who was earlier associated with Safdarjung Hospital and Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, officials said.

Preliminary probe has revealed that no negative implication has been found on the children immunised with the expired vaccines. The Medical Directorate has gathered information from the manufacturers/pharma companies that have suggested that the vaccines do not expire immediately after the expiry date and are effective for a few weeks.

Amphan races towards WB, lakhs evacuated

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal administration evacuated more than 3 lakh people to safer areas even as super cyclone Amphan raced towards the State sources at the State administrative headquarters Nabanna said adding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had decided to stay back at the secretariat till Wednesday evening by when the storm is expected hit the land.

Appealing to the people to remain indoors the Chief Minister said that the cyclone was believed to be stronger and more severe than Aila or Bulbul or other such storms that hit the region in recent times.

“I request everyone to stay indoors and at safe areas till the cyclone subsides. Please do not go

close to beach areas. Instructions have been given to all District Magistrates, SPs, Police Commissioners.

We have evacuated people to shelter homes,” the Chief Minister said adding despite the large-scale evacuation the administration was trying to maintain social distancing norms considering further proliferation of corona pandemic.

Three districts of North and South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore apart from Kolkata are likely to bear the maximum brunt of the storm, sources in the weather office said.

Reporting large-scale evacuation she said, while in South 24 Parganas, 2 lakh people have been evacuated about 50,000 people have been removed to safer places

in North 24 Parganas. Some 40,000 people have been evacuated in East Midnapore and another 10,000 have been removed to safe areas in West Midnapore, she maintained.

Earlier the Chief Minister had a brief conversation with Union Home Minister Amit Shah who called up Banerjee to express assurance, sources said.

According to the weather office Amphan is expected to cross Bengal-Bangladesh coasts between Digha in this side of the border and Hatiya islands on the other side sometime post noon on Wednesday.

The very severe cyclonic storm will hit the land area with a maximum sustained wind speed of 155 to 165 kmph gusting to 180 kmph.

Tehreek-e Hurriyat Chairman’s son shot in Srinagar encounter

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Junaid Asharf, youngest son of Tehreek-e Hurriyat Chairman Mohd Ashraf Sehrai, was gunned down by the joint teams of security forces along with his associate in Nawa Kadal area of downtown Srinagar in a twelve hour long operation on Tuesday.

Four jawans of security forces, including three CRPF personnel and one policeman also sustained injuries and were admitted in the command hospital.

An MBA graduate of Kashmir University, Junaid had joined ranks of Hizbul Mujahideen shortly after his father was appointed chairman of the separatist group after Syed Ali Shah Geelani in March 2018. Junaid, originally hailed from Tikipora village of Kupwara.

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir police, Dilbagh Singh in Srinagar said, “the operation was launched in down town areas of Srinagar late on Monday night on the basis of specific input about the presence of terrorists in the area”.

It was after a gap of more than two years local residents in Sher-e-Khas areas were woken up to the sounds of gun shots and

grenade blasts as the security forces established first contact with the hiding terrorists.

The jawans of the Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir police and commandos of CRPF executed the operation with precision to avoid collateral damage in the thickly populated area. Several local residents were escorted by the security personnel to prevent loss of human life during the exchange of fire.

DGP, Dilbagh Singh said, “after zeroing on the exact location both the terrorists were eliminated by the security forces during the night long operation”. DGP Singh also confirmed only two terrorists were present in the area while clarifying initial reports which had claimed some terrorists might have escaped the cordon. He identified one of the killed terrorist as Junaid Ahmed Sehrai son of Mohd Ashraf Khan of Srinagar and another as Tariq Ahmed Sheikh, resident of Pulwama.

Singh said, “Junaid was active in central Kashmir and acting as self styled divisional commander of Hizbul Mujahideen for last two years”. On the other hand his associate was a fresh recruit as he had joined ranks of HM only three months ago.

Soldiers take care of veterans, war widows

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Soldiers and officers of the Indian Army’s Dakshin Bharat Area (DBA) having jurisdiction over the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are underscoring the adages ‘Once a Soldier Always A Soldier’ and ‘I am a soldier. I fight where I am told and I win where I fight’.

This time around, their fight is against coronavirus. Since the civilians in these States are well served by the respective Governments, the DBA, more popular by its name Southern Command, took up another challenge. The Army establishment through its words and deeds sent a message to the retired soldiers, officers, war widows in these States that they were not alone in this world and the soldiers and officers respect and adore them



The DBA launched a Whats App messaging system and reached the retired soldiers, war widows and those above 70 years of age in particular to enquire about their needs and well being

lished at Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington in the picturesque Nilgiris from where the serving officers and soldiers contacted all Ex Service Men and War Widows and enquired their well-being similar to the manner in which youngsters in the family asking their grand fathers and grand mothers about their health and well being.

“Special activities are being carried out by Karnataka & Kerala Sub Area (KKSA). A war widow who has uterus cancer requires regular blood and platelets. She got admitted in a delicate condition during lockdown. She has been given continuous support by the

Headquarters. Special arrangements have been made to provide blood and platelets supply. 23 service personnel have been sent for blood transfusion. Also a case has been taken up for one-time financial grant to tide away the present financial difficulties,” said the release.

Captain K Gopakumar who retired from Indian Navy who is in charge of the Naval personnel in Kerala told The Pioneer that he was in contact with soldiers and sailors to ensure that all is well with them. “Our Whats App Group is tracking the well being of all our former personnel and their families and attend to their needs,” said the Captain.

Elderly veterans especially above the age of 80 were in for a surprise when the soldiers delivered a cake along with a card on behalf of General Officer Commanding Dakshin Bharat Area.

Kerala reports 12 new infections

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala which won international acclaim for its effective handling of the covid-19 is looking like losing the battle to the pandemic during the last two days.

The State which claimed that it had flattened the coronavirus curve a fortnight ago reported 12 new cases of the pandemic on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in his daily press briefing on Tuesday said that all the 12 persons who tested positive for coronavirus were those who returned to the State recently. “While eight persons were expatriates who returned to the State recently, the remaining eight were from Maharashtra (six) and Gujarat (two). It has to be said that the pandemic has come back to the State through the expatriates, many of them returned to the

State without any valid reasons. This is highly objectionable,” said the Chief Minister.

Vijayan said there were 642 persons in the State who have been confirmed of coronavirus pandemic. “There are 142 persons undergoing treatment in various hospitals in Kerala. 72,000 persons are under observation out of which 71,545 are in their own houses. On Tuesday, 119 persons have been admitted to hospitals for suspected covid-19,” he said.

The hospitals in the State saw unprecedented crowd over the last two days because of the revival of the pandemic, said the chief minister. He asked the expatriates to return to the State only if there was any emergency situation. “The State saw 74, 426 persons returning to the State from outside. We had contained the disease till the expatriates returned to the

State. It was with their return the State saw the pandemic resurging,” said the chief minister.

He also declared that violation of rules governing the wearing of masks and social distancing would be dealt with sternly by the police. “Legal proceedings have been initiated against 2036 persons for not wearing masks. It has come to the notice of the Government that many private tuition centres are functioning in the State violating the guidelines. Legal actions will be initiated against such centres,” he said.

The public examination for SSC students would be held from June 1 and the Government has made all arrangements for the smooth conduct of the examination. Liquor outlets would become operational for online sale of spirits by this weekend, said the Chief Minister.

688 new cases in TN, total 12,448

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A total of 688 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday taking the total number of covid cases in the State to 12,448, according to a release issued by directorate of public health and preventive medicine. Out of the 688 persons tested positive on Tuesday, 87 were those who returned from West Asia (36), Maldives (1), Maharashtra (49) and Kerala (1).

The number of cases tested positive on Tuesday has come as a disappointment to health professionals because the State has been showing a reduction in the number of covid cases during the last one week. On May 12, the number of persons tested positive were 716 and since then the number of cases fluctuated from 509 to 536 which was registered on Monday evening. The 688 cases tested on Tuesday is the

highest number of positive cases since May 12.

Chennai city alone tested 552 positive cases taking the total number of cases in the capital city to 7,672. The death toll in Tamil Nadu stood at 84 as three more persons succumbed to the pandemic on Tuesday.

The day also saw 489 persons leaving hospitals fully recovered taking the total number of patients discharged from the hospitals till Tuesday evening 4,895. This means the total number of active cases in the State is 7,553.

3,48, 174 samples and 3, 32, 352 persons were tested in the State till date. There are 63 laboratories working round-the-clock in the State to test samples.

Meanwhile the Tamil Nadu State Board Examinations for Class

10 students scheduled to begin on June 1 has been postponed to June 15. KA Sengottaiyan, School education Minister told reporters on Tuesday that the examination would be held from June 15 to June 25.

The earlier decision of the Government to hold the examination from June 1 had drawn criticism from M K Stalin, president, DMK, who had questioned the logic behind the move in the backdrop of the pandemic prevailing in the State.

Sengottaiyan said that his interaction with stakeholders was the reason fore the postponement of the examination. “Many red zones and hotspots in the State would change to green zone by mid-June and this would help to reduce the tension if any among the students, parents and teachers,” said the Minister.

Tirupur industrialists seek 9 months to pay back loans

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Uncertainty stares on more than six lakh workers employed in the cotton knitwear industrial clusters in Tirupur district in Tamil Nadu. Tirupur accounts for 90 per cent of cotton knitwear exports from India, employs more than 6,00,000 workers and earns more than ₹200 billion by way of exports every year.

These are all going to be history as the industrial units are on the verge of closure following the refusal of Banks to grant moratorium of nine months on the term loans and working capital loans availed by the industrial units.

“The units remain closed since March 24 as part of the national lockdown and there has been no business. It will take another nine months for the revival of business. Till then the Government should ‘hand hold’ the industrial units, declare a moratorium of nine months on equated monthly instalments (EMI) as well as on the principal amount. We will pay back the entire amount with interest but what we are asking is some kind of breathing peace,” Raja M Shanmugham , president, Tirupur Exporters Association, told *The Pioneer*.

The TEA chief has written yet another letter to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi highlighting the precarious situation faced by the industrialists in Tirupur. “The Reserve Bank of India had issued a directive permitting a moratorium of three months on payment of instalments in respect of all outstanding term loans as on March 1, 2020.

The Banks were allowed a deferment of three months on payment of interests in respect of all such facilities outstanding as on March 1, 2020. Our concern is that the moratorium of three months period will get expired by 31 May 2020 and the commencement of repayment starts by June 1, 2020 including the compound interest calculated for the moratorium period,” said

Shanmugham.

He pointed out that the industries have not been permitted to operate for the last two months. If we take into account the global market closure date it would be actually three months. The leading global retail stores would reopen only from June and they would place the orders gradually, that too in an increment manner,” he has written in a letter to Prime Minister on Monday.

Pointing out the sensitive nature of the current situation the TEA has asked the Government of India and The RBI for a moratorium on servicing of interest and principal by another nine months for the knitwear industry and MSMEs.

Mamata meet on corona with Opp leaders on May 22

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that a lot of issues including speedy relief and handling of the corona pandemic would be discussed when the leaders of Opposition parties meet via a video conference on May 22.

“The leaders of Opposition parties including Sharad Pawarij, Sonia Gandhiji, MK Stalin, Sitaram Yechury and others would hold discussion-son corona pandemic through a video conference at 3 pm on May 22... It will be a discussion similar to the ones taking place between various government functionaries,” Banerjee said adding “all the sides during the discussion will share their views and experiences on how they are handling the crisis and what problem they are facing in tackling the crisis.”

Such discussions between top leaders of the country were nothing new considering the situation, she said. “We have been discussing the issues at various levels. So there is nothing wrong if we discuss it here through video conferencing,” she said.

The State BJP however slammed the Chief Minister for “playing politics during this hour of crisis.” Referring to the Friday meeting State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said, “in 2019 these parties came together to defeat the BJP. They staged a big tamasha in Kolkata but ended up losing so many seats. “After being decimated in the elections they are trying to stay afloat by creating new types of controversies. Instead of cooperating with the central Government and strengthening the hands Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has drawn world-wide acclaim for deft handling of the corona crisis these people are trying to fish in the troubled waters.

“You can see what the Congress has been doing. First they offered buses to rescue the migrant workers and when UP Chief Minister Jogi Adityanath ji wanted their numbers she provided them with the numbers of vehicles that included auto rickshaws and even scooters... hence the people will ignore such gimmicks and they will watch Modiji perform.”

With 28 fresh cases J&K tally reach 1,317

PNS ■ JAMMU

With one more death and 28 positive cases the total number of coronavirus cases reached 1,317 while the death toll touched 17 in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. At the same time, 38 patients were discharged from different hospitals after they recovered fully.

According to official sources, a 55-year-old cancer patient from Rafiabab died at SKIMS taking the death toll in Kashmir to 15.

Five Covid-19 positive patients have died in the last 3 days in Kashmir— 1 on Sunday, 3 on Monday, 1 on Tuesday. Out of 1,317 cases, the total number of active cases stood at 653, 551 from Kashmir and 102 in Jammu division.

A total number of 647 patients have recovered so far. So far, Anantnag district has reported the highest number of 247 cases while Srinagar has recorded 169 cases and Kulgam 166 cases.

Meanwhile, the Jammu & Kashmir Government Tuesday issued the fresh classification of districts in order to implement the lockdown 4.0 from May 20, 2020.

The order was issued by Chief Secretary, who is also



chairman of SEC and it stated that all the districts of Kashmir province, except Ganderbal and Bandipora are listed as Red zones,

while as Kathua, Samba and Ramban districts of Jammu Province have been declared Red zones.

Similarly, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Reasi, Udhampur and Jammu districts have been classified under Orange category. Likewise, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Rajouri districts have been put in Green category.

The decision was taken after a detailed review of the current Covid-19 situation in J&K was conducted with Financial Commissioner, Health; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu & Kashmir divisions and other officers on the basis of “an overall assessment of the situation pertaining to the spread of Covid-19 in Jammu & Kashmir; the trend in new cases particularly the recent spread/ spike in new cases in view of the movement of stranded persons to Jammu and Kashmir, which is still a continuing exercise, and the risk perception of the Health department vis-a-vis each district; the parameters laid down by MOHFW, Govt. of India”.

SC allows probe of FIR against Arnab Goswami over Palghar news show

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to quash the initial FIR against Republic TV Editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami over his news show on the Palghar mob lynching but gave some relief by setting aside related multiple FIRs and complaints holding they had a “stifling” effect on the exercise of freedom and expression.

Observing that free citizens cannot exist when the news media is chained to adhere to one position, the court said journalistic freedom lies at “the core” of the fundamental right to free speech and India’s freedom will rest safe as long as journalists can speak to power without being “chilled by a threat of reprisal.”

Seeking to balance the rights of journalists and accountability, the court, however, said exercising the fundamental right to speech and expression is not absolute and is answerable to the legal regime. *PTI*

Gas leak: SC asks LG Polymers to move NGT to raise issue of multiple committees, jurisdiction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday asked LG Polymers India to approach the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to raise the issue regarding setting up of multiple committees to probe the May 7 gas leakage from its plant in Visakhapatnam.

The company also questioned the NGT’s jurisdiction in initiating proceedings on its own (suo motu) in the matter when the Andhra Pradesh High Court was already seized of the incident. The leakage of hazardous gas, Styrene, happened early morning of May 7 from the company’s plant at R R Venkatapuram village in Visakhapatnam resulting in the death of at least 11 people and impacting thousands more.

A bench headed by Justice U U Lalit was hearing through video-conferencing a plea filed by LG Polymers India Pvt Ltd against the May 8 order of the NGT which had taken up the matter suo-motu (on its own) on the basis of media reports about the gas leakage and set up a five-member committee to probe the incident.

Maha declares MMR, 9 municipal areas red zones

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Doing a balancing act, the Maharashtra Government on Tuesday declared Mumbai Metro Metropolitan Region (MMR) and areas falling under nine Municipal Corporations, including that Pune, Solapur, Nashik and Aurangabad, as “Red zones”, while it merged both green and orange zones of rest of Maharashtra into one and termed it as “Non-Red” zone to implement the Lockdown-4 norms.

Announcing the new guidelines for the Lockdown - 4 along the lines the indications given by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray earlier, the Maharashtra Government declared the MMR (which among other areas comprises Mumbai, satellite towns like Thane, Kalyan-Dombivli, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Vasai-Virar, Mira-Bhayandar and Ulhasnagar), the municipal Corporations of Pune, Solapur, Aurangabad, Malegaon, Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Akola and Amaravati as “Red Zones”.

The State Government declared the Green and Orange Zones falling in remaining part of the state “Non-Red Zone” for the implementation of lockdown-4.

The Chief Minister, it may be recalled, had on Monday night that State Government

would enforce the lockdown-4 norms more strictly red zone areas as it would have to tide over the coronavirus crisis in the state before the onset of the monsoon. “We can lift the lockdown at any time. But I know what will be consequences of lifting the lockdown at this state. I do not want to push the state into a crisis. I am ready to face any kind of crisis of criticism. I am not going to take the decision of lifting the lockdown in a hurry,” he had said.

As part of the new guidelines released on Tuesday, the State Government authorised the Municipal/district authorities to “demarcate” the containment zones within the Red and Non-Red Zones, “after taking into consideration the guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)”.

“Municipal commissioners & district collectors are empowered to decide the containment zones... In containment zones only essential activities shall be allowed. There shall be strict perimeters to ensure there is no movement of people in & out of these zones. except medical emergencies & for maintaining supply of essential goods,” the State Government guidelines stated. In “Red Zones”, the state government among other things, allowed: all essential shops permitted earlier, non-

essential shops as per relaxation and guidelines issued earlier and operation of liquor shops if permitted, home delivery or other wise,

“The shops/ malls/ establishments /industries which are not allowed to open in the red zones, will be permitted to remain open from 9am to 5pm. only for the purpose of upkeep & maintenance of material/machinery/furniture etc. and for pre-monsoon protection activities of property and goods. However no other activity (commercial/ production) will be permitted,” the new guidelines stated.

The Government permitted e-commerce activity for essential as well as non-essential items & material and all industries, work at all construction sites (Public/private), all such pre-monsoon works (Public/private).

However, the state government continued to ban Taxi/Cab/ Aggregator and autorickshaw, while it permitted plying of four wheelers (1+2) and two wheelers (only one rider) for essential works and home delivery of food from restaurants/ Kitchen

All emergency staff, including health & medical treasury , Disaster Management, police Food & Civil supply, Municipal services can operate at the level as per the need.

Uddhav handling Covid crisis ineffectively: BJP to Governor

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Upping the ante on the coronavirus situation in Maharashtra, a delegation of the Opposition BJP, led by former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, on Tuesday complained to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari about the “ineffective handling” of the Covid-19 spread in the State by the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government and submitted a memorandum listing its various demands.

Talking to media persons after meeting the Governor, Fadnavis said: “The health situation in Maharashtra is worsening in the state. Today, we have highest number of Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra. Nearly 30 to 33 per cent of total infected cases are in Maharashtra, while the state accounts for 40 per cent of total deaths. Infected cases and deaths are multiplying every day”.

“ In Mumbai, patients are not getting beds and ambulances. They are going from one hospital to another. Patients are dying on the way to hospital. In a way, (The health situation is totally crippled in the state,” the BJP leader said.

Fadnavis said that the condition of farmers in the state was also grim. “In our memorandum, we have requested the Governor to ask the government to start the purchase of agricultural produce from the farmers. In addition, we have also requested the Governor to ask the state government to stop the walking migrant workers going to their states going by foot and send them back to their respective states by buses and trains”.

Fadnavis urged the state government to announce a relief package for daily waged workers, along the lines of the one given by the Modi government.

Signs of a cure

As producer of 60 per cent of the world's vaccines, India could become the production hub for an antidote to the virus



Months into the pandemic, humanity still seems to be in a tailspin. Given this gloom and doom scenario, it is but natural that mankind should look towards the scientific community to find a vaccine or drug to cure/combat the deadly virus at the earliest. Till now, there is no formal vaccine but there are many positive developments. For the first time, a multi-lateral and cooperative initiative is on across the world to find an antidote. Clinical trials are under way in many countries and some have reported positive progress. Normally drug trials take years but researchers around the world are working overtime to beat the clock. Not only that, in a first, they are sharing updates and expertise. India is part of several collaborative projects. In the UK, pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca is on track to manufacture 100 million doses of vaccine for the entire world. The vaccine developed at Oxford University is undergoing testing right now and if successful, its large-scale production can begin and be available as early as September. Pharmaceutical firms Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi and Pfizer are at it, too. Scientists are also pushing to develop treatments to slow down the virus and some of the earliest will most likely be drugs already approved for other conditions, or those which have been tested on other viruses. We already know about chloroquine and remdesivir. The US, Israel and Germany are working on antibody drugs and China itself is now claiming a drug to cure the disease and even get short-term immunity. There is also talk of "human challenge trial" that scientists say could speed up the vaccine clinical trials and give us hope earlier than ever. The encouraging part is that even though there are no plans for this kind of study in the US as yet, over 16,000 people in over 100 nations have volunteered to participate in trials. The WHO has already released ethical guidelines to help scientists navigate rights issues. There's history: Unscrupulous human trials have unspectacularly been tried in countries where lives are cheap, Africa being the prime target of pharma majors over the years. So this should not become a new bio war.

However, the worrying part is that once a successful anti-Corona vaccine or drug is found, the politics of marketing it for economic gains and domination of nations that don't have it will begin. Already stocks of pharma majors involved in vaccine development have almost tripled in value. As usual, the powerful and rich nations will put their interests over those of developing nations where access to vital drugs and vaccines is a perennial issue. How real the fear is of countries putting their economic and social interests ahead of global unity can be gauged from the fact that the WHO, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron recently called for fair distribution of vaccines. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), an Oslo-based group that's funding numerous Coronavirus vaccines, sees a way out of this through advance market commitments where donors promise funds to guarantee the price of vaccines once they have been developed. CEPI is talking with other organisations, including the World Bank, which is exploring how to set up such agreements. While a vaccine is a crucial part of the exit strategy, the world lacks a global system for managing its distribution in a crisis. It is time we set that up also along with our efforts to look for a cure. For politics is the reason why diseases such as HIV and ebola persist because of unequal access to therapies and drugs, something which activists are still fighting for. Some world leaders of developing countries have signed a petition demanding that all vaccines, treatments and tests be made patent-free, distributed fairly and made available to all people, in all countries, free of charge. They even called for mandatory worldwide sharing of all COVID-19 related knowledge, data and technologies with a pool of COVID-19 licences freely available to all countries. Even assuming that privileged nations with a solution become big-hearted enough overnight, mass production will still be a challenge as building capacities for a rollout such as this is a humongous task for poorer nations. Of course, India has a distinct advantage here producing as it does 60 per cent of the world's vaccines and accounting for 60-80 per cent of the United Nations' annual vaccine procurement. Our home-grown companies have also helped over the years to distribute vaccines to the world. So it could become the hub of a production line and claim its place at the forefront of providing an antidote to COVID-19.

Haircut or not?

Beauty and grooming services need a detailed and careful protocol before being allowed to open up



Do we open salons or not? As a haircut closely follows liquor as the most sought after service, both the Centre and State Governments are wondering whether to list barber services as an essential category or not. Unfortunately what was once essential has now been pushed to being non-essential as grooming and care involve close proximity and touch therapy that are anathema in times of the pandemic. In fact, barber and salon services were the reason that cases spread in New York. With the nation entering the fourth phase of the lockdown, the southern States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have decided to allow barbers with mandatory riders like all-time use of masks and sanitisers, sterilisation of tools, maybe protective suits of some sort and maintaining social distancing. While in Kerala, barber shops are now allowed to open on a rotational basis without air conditioning, so that the enclosed air filters out, in Tamil Nadu, they have been allowed to operate in rural areas, too. The Palaniswamy Government has even gone a step ahead by announcing a ₹2,000 dole for unregistered barbers. Those registered with the Tamil Nadu Hair Dressers Welfare Board have already been compensated. Much as we may laugh about the need for a haircut or trim, fact is livelihoods have been lost. At the same time, this means that it is mandatory for establishments to ensure that staff at such outlets should be COVID-free to inspire confidence. Clients walking in need to be screened, too, lest they infect staff. Besides, a cap has to be put on the number of clients that can be attended to in a day. At the moment, they should run in green zones only.

One may argue that in times when the world is facing a pandemic, we should not fuss about the vanity of appearances. More than anything, those not accustomed to having long hair or beard, especially men, are bound to feel itchy and some sort of irritation and allergies during the high heat of summer. There are skin hygiene issues involved, too. True, people are now managing with trimmers and razors and experimenting with tools at home but that is a temporary compromise. A clear protocol for beauty and grooming services has to be evolved that may need additional costs in terms of safety gear and inputs. And many players may not have the resource depth to continue. But at least a conversation for reopening services has started.

Power games in Nepal

The new political map and a road to Lipulekh have sown fresh seeds of discord whose principal beneficiary is Beijing. Nimbleness was needed from New Delhi in defusing the crisis



ASHOK K MEHTA

Already riding high, China has used the Corona pandemic to extend its political influence in Nepal. Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke to Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and inquired about the COVID-19 situation, despatched flight loads of succour and staved off the collapse of the Government over there. Then on May 9, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new Indian road to the disputed Lipulekh, triggering off a political storm in Nepal. This was accompanied by protests and the customary exchange of diplomatic notes. Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, who is the honorary General of Nepal Army, in response to a question on the protests said, "Nepal's protest over India's road in Lipulekh might be at the behest of someone else", alluding to China, though it could also have been Pakistan. Last year in November, there was a tsunami of protests when India reproduced a map depicting new political boundaries in Jammu & Kashmir, including Kalapani, an area claimed by Nepal in its territory.

In the lull before a second spike in the territorial issue, a week-long political charade around May Day, to dethrone Nepalese Prime Minister KP Oli, fizzled out as his *bete noire*, the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) executive chairman, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', switched sides and let Oli claim victory. In turn, Oli promised to make his political foe and party vice-chairman Bam Dev Gautam a lawmaker.

It was China and not the traditional player in Nepal, India, which came to the rescue of an embattled Oli. Sensing internal crisis within the ruling NCP and the Oli Government, Beijing's popular envoy in Kathmandu, Hou Yanqi, followed up Xi's 45-minute-long conversation on April 27 with his Nepalese counterpart Bhandari. What followed next were mediations for the next two days, meeting with Bhandari, Oli, Dahal, former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and according to one report, even with Sher Bahadur Deuba, the leader of the Nepali Congress Opposition party. By May 2 evening, at the fateful Central secretariat meeting of the NCP where Dahal has a majority, surprisingly, he declared a truce. He called for party unity when it was he who had asked Oli to step down naming Madhav Nepal as his replacement three days earlier at the same forum. Friends of India saw the rescinding of Madhav Nepal's (sometimes jokingly called Madhav India) name as the Prime Minister as a defeat for us.

Kathmandu fears China's new political mantra of compliance, which was recently demonstrated in the admonition of the editor of the *Kathmandu Post* by the Chinese Embassy. This was not so in mid-2016 when China valiantly tried to prevent Dahal from breaking away from the Oli-led coalition



Government but very briefly months later, India succeeded in orchestrating his exit with the lure of premiership in a Deuba-Dahal Government. It is another matter that even as part of this Government, Dahal surreptitiously entered the Beijing-inspired Left alliance, which was expected to sweep the federal, provincial and local polls that followed. In this new "Great Game" in Nepal between India and China, Beijing demonstrably has an upper hand.

It is worth recalling that during the pre-2006 people's revolution and civil war periods, Chinese diplomats in Kathmandu, while alluding to New Delhi, would claim that Beijing does not interfere in any country's internal affairs. They would describe Dahal-Maoists as "anti-state rebels", "miscreants" and "hijackers" of Mao's fair name. After the Maoists came to power in 2008, Beijing conveniently discovered ideological identity and congruity with them, saying all was fair in love and war.

In contrast, India has had a monopoly in making and unseating Prime Ministers as well as preventing their appointments. Like in 2009, after Prime Minister Dahal was removed from office, he was never allowed to become the premier again till 2016, when he was

thought to have been tamed. During the decade of Constitution-writing, Madhav Nepal and Baburam Bhattarai, both considered to be friends of India, became the Prime Minister and so did Jhala Nath Khanal. But Khanal, who's never passionate about India, was not invited to New Delhi on a State visit.

Oli, once an Indian blue-eyed boy, has risen to become the most powerful Prime Minister and party chairman of Nepal on a wicket of nationalism and anti-India sentiment following the economic blockade of 2015. China's help in forging first the Left alliance and then the merger of the two Left parties ensured Oli's sputnik rise. Lord John Dalberg-Acton's dictum that power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely fits the Oli story well as he sits in Baluwater (the Prime Minister's red-stone residence) on a gilded chair under his own towering portrait at the back. In designer clothes, he appears to be in the pink of health even after a second kidney transplant.

Dahal and Oli joined the battle early following a gentleman's power-sharing agreement, whose existence Oli denied. Mutual sniping was halted when Bhandari brokered an agreement last year, which

nominaly elevated Dahal as the executive chairman of the NCP even as Oli became its co-chairman but remained a spoke in Dahal's wheel. What followed next were widespread reports of disillusionment and frustration with Oli's autocratic style and shenanigans capped with misgovernance and corruption. This, even during the purchase of medical equipment in the midst of the pandemic, passage of two controversial political ordinances, which he withdrew and in transacting due to which Bhandari became complicit. Through such high-handedness, Oli sought to garner more power: Secure two-thirds majority in Parliament and make Constitutional appointments with simple majority.

That is when on April 24, the proverbial straw broke the camel's back and Dahal triggered off plan Alpha — leadership change — which has been in the works for some time now. It envisages replacing Oli with Madhav Nepal as the Prime Minister, appointing Dahal as the undisputed party executive chairman and Khanal in time as the President of Nepal. While Oli kept clutching at the straws at the party central secretariat meetings and divulged his own leadership reshuffle plan, he sent a May Day call to Yanqi.

During the crucial secretariat meeting on May 2, Dahal did a somersault, declaring the importance of party unity and letting Oli stay as the Prime Minister as the latter promised to make Gautam a law-maker soon. That was a demotion for Gautam as earlier, Oli had offered him premiership to wriggle out of the crisis.

Dahal has pressed the pause button on plan Alpha, surprising its key players. Undoubtedly, there will be rewards for Dahal from Oli and Beijing. The ruling political class has shadow-boxed what Nepalese are calling a political Corona instead of seriously combating the COVID-19 pandemic, thus proving that power is the ultimate aphrodisiac.

Kalapani and Lipulekh are part of a disputed package revived in 2015 after a trade agreement was signed between China and India. The new political map and a road to Lipulekh have sown fresh seeds of discord, whose principal beneficiary is Beijing. Nimbleness was needed from New Delhi in defusing the crisis.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUND BITE

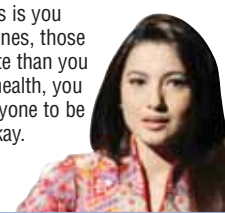
I changed because I wanted to score all over the ground. The static position was limiting my shotmaking options. I had to tweak it to suit my game.

Cricketer
—Virat Kohli



The beauty of prayers is you pray for your loved ones, those who are less fortunate than you are, who are in bad health, you have to pray for everyone to be okay for you to be okay.

Actor
—Gauhar Khan



Repeated missteps by the WHO in responding to the pandemic have been extremely costly for the world. The only way forward is if it demonstrates independence from China.

US President
—Donald Trump



This is not the time to do politics. It is a challenging time for the Centre and the States to bury their differences and work together to tackle the present crisis.

Minister of State for Home
—G Kishan Reddy



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Extension of lockdown

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Moving out of lockdown" (May 18). With the country entering the fourth phase of the lockdown, by now people must have become accustomed to following basic hygiene habits like wearing masks and washing hands. And if maintaining social distancing and all safety protocols have not become part of our daily routine in the last two months, we have only ourselves to blame. So, lockdown 4.0 was actually not warranted now. If the Central Government has left it on the States' sole discretion of deciding the zones, then it surely should have left the extension as well to the States.

Even a day of extended lockdown has a huge economic cost, which despite the huge relief package cannot be completely compensated. So, all focus should now be on reviving the economy. Coming to individual companies, they know better whether they can manage work effectively by allowing employees to work from home or getting them back to the office.

Bal Govind
Noida

Open the skies for air travel

With the Centre allowing inter-State passenger travel with the flagging of railway services from Delhi to 15 destinations across the country, it was hoped that the floodgates for air travel, too, would be opened during the fourth stage of the lockdown. The railways are doing a stupendous job in ferrying thousands of stranded migrant workers, tourists and students to their home States. The day is not too far when it would be undertaking full-fledged journeys. Coming to air travel, a gradual opening of the aviation sector should not be a tough call for the authorities considering that among its peers like the Railways or roadways, it is the most regulated. It is also the safest way to travel long distances, especially in Corona times. Since international oil prices have come down, air travel may even become cheaper. People are likely to switch from road and rail to air once operations resume. Demand will be slow but it will pace up.

Of course, the dangers of travelling at a higher altitude will be many when compared to a closed compartment train bogey. It's good that a blueprint encompassing all safety protocols that need to be followed by the passengers is ready with the Government. Those who want to fly must be allowed to do so. While the mad-



Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Open public transport

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Moving out of lockdown" (May 18). The Delhi Government's decision to resume the public transport system is a step in the right direction. Given

the halt in all economic activities that have led to unemployment besides causing massive damage to India's economic prospects, other States must take a cue from Delhi and gradually open the transport system so that commuters do not face problems in reaching their place of work.

Of course, this should be done keeping in mind the safety of the travellers and those involved in transportation activities. It will be difficult to enforce social distancing. This is why State administrations must take adequate measures to ensure strict compliance. With the number of passen-

gers remaining low initially, it may not be difficult for the authorities. Of utmost importance will be their ability to track and monitor the impact of mobility relaxations. Until a vaccine or a cure to the Coronavirus is found, such measures are essential.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Care for the elderly

Sir — From the beginning of the pandemic, a lot of discussion has been going on co-morbidities and the elderly. The average age of death due to Corona in India is 75 years and 83 per cent of the deaths are of those already suffering from co-morbidities. Protecting and taking care of the old and sick who are most vulnerable is our moral duty. We need to adopt social, behavioural changes. Elders in our houses should not be allowed to go out unless there's a medical emergency. Even for medical requirements, a person must accompany them.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Trump says taking hydroxychloroquine daily to fight Covid

Washington: US President Donald Trump has disclosed that he is taking antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine daily to ward off the deadly coronavirus, though health experts have warned it may be unsafe.

Speaking at a meeting of restaurant executives on Monday, Trump said he began taking the drug after consulting the White House doctor, though stopped short of saying his physician had actually recommended it.

“A couple of weeks ago, I started taking it,” the president said. “Here’s my evidence: I get a lot of positive calls about it,” Trump told shocked reporters.

“I have been taking it (hydroxychloroquine) for about a week and a half,” he told reporters, asserting that he has zero symptoms of the deadly COVID-19, which has killed over 90,000 Americans in the past three months.

There is no evidence hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) can fight off coronavirus, though clinical trials are under way. Medical experts and the

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have questioned the efficacy of the antimalarial drug and warned of the potentially harmful side effects, including heart problems.

Trump, 73, said he consulted his doctors but was not explicitly recommended by the White House physicians.

“White House doctor didn’t recommend. I asked him, what do you think? He said well, if you’d like it. I said yeah, I’d like it. I’d like to take it,” he said.

Trump said he has been taking a pill of the antimalarial drug daily.

“I take a pill every day. At some point, I’ll stop. What I’d like to do is I’d like to have the cure and/or the vaccine, and that will happen, I think, very soon,” he said.

Hydroxychloroquine is one of the oldest and best-known antimalarial drugs. Trump has called hydroxychloroquine a “game-changer” drug in the fight against the coronavirus. **PTI**

Trump threatens permanent freeze on WHO funding

Washington: In an ultimatum to the WHO, US President Donald Trump has said he would “reconsider” America’s membership of the UN health body and threatened to “permanently freeze” the funding to it if it failed to demonstrate its “independence” from China in the next 30 days.

Trump halted America’s funding of up to \$500 million annually to the World Health Organisation last month while a review was being done to assess its role in “severely mis-managing and covering up” the spread of the deadly coronavirus when it first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

In a four-page letter to WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom, Trump said, “It is clear the repeated missteps by you and your organisation in responding to the pandemic have been extremely costly for the world. The only way forward for the WHO is if it can actually demonstrate independence from China.”

“My administration has already started discussions with you on how to reform the organisation. But action is needed quickly. We do not have time to waste,” he wrote in his letter, which he tweeted on Monday night.

“That is why it is my duty,



as President of the United States, to inform you that, if the WHO does not commit to major substantive improvements within the next 30 days, I will make my temporary freeze of United States funding to the WHO permanent and reconsider our membership in the organisation,” the president said.

Trump, who is seeking reelection in November, said he cannot allow the American

taxpayer dollars to continue to finance an organisation that, in its present state, is so clearly not serving America’s interests.

More than 300,000 people have died due to the coronavirus pandemic and over 4.8 million people infected around the world. The US is the worst-hit country with over 90,000 deaths and over 1.5 million confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to Johns Hopkins University.

In his letter dated May 18, Trump alleged that the WHO has failed to publicly call on China to allow for an independent investigation into the origins of the virus, despite the recent endorsement for doing so by its own Emergency Committee. **PTI**

EU URGES ALL NATIONS TO BACK WHO

Brussels: The EU on Tuesday urged all countries to back the World Health Organisation (WHO) after President Donald Trump threatened to permanently cut US funding.

European Commission spokeswoman Virginie Battu-Henriksson said global cooperation is “the only effective and viable option to win this battle”.

She said, “This is the time for solidarity. It is not the time

for finger pointing or undermining multilateral cooperation.” In a letter to WHO’s director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Trump wrote the agency’s “repeated missteps” in its response to the pandemic have proven “very costly for the world”.

Trump threatened to cut US’ WHO funding unless it commits to “substantive improvements” in the next 30 days. **AP**

Russian PM back to work after bout with virus

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia’s prime minister has resumed his duties after recovering from the coronavirus.

Mikhail Mishustin, 54, announced that he had been infected in a televised call with President Vladimir Putin on April 30.

On Tuesday, Mishustin’s office said that he has checked out of the hospital and returned to his duties in the Cabinet headquarters. He is set to take part in a video conference with President Vladimir Putin later in the day. Several Cabinet ministers and Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov also have been infected. Peskov said that he had double pneumonia caused by the virus. He noted that he hadn’t met with Putin in person for more than a month.

Nearly 13% museums around the world may never reopen

United Nations: Nearly 13 per cent of the museums around the world may never reopen, the UN’s cultural agency has warned, as about 90 per cent of them globally have had to close their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the occasion of International Museum Day Monday, two studies by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) said that museums have been especially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 90 per cent of them, or more than 85,000 institutions, having closed their doors for varying lengths of time during the crisis.

Furthermore, in Africa and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), only 5 per cent of museums were able to offer online content to their audiences.



A woman wears a face mask to prevent the spread of coronavirus as she looks at paintings at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels Tuesday **AP**

“Nearly 13 per cent of museums around the world may never reopen,” the agencies said in a statement.

The two studies, involving member states and museum professionals, were aimed at assessing the impact of COVID-19 on museums and museum institutions.

They also aimed to find out how the sector had adapted to

the pandemic and explore ways to support institutions in its aftermath.

“Museums play a fundamental role in the resilience of societies”, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay said.

“We must help them cope with this crisis and keep them in touch with their audiences”.

The study conducted by ICOM highlights the fact that

UK lawmakers say testing lapses increased nursing home toll

London: An influential group of British lawmakers on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Government of failing to conduct enough tests for the new coronavirus, saying the lapse helped COVID-19 cut a deadly swath through UK nursing homes.

As official statistics revealed more than 11,000 coronavirus deaths in British nursing homes, the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee said “testing capacity has been inadequate for most of the pandemic so far.” In a letter to the prime minister, committee chairman Greg Clark said Britain’s limited testing capacity “drove strategy, rather than strategy driving capacity.”

UK authorities initially sought to trace and test everyone who had been in contact

with people infected with the coronavirus. But they abandoned that strategy in mid-March as the number of infections overwhelmed the country’s testing resources.

Johnson’s Conservative government has faced growing criticism as Britain suffers one of the world’s worst coronavirus death tolls. The government’s official tally of deaths among people who tested positive for the virus stands at 34,796, second only to the U.S. When suspected as well as confirmed cases are added, the toll is well over 40,000.

More than 11,000 of those deaths occurred in nursing homes in England and Wales, according to figures compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

Clark, a lawmaker from

the governing Conservative Party, said the “pivotal” decision in March to stop testing for the coronavirus outside of hospitals meant that nursing home residents and staff weren’t tested “at a time when the spread of the virus was at its most rampant.”

The country’s testing capacity has now been scaled up to more than 100,000 tests a day, and the government plans to reintroduce a “test, track and trace” policy as part of plans to control the virus and ease a nationwide lockdown that was imposed March 23. But the science committee also said that “it is not clear that the lessons of the delays to testing have been learned.” It called for authorities to publish the evidence that led to the decision to abandon community testing in March. **AP**

UN agency warns of fentanyl production threat in SE Asia

Bangkok: Narcotics police in Myanmar have seized a large amount of liquid fentanyl, providing the first evidence that the synthetic opioid is being produced in quantity in Southeast Asia’s infamous Golden Triangle region.

The discovery during a series of drug raids in Myanmar’s Shan state suggests a market for the drug has been created in the region, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said Monday.

“Big international syndicates already active in the Golden Triangle are well positioned to take advantage of regional heroin demand and produce synthetic opioids alongside other drugs,” the agency’s regional representative, Jeremy Douglas, said in a statement.

The U.N. Agency warned that the development suggests that Southeast Asia is poised to become a significant source of synthetic drugs for other parts of the world.

Massive amounts of methamphetamine and other drugs and their components were also seized in what the agency described as “one of the largest and most successful counter-narcotics operations in the history of the country and region.” The Golden Triangle, a remote jungle area where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet, was once a major source of the world’s opium and heroin. In recent years it has also become a major producer of methamphetamine. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid estimated to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine and 30 to 50 times more powerful than heroin. It has been blamed for a large part of the waves of deaths from opioids that have swept through the United States in the past few years. Experts say fentanyl is easier to make and



smuggle than heroin, and far more profitable to sell. U.S. Authorities accuse China, Myanmar’s northern neighbor, of being the source of fentanyl imported to the United States, a claim denied by Beijing.

The agency said the raids were carried out between Feb. 20 and April 9 in Kutkhai township of Shan state, in eastern Myanmar.

Shan state, like many border areas of Myanmar, is not tightly controlled by the central government, and armed ethnic minority militias and guerrilla groups hold sway over much of the territory.

The U.N. Agency said without elaborating that “evidence of militia involvement was uncovered during the operation which resulted in the arrest of 33 Myanmar and foreign nationals.” According to the agency, in addition to 3,748.5 liters (990 gallons) of methyl fentanyl, police seized 193.5 million methamphetamine tablets weighing 17.4 tons; more than 500 kilograms. (1,100 pounds) of crystal methamphetamine; 292 kg. (644 lb.) of heroin; 588 kg. (1,296 lb.) of opium; 49 kg. (108 lb.) of morphine; and 6.8 kg. (15 lb.) of ketamine.

Also seized were various precursor and pre-precursor chemicals used to make the drugs, along with sophisticated laboratory and production equipment. **AP**

Make public Panchen Lama’s whereabouts: Pompeo

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has called on China to immediately make public the Panchen Lama’s whereabouts and uphold its international commitments to promote religious freedom, saying he is one of the most important figures in the Tibetan Buddhism with spiritual authority second only to the Dalai Lama.

His remarks came on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the disappearance of the 11th Panchen Lama.

The Department of State has made the promotion and protection of religious freedom a priority, especially in China, where people of all faiths face severe repression and discrimination, Pompeo said.

“As part of that mission on May 17, we marked the 25th anniversary of the disappearance of the 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who has not appeared in public since the PRC

(People’s Republic of China) government abducted him in 1995 at age six,” he said in a statement.

“The Panchen Lama is one of the most important figures in Tibetan Buddhism with spiritual authority second only to the Dalai Lama. But China’s persecution of the Panchen Lama is not unusual,” Pompeo said.

He called on the Chinese government to immediately make public the Panchen Lama’s whereabouts and to uphold its own constitution and international commitments to promote religious freedom for all persons.

The United States, he said, remains deeply concerned about PRC’s ongoing campaign to eliminate the religious, linguistic and cultural identity of Tibetans, including through the ongoing destruction of communities of worship and learning, such as the Larung Gar and Yachen Gar Buddhist Institutes. **PTI**

2017 Sufi shrine bombing: Pak court sentences 2 Islamist militants to death

Islamabad: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has sentenced two Islamist militants to death for their involvement in a 2017 suicide bombing at a Sufi shrine in Sindh province in which 82 people were killed.

According to police, the accused — Nadir Ali and Furqan — were identified by the eyewitnesses and judicial magistrate Mushtaq Ali Qjkho through CCTV footage. The duo were found guilty in the 2017 bombing case in Sehwan Sharif area of Sindh province.

As many as 82 people were killed and over 250 others were injured when a suicide bomber launched a grenade before blowing himself up at the Sufi shrine of Lal Shabbaz Qalandar in Sehwan Sharif on February 16, 2017. **PTI**

7 Pak soldiers, civilian killed in two terror attacks in Balochistan

Islamabad/Karachi: Seven Pakistani soldiers and a civilian driver were killed in two separate terror attacks in the restive Balochistan province, an official statement said on Tuesday.

Terrorists targeted a vehicle of the Frontier Corps using improvised explosive devices in the Pir Ghaib area on Monday night, killing six Pakistani Army soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer, said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistani military.

The soldiers were identified as Naib Subedar Ihsan, Ullah Khan, Naik Zubair Khan, Naik Ijaz Ahmed, Naik Maula Bux and Naik Noor Muhammad.

A civilian driver Abdul Jabbar was also killed in the attack. In a separate incident in Balochistan’s Kech, another soldier, identified as Sepoy Imdad Ali, was killed during an

exchange of fire with the militants.

The incident took place early in the morning when security personnel were clearing the area for fencing the border.

This is the second terror attack on the Pakistani soldiers in 10 days in the restive province.

On May 9, six soldiers, including a major, were killed in Buleda area when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Resource-rich Balochistan in southwestern Pakistan borders Afghanistan and Iran, but it is also Pakistan’s largest and poorest province, rife with ethnic, sectarian and separatist insurgencies.

Baloch nationalists are active in the Balochistan province and often target the security forces and people from other provinces, especially Punjab. **PTI**

Four killed, 24 injured as quake hits China’s Yunnan province

Beijing: A 5-magnitude earthquake has struck China’s southwestern Yunnan province, killing at least four people and injuring 24 others, according to officials.

One person was trapped in debris, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

It said that rescue and relief teams, including firefighters and emergency response, have been sent to the quake zone.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Center, the 5-magnitude shallow quake struck Qiaojia county at 9.47 PM on Monday.

The tremors were felt in Qujing city’s Huize county as well as in the cities of Zhaotong, Xuanwei and Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture. **PTI**

Lesotho PM resigns after pressure over murder

AP ■ MASERU (LESOTHO)

Lesotho’s Prime Minister Thomas Thabane has resigned after losing a struggle with leaders of his party who wanted him out over allegations of his involvement in the 2017 murder of his estranged wife, Lipolelo.

The 80-year-old Thabane had said he would go at the end of July, but rivals in his All Basotho Convention party reached a deal with the main opposition Democratic Congress to form a new government in the southern African nation.

A Council of State meeting on Monday advised King Letsie III to swear in Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro on Wednesday, according to the king’s senior private secretary, Monehela Posholi.

That left Thabane no

choice but to leave in a historic smooth transfer of power without a no confidence vote or elections.

“The time to retire from the great theater of action, take leave from public life and office has finally arrived,” Thabane said in a televised address Monday. He asked citizens to give his successor the “utmost support.”

Thabane served as prime minister from 2012 to 2015 and from 2017 to now. The first stint also ended prematurely as he was pushed out by opponents allegedly for failure to deliver on electoral promises.

Despite his requests to regional Southern African Community mediators, Thabane leaves without any guarantees from immunity from prosecution for the 2017 murder.

China says Trump’s threat to pull out of WHO an attempt to shift blame on virus

Beijing: China on Tuesday accused President Donald Trump of using it “as an issue” to shift the blame from his “incompetent response” to contain the coronavirus at home, hours after he threatened to pull the US out of the World Health Organisation if it failed to demonstrate “independence” from China.

“The US tries to use China as an issue to shift responsibility and bargain on its international obligations to WHO”, which is a miscalculation,

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here.

He was responding to questions on Trump’s letter to World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus threatening to “permanently freeze” the US funding to the UN health agency if it failed to demonstrate its “independence” from China in the next 30 days.

“The US leadership’s open letter is full of vague expressions such as probably etc,”

Zhao said.

“It tries to mislead the public to smear China and shift the blame from its own incompetent response” to stop the spread of the virus in the US, he said.

“It is futile. Currently, COVID-19 is still spreading in the US and many other places,” he said, adding that the US politicians should stop the blame game and work with the international community to stop the spread of the virus. **PTI**

WHO states agree to independent probe

Geneva: World Health Organisation member states agreed on Tuesday to an independent probe into the UN agency’s coronavirus response as US criticism mounted over its handling of the pandemic. Countries taking part in the WHO’s annual assembly, being held virtually for the first time, adopted a resolution by consensus urging a joint response to the crisis. The resolution, tabled by the

European Union, called for an “impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation” of the international response to the pandemic, which has so far infected more than 4.8 million people and killed over 318,000.

It said the investigation should include a probe of “the actions of WHO and their time-lines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic”.

The US did not disassoci-

ate itself from the consensus as some had feared after Washington chastised the WHO on the first day of the assembly Monday and lashed out further against China over its role in the outbreak.

Tuesday’s resolution at the WHO assembly also called for nations to commit to ensuring “transparent, equitable and timely access” to any treatments or vaccines developed against COVID-19. **AFP**

Around the Globe

Islamabad: Pakistan reported 1,841 new cases of the novel coronavirus and 36 fatalities during the last 24 hours, taking the total infections in the country to nearly 44,000 with 939 deaths, the health ministry said on Tuesday.

Beijing: China reported seven new coronavirus cases Tuesday, a day after President Xi Jinping announced his country would provide \$2 billion to help respond to the outbreak and its economic fallout.

London: Although the COVID-19 pandemic is known to have originated from Wuhan, China in December 2019, researchers tracking the origin of the virus, say that the novel coronavirus may have existed in a latent phase in the city since last October.

Kathmandu: Nepal’s COVID-19 cases crossed 400 on Tuesday after 27 new infections were reported in the country, the health ministry has said.

SENSEX RISES 167 PTS, Nifty advances 55.85 pts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices gave up most of their early gains but managed to break the three-session losing streak by closing in positive territory on Tuesday, tracking enthusiasm in global markets over a potential Covid19 vaccine.

After rallying over 700 points in a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex finished 167.19 points or 0.56 per cent higher at 30,196.17.

While, the NSE Nifty advanced 55.85 points or 0.63 per cent to end at 8,879.10.

Bharti Airtel emerged as the stock of the day, surging over 11 per cent, boosted by rise in average revenue per user (ARPU) in its earnings report.

Analysts said the ARPU increase speaks of Bharti Airtel's ability to command a price premium in the market.

Other major gainers on the Sensex were ONGC, UltraTech Cement, ITC, PowerGrid and NTPC.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries, L&T and SBI were among the laggards.

Of the Sensex constituents, 22 closed in the green and 8 in the red.

Sectorally, BSE telecom rallied 10.41 per cent, followed by tech, power, utilities, and auto indices that rose up to 2.49 per cent. On the other hand, capital goods, energy, realty and banking indices ended lower. In the broader market, BSE midcap rose 0.52 per cent, while smallcap index fell 0.20 per cent.

"Markets around the world rallied on the back of a positive vaccine trial in the US, because of which Indian markets also witnessed a positive opening. Although trial of the vaccine seemed to give positive results, the development of this is still



in the very initial stage and is some time away from approvals and production," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. Meanwhile in India, with confirmed coronavirus infections crossing the one lakh mark and the stimulus measures getting cold response from various quarters, investors are moving cautiously as the uncertainties still persist, experts said.

Globally, investor senti-

ment was boosted over optimism that the global economy would recover quickly following a successful early-stage trial of a coronavirus vaccine. In a significant development towards developing a vaccine for the coronavirus, an American biotechnology company Moderna has said its initial vaccine tests in people have shown promising results and can stimulate an immune response against the virus.

₹ gains 25 paise against \$ on optimism over Covid-19 vaccine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 25 paise to settle at 75.66 against the US dollar on Tuesday as reports of initial success in COVID-19 vaccine trials boosted investor sentiment world over.

Forex traders said besides the encouraging results in a COVID-19 vaccine trial, gains in domestic equities and a weak greenback in the overseas market supported the local unit. At the interbank foreign

exchange, the rupee opened higher at 75.71 against the previous close of 75.91. The unit gained further ground to settle at 75.66 against the American currency, registering a rise of 25 paise. During the trading session, the domestic unit saw an intra-day high of 75.63 and a low of 75.79 against the greenback.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.16 per cent down at 99.50.

Partial economic re-start, probable Covid cure lift equities

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Partial opening of domestic retail markets in several states, along with positive global cues on the back of a probable new anti Covid-19 vaccine, pushed India's key stock indices higher on Tuesday.

The rise was in line with the gains in the Asian markets.

Analysts cited the further opening up of the economy

under lockdown 4.0 as a major factor for the upward mobility.

The Sensex closed at 30,196.17, up by 167.19 points or 0.56 per cent from the previous close of 30,028.98.

It had opened at 30,450.74 and touched an intra-high of 30,739.96 and a low of 30,116.82 points.

The Nifty50 closed at 8,879.10, higher by 55.85 points

or 0.63 per cent from the previous close.

Sectorally, top gainers were the BSE Telecom, Power and Auto indices, while the top losers were the BSE Capital Goods, Realty and Bankex indices.

"Markets ended with decent gains on Tuesday after a sell off from the highs. The Nifty had opened on a positive note and touched a high of

9,030 before witnessing a sell off," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

"Technically, with the Nifty failing to sustain at the highs, the bears do seem to have an upper hand. Further downsid

"Markets around the world rallied on the back of a positive vaccine trial in the US, because of which Indian markets also witnessed a positive opening. It later pared gains to end up at just around 0.6 per cent." "Although trial of the vaccine seemed to give positive results, the development of this is still in the very initial stage and is some time away from approvals and production.

Covid-19 to accelerate deterioration in NBFIs' asset quality: Moody's

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday said the Covid-19 outbreak will accelerate the deterioration in asset quality of non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).

The investor service said that weakening solvency at NBFIs will, in turn, pose risks to the stability of the broader financial system, given banks' large exposures to NBFIs. At present, NBFIs are more exposed than banks to the coronavirus-led downturn, given their focus on riskier segments, and in particular, corporates and the real estate sector which were facing liquidity constraints even before the outbreak.

Consequently, to alleviate borrower stress, the Reserve Bank allowed financial institutions to provide three-month moratoriums on loan repayments.

These measures represent a significant drain on near-term liquidity at NBFIs, as most primarily manage liquidity by matching cash inflows from loan repayments with cash outflows to repay their own liabilities.

AT PRESENT, NBFIS ARE MORE EXPOSED THAN BANKS TO THE CORONAVIRUS-LED DOWNTURN

While the Centre's move to directly subscribe to ₹300 billion of NBFI debt will provide some near-term relief, this will not be sufficient to address the NBFIs' structural funding issues.

"We expect a significant weakening in asset quality at NBFIs, that will worsen the liquidity stress triggered by the three-month moratorium on customer loan repayments," says Srikanth Vadlamani, a Moody's Vice President and Senior Credit Officer.

"The weakening solvency of NBFIs will also increase pressure at banks at a time when risks to systemic stability are already elevated following the Yes Bank default, which triggered deposit outflows at some smaller banks," he added.

Govt may raise FDI cap in insurance companies to 74%

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another big reform initiative aimed at bringing more capital into the insurance business, the Government may soon open the sector to 74 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the approval route to bring parity with the banking sector.

The proposed changes in the FDI limit for insurance is part of another round of overhaul of the FDI policy that the Government is looking to implement to make the policy progressive and less restrictive. This has become important post Covid-19 outbreak.

Currently, FDI up to 49 per cent is permissible in insurance under the automatic route with the condition that insurance company's ownership and control remains at all times in the hands of resident Indian entities.

In banking, however, 74 per cent FDI is permitted with up to 49 per cent investment under automatic route while anything above that, under Government approval route.

Sources said, like in banking, the Government is now looking to raise FDI limit in insurance up to 74 per cent giving the control and management to the foreign investor. However, to ensure strong Indian presence in majority foreign owned and managed entity, the company may be mandated to appoint an Indian CEO.

The decision on changes in the FDI limit could be announced by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) soon. The Secretary, DPIIT Guruprasad Mohapatra, earlier told ISNS that there are always some policy considerations going on regarding several sectors, but refused to comment on specifics.

N Rly workshops achieves target of production of 30K PPE kits

New Delhi: Achieves the Target 12 days in advance with production of 3000 PPE Kits in a single day.A total number of 44,000 PPE Kits Fabricated till date Northern Railways workshops are working 24x7 to fight against COVID-19.

In its continuous effort to fight against COVID-19, leading from the front Northern Railways Workshops have fabricated 44,000 number of PPE KITS till date for our covid warriors of Railways and achieved the target of production of 30,000 kits 12 days in advance. Apart from this , Northern Railway workshops achieves the highest record production of PPE Kits in a single day today with production of 3000 PPE Kits.

WESTERN RAILWAY ELECTRICAL WORKS AT JRH

1. e-Tender No.: EL 4/1/WA/3 Dt.18.05.2020. Work & Location: Mumbai Central Jagjivan Ram Hospital-Modification of Air conditioning arrangement for negative in SICU, CVTS ICU, CVTS OT, Cath Lab OT & Labour Room in connection with treatment of COVID 19 pandemic patients. Approx. Cost: ₹ 2,52,17,547/-. EMD: 2,76,100. 2. e-Tender No.: EL 4/1/WA/4 Dt.18.05.2020. Work & Location: Mumbai Central Jagjivan Ram Hospital-Provision of noise free central vacuum system and central compressor medical air system, in connection with treatment of COVID-19 pandemic patients. Approx. Cost: ₹ 38,25,000/-. EMD: 76,500. Date & time of submission: on 01.06.2020 till 15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 01.06.2020 till 15.30 Hrs. Note: Please visit www.treps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Reliance to use 3/4th of the rights issue to repay debt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries will use three-fourth of proceeds of its mega rights issue for repayment of some of its borrowings, according to offer document. The company expects net proceeds of ₹53,036.13 crore from the rights issue that opens on May 20 and closes on June 3. Out of these, ₹39,755.08 crore would go towards "repayment/ prepayment of all or a portion of certain borrowings availed by company," it said. The remaining ₹13,281.05 crore would be used for general corporate purposes. Shareholders will have to pay only 25 per cent for subscribing to the company's mega ₹53,125-crore rights issue, and the balance will have to be paid in two installments in May and November next year, the company said. One share will be offered for every 15 shares held at ₹1,257. Of the ₹1,257 per share price, only 25 per cent is to be paid at the time of subscription.

Govt extends deadline to fulfill contractual obligations

PTI ■ NEW DELHI


The Finance Ministry has extended the deadline for fulfillment of contractual obligations of all Government projects, including public-private partnerships (PPP), which were due for completion on or after February 20, by up to six months in view of Covid-19 crisis.

The Expenditure Department, under the ministry, had in February said that COVID-19 outbreak in China would be considered a 'force majeure' situation, which refers to extraordinary events and circumstances beyond human control or a natural calamity, giving relief to companies which have contracts with the Central Government.

In a recent office memorandum, the department said subsequent to this, further disruptions have affected transportation, manufacturing and distribution of goods and services in the country.

"Limitations placed on the movement of men and material by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A J&K Govt. Undertaking)
E-NIT No: 08/E/J of 2020-21 Dt. 16-05-2020
On behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., the Deputy General Manager, Unit Electrical, JKPCCLtd. Jammu invites e-tenders from approved and eligible electric contractors registered with JKPCCLtd./J&K State Govt./CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Govt. undertaking for the following work:
S.No.1 Name of Work :- Providing, fixing and Installation of LT Panel for Library Block of BGSSB University at Rajouri
Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs) :-Rs. 5.00 Lacs, Cost of document :-Rs. 500/-
Earnest Money (Rs. in lacs) :- Rs. 0.10 Lacs, Time of completion :-2 weeks, Class of Contractor :-"A"
Qualification criteria, scope of work, tender documents, BOQ and all other terms & conditions can be seen and downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in.
Critical Dates:
1. Period of downloading of NIT :- 18.05.2020 to 26.05.2020 up to 1400 Hrs.
2. Pre-Bid Meeting :- 20.05.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Dy. General Manager, Unit Elect JKPCCLtd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu
3. Bid submission dates along with proof of cost of Tender Document and EMD :- 18.05.2020 to 26.05.2020 up to 1400 Hrs.
4. Date of opening of technical Bid :- 27.05.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Dy. General Manager, Unit Elect JKPCCLtd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu
5. Status of Funds :- Available
6. Hard Copies of Technical Bid will be invited from L1 only
Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of undersigned or e-tendering Cell, Jammu. Sd/- Deputy General Manager,
No.DIP/J-228-P/20 Unit - Electrical, JKPCCLtd. Jammu.
Dated: 18.05.2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL


General public is here by informed that this girl namely Sanjana D/o Man Bahadur R/o H.No. 155, 1st Floor, Munsli Ram Colony, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi Age : 14 years, Height : 5'1", Face : Oval, Complexion : Fair, Build : Normal, Identification: Mentally weak, wearing yellow colour suit and salwar, has been missing since 05.05.2020 from her house at about 07:00 P.M. from the area of P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi. vide FIR No. 332/20 dated 06.05.2020 u/s 363 IPC. On 07.05.2020 she returned her home thereafter she was admitted in Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi for treatment on 10.05.2020 she again missing from Hindu Rao Hospital while she is under treatment. In this regard FIR No. 332/20 dated 06.05.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following:-
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO : sho@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Fax: 24368639, Tel. No. : 011-27654675,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 8750870231, 9868983400

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 10.05.2020 at JPC Hospital close gate, Delhi.** Dead Body has been preserved in GTB Hospital, Delhi mortuary for identification. In this regard DD No. 08-B, dated 10.05.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, New Usmanpur, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 45 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Yellow colour T-shirt and blue colour Trouser.

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

SHO
Police Station, New Usmanpur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22172410, 875087026
DP/135/NE/2020

UJVN LIMITED
H. O. "UJJAWAL" MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN-248006
(Tele.: 0135-2763808, 2763508, Fax: 0135-2763507)
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, website: www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com
Tender Notice
Office of the Executive Engineer (Gen.), Chilla Power House invites sealed tenders from interested bidders for following works.
Tender No. 01/EE(Gen.)/CHILLA/TN/2020-21: Rewiring works at Chilla Power House.
Tender No.02/EE(Gen.)/CHILLA/TN/2020-21: Flushing of strainers, Flushing of filtration plant and cleaning of 132 kV switchyard in monsoon season at Chilla Power House.
Tender No. 03/EE(Gen.)/CHILLA/TN/2020-21: Various Electrical Repairing works of Unit#3 and other equipments of Chilla power House.
Tender No. 04/EE(Gen.)/CHILLA/TN/2020-21: Annual cleaning of Intake Trash Rack of Chilla Power House
Estimated Value of Work (GST Extra): ₹3.18 Lacs, ₹6.66 Lacs, 5.49 Lacs & 5.20 Lacs respectively.
Tender Fee (Including GST): ₹295/-, ₹590/-, ₹590/- & ₹590/- respectively.
Earnest Money: ₹12800/-, ₹20000/-, ₹16500 & ₹15600/- respectively.
Availability of tenders on website: w. e. f. May 20, 2020
Last Date/Time for downloading of tender : June 11, 2020 Upto 14:00Hrs
Last date/time for submission of tender: June 11, 2020 Upto 15:00Hrs.
Date & Time for opening of tender: June 13, 2020 At 11:00 Hrs.
For full & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents of the above works can be downloaded from the Nigam's web site "www.ujvn.com".
Executive Engineer (Gen.)
Chilla Powe House
पत्रांक सं० 319 /दिनांक 19 / 05 / 2020
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
The Chief Public Officer, Northern Railway for and on behalf of President of India invites open tender on prescribed tender form for the following work:-

Full Name of work	Selection of Agency for Social Media Services and Media Analysis for Northern Railway.
Approximate Cost of Service/Work	₹2,91,60,000/- per annum
Earnest Money amount	₹2,95,800/- (Rs. Two Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred only)
Cost of Application Form	₹10,000/- + 18% GST = Rs. 11,800/- Non refundable
Last Date of downloading Application Form from NR's Official Website/purchase from PR Office	Up to 12:00 hrs. on 19.06.2020
Last Date/Time of submitting of Application	Up to 15:00 hrs. 19.06.2020
Date & Time of Opening of Applications	On 19.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs. onwards
Venue for Application Submission and Application Opening	CPRO Office, State Entry Road, NDCR Building, New Delhi-110055
Website Particulars and published open tender notice and complete details of terms & conditions of tender can be seen and downloaded from website	www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

No.: 5/PR/Social Media/2019 Dated : 19.05.2020 1124/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

हरीयाणा सरकार TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT KURUKSHETRA.	REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS, SLUSH, GARBAGE AND VEGETATION ETC. FROM INTERNAL SECTION OF SARASVATI RIVER IN REACH RD 210000 TO 242000 AND RD 265000 TO 271500 + 1 OTHER WORK	18.05.2020 26.05.2020	36.60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-238590 xensarasvatidnkr@gmail.com
2	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION NO. 1, SIRSA	ELLENABAD - TO CREATE TT FACILITY AT 7.5 MLD EXISTING STP BASED ON MBBR TECHNOLOGY FOLLOWED BY CHLORINATION + 2 OTHER WORK	18.05.2020 26.05.2020	19.64 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991195788 ee3sirsa@phedharyana.gov.in
3	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION MANDI DABWALI, DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS DEPARTMENT AMBALA	A/MTC. WATER SUPPLY SCHEME CHORMAR KHERA DISTT. SIRSA FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021. "SUPPLYING, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 30.00 HP CLEAR WATER MOTOR AT WATER WORKS CHORMAR KHERA AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO".	19.05.2020 26.05.2020	1.65 Lacs/ 3300/- for contractor / 1650/- for society	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01668-223902 / ee.mandidabwali@gmail.com
4		CONST. OF BRICK PAVED RASTA AT VILLAGE BRAHMANMAJRA BLOCK NARAINGARH (RE-CALL) + 1 OTHER WORK	19.05.2020 26.05.2020	39.79 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2551368/ prexeeng.amb@hry.nic.in
5	WCD PALWAL	TRANSPORTATION WORK OF SNP SUPPLY TO AWC'S	15.05.2020 21.05.2020	EMD 20000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9818293113 popwl.wcd@gmail.com
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION NO.1, BHIWANI	A/MTC STORM WATER AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM BHIWANI TOWN , "CONST. OF RCC ROAD JAIL IN VARIOUS STREET OF BHIWANI TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO".	18.05.2020 29.05.2020	16800/-	etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
7	PW (B & R) DEPTT. FARIDABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF THE BUILDING OF PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU GOVERNMENT COLLEGE SECTOR 16A FARIDABAD IN FARIDABAD DISTRICT	15.05.2020 29.05.2020	36.46 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	0129-2288187 pwd-eeep1-faridabad@hry.nic.in

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RO NO. 80940

Prep tips for CLAT

The continuous extensions in the exam dates during lockdown is a boon for students. DR KANU PRIYA tells you how aspirants can make the best use of this extra time and ace the exam

The outbreak of COVID-19 has drastically changed everything around us. Social distancing is the norm now and there would definitely be a new normal. Looking at the positive side, we now have a world that is safe and healthier and in a much better prepared to deal with — if something like this ever re-ignites. Digital is the future post-COVID-19. What would have happened in a decade in terms of advancement of technology, may now happen in two years because technology has taken over our lives completely in such a short duration. The education sector is also seen coping up well with the change and the sudden lockdown. This is the time to re-think and re-define the ways to educate Generation Z, Alpha and beyond.

Law is one of the popular career choices in our country from a very long time especially for those whose families have been into this profession for generations but this ideology is changing and those who do not have a family of lawyers are opting for law because of the wide career option gates that law has opened. The diverse career options that a law degree offers are unmatched by any other professional degree. The National Law Universities have brought in a considerable change in the preference of the people and intriguing students to pursue the career.

Furthermore, the Bar Council of India, not only regulates legal education but also legal practice in the country and a higher degree in law is recognised by the University Grant Commission (UGC). There are many Law Colleges in Delhi NCR recognised by the Bar Council of India offering five years integrated BA LLB/BBA LLB/BSc LLB/BCom LLB. A candidate can start preparing for the entrance exam either in Class XI or Class XII. Students aspiring to pursue law from National Law Schools have to appear for CLAT (Combined Law Admission Test), to be held on June 21, 2020, which will further test them based on their general english, legal aptitude, logical reasoning, general awareness and elementary mathematics.

It is the most stressful phase of any parents' life when their wards after the Class XII exams have to make a career choice for themselves depending on what intrigues them. Looking at the brighter side of this lockdown, students have more time to prepare for CLAT and other law entrance tests. Here are



a few tips to help one crack the test.

- **Clarity:** One needs to be clear whether they wish to be an engineer or a lawyer. No entrance test is going to be easy so it's always better to have the clarity and focus on one thing. Weigh the pros and cons before making any decision and assess themselves if they are fit for a particular profession.
- **It's never too late:** Stop procrastinating and make the best use of the time left. It's never too late to start preparing. Use this lockdown to shape the career and make it to the best law school in the country.
- **Make a plan:** One needs to have a plan for everything; be it cracking a competitive exam or starting their own business. Merely knowing and having clarity that they want to be a lawyer will not help. Students need to have a vision of how they want to go about it.
- **Know the syllabus:** Students need to know how much is enough and what is enough. Being directionless

won't help, rather it would only steer them further and further away from their goals.

- **Stay updated:** Inculcate a good habit of staying updated with what's happening in and around the world. Never miss reading the morning newspaper. Students have easy access to e-papers and e-magazines available during the lockdown. Since there isn't much happening these days apart from COVID-19, students are lucky that the general knowledge segment won't be tough or too elaborated.
- **Time management:** Prepare a schedule and stick to it. Students need to know how much time they need to devote to preparation keeping in mind that they are going to compete with the best in the country. One cannot be studying all the time too so it's important to manage your time well and give yourself necessary breaks to relax and be at leisure.
- **Practise makes a person perfect:**

Practising hard is the key, specifically when the CLAT pattern has changed and it's more of comprehension now. One may do very well in mock tests but they may not do well when they actually attempt the exam because they are under so much pressure to give in the best and nobody is going to give them another chance. Practise is what will help them get through this with flying colours and make you more confident.

■ **Know your flaws:** Students need to know their weak areas and strong areas so that they can devote more time to turn their weak areas into strong ones. A lawyer definitely knows how to turn a disadvantageous situation to his/her own advantage. This would also help them understand how they should be attempting the paper to get the best results.

■ **Plan on how to attempt the paper on the final day:** Students should go for what they feel works the best for

them. Panicking is not an option, so staying calm and ensuring themselves that they can go through all questions is something which might help them get through this. They should begin with your strongest section. Beginning with what they are good at would boost their confidence and keep them motivated throughout the paper.

■ **Believe:** Lastly, students should always trust their hard work, passion and spirit. It is not to be forgotten that the inner conscience is always with them to motivate and inspire them.

Cracking CLAT isn't something impossible, rather if one is strong enough to undergo a pandemic, they are definitely strong enough to clear an examination. All students require is to focus and have some faith in themselves and they are good to go.

The writer is Professor & Associate Dean, School of Law, Ansal University

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Resolve to edge in a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of the year.

— Horace Mann

Century of happiness

The Vellore Institute of Technology's (VIT) 2021 Campus placement started with a century this week as more than 100 students got selected for PG internships. Intel and Qualcomm have completed their selection process this week. Intel has selected 106 MTech students with a stipend of ₹40,000 per month, on conversion after the internship; the CTC would be ₹18 lakh per annum. Qualcomm has selected five MTech students with a stipend of ₹45,000 per month, on conversion after the internship; the CTC would be ₹29 lakhs per annum. The entire selection process was conducted remotely through remote online tests and interviews.

More than 20 companies have confirmed their participation for remote internship process which include the big names like VMware, Mediatek, Infineon, Philips, Novartis, Volvo, Cerner, etc., Other companies who would like to visit the institute for on campus interviews, will visit after the lock down.

The selected PG students from second year MTech, MTech (Software Engineering) and MCAs would join the companies by first week of August for a 10 month internship. The stipend ranges from ₹15,000 to ₹50,000 and if converted after the internship, their compensation would range from ₹5 lakh to ₹29 lakh per annum.

COVID-19 has not affected the placement process at VIT. The process of applying for the job is going to be the same, but the entire selection process would be done online. The placement office shares the resumes of the eligible and interested students to the companies. The companies would conduct online tests which can be taken remotely by the students. There are tools that are inbuilt into the online test platforms used by the companies that monitor the students while taking the tests which prevent copying and other malpractice during the test process. Students who are shortlisted from the test will go through an online interview.

JKBS' BBA programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The JK Business School (JKBS) invites applications for admissions to its full time Bachelor of Business Administration.

Duration: Three years
Eligibility: Candidate must have passed Class XII level (with minimum 50 per cent in any stream). Students who have cleared the Class XII exams or equivalent examination from CBSE/Board of School Education, Haryana/or other recognised board/or its equivalent are eligible to apply for these programme.

Selection procedure: Screening on the basis of Class XII results, group discussion, personal interview & JKBS Written Aptitude Test (WAT)

How to apply: Log on to www.jkbschool.org.
Last date to apply: May 20, 2020.

Cultivate a robust culture

The right culture not only helps an organisation survive in difficult times but also innovate, leverage opportunities and thrive, says DEEPA CHADHA

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a huge challenge for the management team of an organisation. As digital workplaces become the new normal and employees grapple to adapt to their new work routines, managing employee morale becomes more imperative than ever. It is in crisis like these when the organisational culture is put to test.

Culture is what holds an organisation together and creates a sense of belonging among employees. The more thoughtful and empathetic organisations are about supporting their employees the better chance they have of riding out this storm together. The right culture not only helps an organisation survive in difficult times but also innovate, leverage opportunities, and thrive.

The strongest pillar of an organisation's culture is good governance. The ethical values and conduct of a business build deep rooted resilience and determination that help the company deal with crises more effectively.

Openness forms a key dimension of a strong culture. Timely, transparent, and engaging communications can go a long way in



building a sense of community and trust. These are extraordinary times for all of us. One should be cognizant of the fact that employees are not merely working from home, but they have been compelled to work from home in a crisis. And hence they require more compassion and support.

Innovation and agility are key to adapt to new challenges and ensure business continuity. The pandemic has suddenly put the spotlight on digital transformation with organisations having to transition to a work from home model overnight. Enabling remote access infrastructures for your entire

workforce is not easy, thus putting those organisations with a strong technology core at an advantage over others.

One can never undermine the importance of performance-orientation while cultivating a robust organisational culture. A performance-oriented approach empowers your employees to continuously learn and excel.

Customer-centricity is equally important in shaping the right culture. This will help employees place the customer at the heart of everything that they do irrespective of the scenario. Lending a helping hand to communities, especially during testing times like these speaks volumes about the organisation.

These are challenging and uncertain times for everyone. And a strong and resilient organisational culture can help one navigate through this crisis. There is no pandemic-proof model. But this is an opportunity for leadership to introspect and take steps that can hold them in good stead for the future.

The writer is Senior Vice President, HR & Corporate Affairs, Vistara

For an intelligent future

The demand for AI professionals is increasing world over and there is a huge supply-demand gap, which is going to widen rapidly in the coming years, says MITRA GUPTA

Artificial intelligence is the new revolution in our life, a game-changer like electricity that transformed every industry and created huge economic value with the potential to disrupt almost all aspects of human existence. Every industry from manufacturing to IT, education & healthcare to finance has been aggressively investing in it from all over the world. It has been estimated that by 2030, AI, in all its applications, is predicted to contribute \$15.7 trillion to the global economy.

Every technological advancement comes with its own drawbacks. As the pursuit for AI succeeds, it has the potential to become more intelligent than any human. Till date all the technologies have been developed to assist humans, and not to outsmart us. Designing superior AI programmes, which itself is a cognitive task; would undergo superfast self-improvement, triggering an intelligence explosion leaving human intellect far behind.

The workplace too is changing faster than ever, and acquiring new skills has become far more important than having the right credentials. As AI is being increasingly incorporated into our workplaces and daily lives, it is poised to fundamentally upend the way we live and work. AI will replace a lot of jobs that humans do, as well as create many different job oppor-



tunities in related fields. To keep up with everyone, one must have some basic knowledge regarding AI. There is going to be huge demand for AI experts all across the globe. World over the demand of AI professionals is increasing and there is already a huge gap in supply and demand. This gap is going to widen rapidly in the coming years. There is a 60 per cent rise in demand for AI experts in 2019. And 76 per cent of Indian companies feel the shortage of AI skilled professionals.

School going students need to learn about AI to be able to understand the latest development in technology and be motivated to direct their learning in a way which can help them develop AI and related tech-

nologies in the future. Our Government has taken a lot of initiatives in the field of AI education, especially at school level. It has already been introduced as a vocational subject for classes VIII and IX in more than 20,000 CBSE schools across the country. Students are already doing a lot of projects and innovations in the field of AI at school level.

There are a lot of online education platforms which provide pre-designed as well as live AI sessions for school and college students. AI sessions help in development of computational thinking and analytical mindset in young ages leads to career opportunities for college students.

The writer is Founder, Robotics Wizards

AU combats COVID report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Adamas University on May 19, 2020 today launched a special crisis manual report 'AU Combats COVID' through a virtual press conference. The digital launch of this report is one of its kind initiative as it is not done by any other universities ever in Eastern and North Eastern part of India.

The momentous launch was done in the presence of Prof Samit Ray, Chancellor, Prof Dr Deependra Kumar Jha, Vice Chancellor, Prof Ujjwal K Chowdhury, Pro Vice Chancellor, of Adamas University among many other notable professors and academicians.

The report highlights how the university has quickly and radically altered its teaching, learning, evaluating activities during this crisis.

It also captures how the university prioritised the safety of the students and decided to close the campus as early as March 15, 2020 onwards. It had immediately adopted a series of humanitarian measures which included contribution of ₹10 lakh to the CM Relief Fund by Prof Samit Ray.

Additionally the university offered its campus to be used as a quarantine center with a maximum of 1000 beds for isolated persons, along with quarters for doctors and health professionals despite being a non-medical university.

‘Underprivileged are most affected’

The COVID-19 outbreak has led to massive destruction on the economy and the lives of the poor underprivileged people. The underprivileged children are the ones who are suffering the most as the pandemic's outbreak has congested all the social activities. It has left people with no choice but to stay at their homes.

As the number of cases increases day-by-day, a major chunk of the population is unable to fulfill their basic needs. "They are not in a posi-

tion to isolate or distance themselves and are deprived of food and essential safety measures. Many children relied on the meals that they used to get from schools or NGOs but since the lockdown has been imposed all around, everything has come to end for these children," says Richa Prasant, Founder of Sunaayy Foundation.

The closure of schools may protect these children from the virus but the impact on them is going to be on their mind for a long run. "On one

side these children don't get the opportunity due to poverty but some of them who go in NGOs education drive and Government schools.

Now they are losing out on their daily interactions with their other kids and teachers, and it will be long before they go back to school," Prasant adds.

Due to closure of schools, learning is certainly going to be disrupted, more so for underprivileged children, who live in slums, whose parents are not literate. They don't

have food to eat so how can we expect that they will have access to internet-based learning. In the current situation, there is no certainty as to when schools will resume; a prolonged gap is going to affect these children's interest to go to schools.

The unprecedented lockdown has stung millions of poor children leaving them in a horrible situation. It is significant to take appropriate steps for all those children whose families cannot afford even basic facilities.

Creative warriors courses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With uncertainties prevailing all around especially for students, online courses and webinars are coming to their rescue during the lockdown.

Vidyaadaan, an online platform seeking to bring gurus and shishyas together to foster knowledge, growth and development, is organising a series of sessions/interactive programmes to keep the students community motivated & also impart effective skilling in the media & entertainment industry. To connect with the media and entertainment industry fmany sessions were planned including one with Terence Lewis, Indian dancer and choreographer, who is set to launch Creative Warriors Online Courses beginning with a Master Class.

The lockdown disrupted NEET. The new date is out and aspirants need to pick themselves up again and accelerate their prep, says SAURABH KUMAR



The current health crisis has affected all sectors of the country as well as the world at large. While everything has come to a standstill at the moment, it is not possible to say when this crisis will get over. Due to the shutdown imposed due to the COVID-19 March 23, 2020 onwards, not only many supply chains have seen massive disruption but also the preparation schedule of many students who have naturally started feeling demotivated and seem to have lost inspiration to work hard as they were doing earlier. However, in the midst of this uncertainty and the imposed lockdown, they should not lose hope and keep themselves positive at all times.

As per the latest notifications from NTA and Ministry of HRD, the NEET exams will now take place on July 26, 2020. The students have to pick themselves up again from where they left and need to accelerate their preparation in order to score well in the upcoming exam. While most of the schools as well as coaching institutes are doing their best to help students through online classes, it is also important that students make full use of online teaching and study with a positive mindset.

To make the student's life easier in this time of difficulty, here are some quick tips.

Make an effective timetable: Now that you are at home, you can

easily divide your timetable in a better manner and increase the pace steadily for a strong preparation. Follow NCERT books as they are the best books for your preparation. Keep your study material precise and follow it completely. Don't go for too many books as you might get confused.

Online classes: Online classes are given by all schools, colleges as well as coaching institutes. As the course batch timings are convenient, so students can take classes comfortable & at a suitable time. Hence, students are advised proper time management at home to make the best of their online tutorials. They should not hesitate to ask questions wherever required. They should also make short notes from the online classes to gain a hold of important concepts. The students are also given an access to contact teachers at any point of time. They should always get their doubts cleared.

Mock tests: Take a mock test daily and if you don't have the current mock tests, attempt previous year papers. It is strongly advisable to stick to the notes and resources which you have prepared during the

Choose the subject which needs more preparation first and focus on your weak points by spending more time studying them. Solve questions on a daily basis to overcome the challenging topics

past two years or so. Do not fall prey to free resources provided online as they will only confuse you further and could also give misleading information.

Subject wise study: Choose the subject which needs more preparation first and focus on your weak points. Spend more time on the weak topics and solve questions on a daily basis to overcome the challenging topics.

Revision: Revise the formulas, method of calculations; and test your speed according while timing in order to prepare for the exams.

For NEET exam preparation, the students must include following topics in their exam study:

Physics: Thermodynamics, Electrostatics, Optics, Electronic Devices, Units & Measurements, Current Electricity

Chemistry: 40% organic & Physical & 20% inorganic: Inorganic from NCERT, Physical: Equilibrium, thermodynamics, Electrochemistry Kinetics. Organic: Alkyl halides alcohols phenols aldehydes hydrocarbons. Inorganic; complex compound p block elements

Botany: NCERT revision, More Class XII than XI. Morphology biological classification morphology in flowering plants plant physiology, Genetics, ecology

Zoology: Animal Diversity, Structural Organisation in animals, Cell Biology & Cell Division, Biomolecules, Human Physiology, Human Reproduction & Reproductive Health, Origin & Evolution, Animal husbandry, Human Health & Diseases and Biology in Human Welfare.

The students should continue following standard hygiene to stay fit and away from the virus. Don't forget to wash your hands with soap or sanitize them throughout the day. Since the exam date is out, they should increase their focus on studies and follow a strict and healthy regime.

Eat nutritious food and immunity building diet. Last but not the least, I advise all students to stay positive and not stress. Indulge in an indoor sport every now and then with your family and practice meditation.

The writer is Director Academic, Vidyamandir Classes Ltd

‘Online learning is here to stay’

The need for social distancing to prevent spread of COVID-19 has impacted the education sector as well. AJAY KUMAR tells SHALINI SAKSENA that there is need to have a blended approach to virtual classes

■ What are the advantages of using your portal?

It is a service that helps schools and institutions seamlessly get their classrooms online in just a week. Our virtual classroom enables 100 per cent learning up-time for students and provides an online extension for classrooms.

■ How does the gateway e-campus work?

Our integrated e-campus allows schools and institutions to streamline their operations online using the state-of-art ERP solution. The Edumarshal ERP is a one-stop solution to all the institution's needs. The solution is closely integrated with our virtual classroom module that allows online, asynchronous as well as hybrid learning. School staff and students connect to the learning management system seamlessly in a single click. Online classes can be conducted using a secure platform that can be customised to the needs of the school. ■ Given that we are used to doing things offline, how tough is it going to be for students to use online mode?

We make learning an enjoyable experience by providing a platform with a clean, intuitive layout that is created with the learners' needs in mind. Learners are already used to using the web for a variety of activities including watching videos, reading e-books, surfing the internet for information and using video chat applications. Our platform utilises the existing skills of learners to enable a more directed learning.

■ What challenges do you foresee?

Online learning is picking pace in India. However most schools are still managed and operated by professionals that have gone through the classic form of education. Making a shift to an online classroom will need a consolidated effort by specialists providers of online learning solutions.

■ Since the lockdown a lot of things have gone online when it comes to



Ajay Kumar, Co-founder, Edumarshal

education. How are you different? With COVID-19 taking the world by storm and no solution in sight, it will be a while before schools re-open and when they do we will be welcomed to a new normal. Online learning is here to stay.

■ Are we looking at a totally new system when it comes to education?

The medium of education is transforming, while its core principles remain the same. We are not replacing the classroom, but bring it online in a blended way.

■ Why should students use e-campus portal?

Students can have access to course information anytime, everywhere and easily keep track of their schedule. This helps students become more self-directed learners. The learning portal provides a consolidated learning space where students can join classes, participate in discussion forums, learn from their peers, keep track of their grades, reinforce their learning through assessments and collaborate on projects. Our mobile first approach ensures every student can access content and join their classes using a mobile phone. It's learning, anytime and anywhere.

India is preparing for a more relaxed Lockdown 4.0 to get its economic activities back on track with wide-ranging fiscal measures and infusions for survival-revival-growth. But even as we prepare for economic survival, revival and growth, let's be mindful that the threat of COVID-19 is still out there and we can't be lax. Much needs to be done for the society beyond economic issues to get life rolling again.

With COVID-19 disease classified as a notified disaster in mid-March, subsequently the Ministry of Corporate Affairs had also notified that funds spent by a corporation to deal with COVID-19 issues will be counted as CSR activity. There can, therefore, be no better time for corporates to

continue aiding governments and individuals as well as help alleviate the heart-wrenching devastation from a health catastrophe and a financial crisis rolled into one.

Reduced consumer spending has impacted all businesses with loss in revenue reinforcing fears of recession and enterprises are having begun down-sizing, adding to the people's woes. Downsizing should not be the only option for businesses. Loss of livelihood weighs heavy on the minds of the affected and their families, leading to a social restlessness and sense of hopelessness. Instead, the corporate world should streamline their policies and businesses in ways where they can retain the workforce and support them

MIND IT

during this crisis. Larger corporates can also pool their resources together to help smaller businesses with lesser liquidity.

We need to understand that the pandemic has caused an emotional upheaval in people's lives in many unprecedented ways. It is not easy to remain confined within walls, cope with erratic work hours in case of work-from-home set-ups, work-out finances to suit critical needs or have no work at all in case of contractual workers. Companies need to empathetically chalk out plans recognising their social responsibilities

and execute them in manners that support all levels of staff, not only economical but also emotionally. In fact, the lockdown period calls for an entirely new kind of forward-looking psychological support and counselling for those undergoing mental stress.

The Government has announced a relief package of over ₹20 lakh crore for economic revival, though the proportion of social budgeting in terms of benefits to the healthcare sector is still to be seen. The CSR activities should continue to fill the gaps in

the healthcare sector by offering funds for preventive healthcare, disaster management or sanitation. Old-age homes and orphanages that lack the resources and house the most susceptible sections of society, need all the support they can get.

The PPE kits are being manufactured in India now, but the supplies are still to keep up with the demands. Corporates should continue to connect with various Government and private hospitals and offer such protective equipment to healthcare professionals on priority. There is still an urgent need for lakhs of hazmat suits, gloves, N-95 masks and other kinds of face masks. In addition, while reinforcing the need for cleanliness, hygiene, hand wash,

sanitisation, we need to ensure uninterrupted access to such basic necessities to all sections of society for the foreseeable future.

Providing food and other basic amenities to the unemployed migrant and daily wage earners continues to be a mammoth task for the authorities. Corporates must pitch in to lessen the plight of these communities. This is a time to rebuild businesses, yes, but this is also a time for them to keep their helping hand extended to curtail the effects of COVID-19. It will not just ease the mounting pressure on many but will also save precious lives and may prevent someone's world from crumbling.

The writer is Akanksha Sharma, CSR & Sustainability Head, Steriite Technologies Limited

Applications must be emailed to the IAS Administrator, Linda Crowe.

Application deadline: July 13, 2020.

The Durham University is offering up to 20 IAS Fellowships for the academic year 2020/21. Applicants of all nationalities are eligible to apply for these fellowships. Applicants of all nationalities are eligible.

Eligibility: Applicants from any discipline can apply; Should be from researchers or non-academics who have a well-established or strongly emerging international reputation, have made major contributions to their field, and can provide evidence of research leadership and/or public impact; Must submit a complete application as described in the application procedures. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted or considered; Must agree to the conditions of the IAS fellowships.

Need: A letter of application, A CV, two references, A fellowship proposal.

English Language Requirements: The university accepts IELTS, TOEFL iBT, Cambridge Proficiency (CPE), Cambridge Advanced (CAE) and the Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic as preferred English Language proficiency tests.

How to apply:

The University of Canterbury invites applications for bursary to help international in their studies by covering some of their study expenses for the first year programme.

Award: The university provides financial assistance at a value of \$15,000.

The grant is paid to the recipient's University tuition fees account at the time of enrolment in a programme.

Eligibility: A curriculum vitae, a copy of the passport, and academic transcripts should be submitted.

Candidates are expected to complete their 12 years of academic education before applying to this course.

They can apply for an undergraduate degree program in any subjects offered by the university. Candidates must be full-fee-paying international students.

Language requirement: You are bound to take IELTS or TOEFL test, only if English is not your local language.

How to apply: Applicants have to take admission in an UG degree course and complete online application for the grant.

Application deadline: It is October 31, 2020.

OPERATIONS AT ASTROTALK

Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3905914
Application deadline: June 11, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT MOBISHAALA

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3905916
Application deadline: June 11, 2020

CUSTOMER SUPPORT AT BALJ TECHNOLOGY

Location: Chandigarh, Zirakpur, Panchkula, Mohali
Stipend: ₹18,000-₹24,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3905918
Application deadline: June 10, 2020

PHP DEVELOPMENT AT KALAM ACADEMY

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3905919
Application deadline: June 8, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT WHATFIX

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3905913
Application deadline: June 10, 2020

MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT AT ORETES CONSULTING

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3905922
Application deadline: June 7, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT ORGANIC LOTUS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹2,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3905923
Application deadline: June 11, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

NZ varsities prioritise student well-being

In order to ensure that international students don't miss out on quality education and yet be safe, New Zealand universities have come up with several measures

During these unprecedented times, New Zealand varsities have taken immediate and effective steps to ensure that students, both national as well as international, receive the best of education while also remaining safe. This is in accordance with International Student Wellbeing Strategy launched in 2017 by New Zealand that further elevates the standard of pastoral care for international students.

The universities have created multiple communication avenues for students to stay in touch. Active online platforms and 24X7 helpline numbers dedicated to students ensure that students can reach out to their respective place of study as required, warranting their safety and well-being.

In response to the Government's guidance on COVID-19, the universities are working closely with their lecturers to reinforce their commitment to students.

The universities have started online lectures and guide students

in their way through remote learning. For students' ease and reference, all the online lectures are recorded. The students can coordinate with their course coordinator for feedback or any other query.

Online portals have been created like as AgentLab and NauMai NZ to provide all recent updates and deal with students' queries directly. The University of Otago has a separate website for COVID-19 information providing all essential details on the change of course. Apart from the academic support, an International Café is available for a virtual conversation between students and the international support team.

The University of Waikato has a Student Services Team responsible for sharing news, tips and tricks to stay well and ways to remain socially connected.

The University of Auckland remains in touch with the students through emails and virtual chats to ensure that they are well and are coping up with the new learning environment. The university has a Student Disability Services team which works with course coordinators to find out alternative solutions for different but equivalent assessment options for students.

IN BRIEF

START-UP DEVELOPS TRACKER FOR COVID-19

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras-incubated start-up — Muse Wearables — is developing a wrist-based tracker with skin temperature, Heart Rate and SpO2 (Blood Oxygen saturation) sensing. The device can continuously track these body vitals remotely that will help in early diagnosis of COVID-19 symptoms.

The tracker is Bluetooth-enabled and can be connected to the mobile phone via an app called the Muse Health App. The user vitals (temperature, heart rate, SpO2 levels) and activity data are stored in the phone as well as a remote

server. Administrative access can also be provided for centralised monitoring of people in containment areas for COVID-19 symptoms.

The tracker can get notifications from the Arogya Setu app and raise an alert to the user when he enters a COVID containment zone. Priced at around ₹3500, this new wearable product will soon be deployed in the market for consumers across all the 70 countries that the startup currently sells in.

The aim is to enable remote detection and monitoring of COVID-19 patients by providing a low-cost solution.

KNOCKDOWN LOCKDOWN WITH CREATIVITY

The Global Foundation for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Institute Innovation Council of BSDU and Institution of Engineers (India) are organising an online competition 2020, themed around Corona — The Unseen War. The competition is open for Class XII pass out enthusiasts of all nationalities under the age of 30.

This competition is an attempt to expand knowledge against the pandemic COVID-19 and it will be conducted with three different kinds of activities:

- Writing Karo Na
- Painting Karo Na

■ Short Film making Karo Na One can participate in any one of the three activities. This competition of creativity will allow you to showcase your prolific writing skills, artwork and your acting skills thereby providing an opportunity to express.

Deadline for the submission of work is June 5, 2020 and winners will be announced on 15June. They will be rewarded with lots of attractive prizes and certificates.

More information about the competition visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Ruj.BSDU>

JKLU LAUNCHES 3 NEW PROGRAMMES

With the aim to focus on upskilling students from varied backgrounds for emerging careers, Jaipur-based JK Lakshmipat University has launched new courses in Research, Data Analytics and Banking and financial services. The university offers post-graduate diploma in Research & Analysis for the student holding bachelor degree in liberal arts

while post-graduate diploma in Data Analytics will best suited for graduates with Mathematics as their base subject.

Announcing the launch of the programmes, Dr RL Raina, VC, JK Lakshmipat University said: "The COVID-19 has forced education to shift online. It's time to impart research and analysis based knowledge which can contribute in upliftment of the nation."

Never doubted myself in game situations: Kohli

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

India skipper Virat Kohli has said he never doubted his abilities during match situations and as a child went to sleep thinking he could gun down a total for the country and win a particular game he has been watching.

“To be honest, I never doubted myself in game situations. Everyone who is human has doubts and weaknesses. Have their negatives. So in practice during tours, if you haven’t had a good session you feel you don’t have that flow,” Kohli said during a Facebook Live session with Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal.

“Yes, doubts creep in then and it’s at the back of your mind. Key is to keep going and get into that zone till you feel that it was just distraction. If I believe I am good enough, then I am good enough.

“Best part about match situation is that you don’t need to think so much. You react to situations knowing your role. Negative voices always come off the field when you are not in competition mode,” said the 31-year old prolific batsman.

Kohli added that when he used to watch India matches, he

would invariably think he had it in him to chase down the total.

“Honestly, when I was a kid, I used to watch India games and see them lose I would go to sleep thinking I could have won that match. If I am chasing 380, I never feel that you can’t achieve it.

“In 2011 in Hobart, we had to chase 340 in 40 overs to qualify. At the break I told (Suresh) Raina that we will approach this match as two 20 over games. 40 overs is a big duration. Let’s first play 20 and see how many runs are scored and then play another T20 game.”

Kohli also lauded throwdown specialist D Raghavendra, saying his ability to pump in speeds in excess of 150-155 kmph with the sidearm enormously contributed to Indian batsmen’s improvement against fast bowling in recent years.

“I believe the improvement this team has shown while playing fast bowling since 2013 has been because of Raghu. He has good concepts about footwork, bat movement of players. He has improved his skills so much that from sidearm he can easily hurl the balls at 155 kmph. After playing Raghu in nets, when you go into the match, you feel there is a lot of time.”



Virat Kohli bats during India's nets session

PTI/File Picture

Kohli also spoke about how he had to change his approach to batting to suit his requirement.

“I changed because I wanted to hit all around the ground. The static position was making my

options limited. My basic funda of batting is that if your hips are in perfect position then you can play any shot. Static position wasn’t working well for me.

“But it works for a lot of play-

Saliva ban needs alternative to keep game balanced: Gambhir

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir feels there would be apprehensions in the minds of the players once they go back on the field and take part in competitive sport post the Covid-19 lockdowns.

“It depends from individual to individual (fear in mind of cricketers). But yes there will be little apprehensions, when they go out and play. Probably after some time, it will go in the heat of the game once players are on the pitch and will ease into the game and will be excitement to be out and playing,” Gambhir said.

One of the talking points of post-Covid cricket has been the ban on the usage of saliva to shine the ball when the sport resumes in order to stop the transmission

of the virus. In fact, the ICC Cricket Committee has also recommended the ban on saliva usage and a decision on the same can be expected next month.

However, Gambhir fears the recommended saliva ban could further take the game — which is already tilted towards the batters — away from the bowlers.

“It will be the hardest thing for the bowlers. The ICC have to come out with an alternative. Without shining the ball, I don’t think it will be an even contest between bat and ball,” Gambhir said.

“If they don’t allow using saliva, they will have to come up with an alternative to help the bowlers to shine the ball. It’s going to be very important otherwise there would be no fun watching cricket,” he added.

“For me I had to change it accordingly to suit my needs. I tried little, little things in my batting as you would never know if you don’t try,” he said.



I want to be like Imran, says Babar

KARACHI: Babar Azam wants to take a leaf out of Imran Khan’s aggressive captaincy and besides cricket, he is also brushing up his English to become a “complete leader” like the World Cup-winning all-rounder.

Last week, the star batsman took over the reins of Pakistan’s white-ball cricket after being appointed as the ODI skipper.

“Imran Khan was a very aggressive captain and I want to be like him. It is not an easy job captaining the Pakistan team but I am learning from my seniors and I have also had captaincy experience since my under-19 days,” Azam said.

He said that to be a complete captain one must be able to interact comfortably with the media and express oneself properly in front of an audience.

“These days I am also taking English classes besides focussing on my batting,” he said.

The 25-year-old Babar said he was not satisfied with Pakistan’s current standing in international cricket. “I am not happy with where we stand and I want to see this team go up in the rankings.”

Babar said captaincy would be a challenge for him but it would not affect his batting.

“It is an honour to lead one’s national team so it is not a burden for me at all. In fact, after becoming captain, I have to lead by example and be more responsible in my batting.”

Babar hoped the T20 World Cup is held this year in Australia as he wanted to lead his team in the ICC event. “It would be a disappointment if the event was not held or rescheduled because I am looking forward to playing in the World Cup and doing well in it,” he said.

About plans for Pakistan to fly to England in July to play three Tests and three T20 internationals amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Babar said a lot of hard work and planning would be required to make the players feel comfortable and safe.

“Touring England won’t be easy. Health and safety of players is of great importance and the tour will only be possible when proper arrangements are in place,” he said.

“Both England and Pakistan team fans, along with the cricketers, are missing cricket because of the pandemic.”

“We will still try to perform to the best of our ability despite no support from the fans in the stadium,” he added. **PTI**

Ronaldo back for Juventus training

AFP ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo returned to training with Juventus in Turin on Tuesday after an absence of over two months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 35-year-old arrived at the Juventus Training Centre in a Jeep with tinted windows around 09:20 (0720 GMT), leaving three hours later with a smile and thumbs up for waiting photographers.

Ronaldo underwent medical and physical tests before joining up with his teammates for the first time in 72 days for individual training, according to media reports.

Coach Maurizio Sarri has been conducting training in small groups

since Monday, pending the final health protocol to be agreed with the Italian Government.

Juventus players got back to individual training on May 4, the day Ronaldo returned to Italy after spending lockdown in his native Portugal.

For the past two weeks, he has been in quarantine in his villa in Turin.

The five-time Ballon d’Or winner is the first Juventus foreign player, among those who left Italy during the lockdown, to return to the team’s Continassa training centre.

League leaders Juventus are leading Lazio by one point as they target a ninth consecutive Scudetto.



No Serie A restart before June 14

MILAN: The Italian Football Federation announced on Monday night that all its competitions, including Serie A, will remain suspended until June 14.

The Lega Serie A had hoped for a return on June 13 but the FIGC has pushed back the date in line with a Govt decree that all sports competitions be suspended until next month.

The FIGC said the choice was made “pending any further... decision by the authorities”, suggesting the possibility of a restart on June 13 might still exist.

A meeting is planned in the near future between Conte and Italian football bosses. The Government’s technical and scientific committee will decide in the coming days if it accepts the new health protocols proposed for a return to group training and competition. **AFP**

Won’t force players to tour Eng: Holder

LONDON: West Indies captain Jason Holder has said he won’t force his players into travelling to England for a three-Test series amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The West Indies were originally scheduled to play the Test series from June 4 but the fixture had to be postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

However, the ECB hope they can kickstart season by rescheduling series in July.

“Each player has to be comfortable in making the step. It’s been made clear if we are to hop on a plane and go over to England to play, it must be safe,” Holder told **BBC Radio 5**.

“Certainly from my perspective, I won’t be forcing anyone to go anywhere,” Holder added.

Last week, ECB director



Ashley Giles said they have to create an environment where West Indies and Pakistan both feel safe while travelling to the United Kingdom. He assured that a complete risk assessment would be done before taking the plunge.

The 28-year-old reiterated that health and safety will

be the first priority. “The first priority is everybody’s safety,” said Holder.

“We’ve been assured that the only way the tour can possibly go ahead is if everyone can be comfortable with the measures the ECB are putting in place to roll the cricket out,” he added. **PTI**

Watford captain refuses return to training



Watford captain Troy Deeney

Watford/Twitter

AFP ■ LONDON

Watford captain Troy Deeney will not return to training this week over fears he could pass coronavirus on to his five-month-old son.

Deeney has consistently voiced his concerns over the speed with which the Premier League hopes to return to playing matches despite the United Kingdom having the second-highest death toll in the world. England’s top-flight clubs are due to return to training in small, socially-distanced groups on Tuesday.

Training will then be stepped up to full contact with the aim of resuming the season by the middle of next month.

“We’re due back in this week. I’ve said I’m not going in. It’s nothing to do with financial gain,” Deeney said on the *Talk The Talk* podcast.

“My son is five months and he’s had breathing difficulties. I don’t want to come home and put him in more danger.”

All players and staff will be regularly tested, but Deeney highlighted the contradiction of contact sport returning at a time when the public are told to continue following social distancing guidelines. The 31-year-old also added he is willing to take a financial hit if not playing results in a reduction in wages.

“While we are being tested and while we are going to be in a very safe environment, it only takes one person in the group. I don’t want to be bringing that home,” he added.

“I just said the simplest thing. I can’t get a haircut until mid-July, but I can go and get in a box with 19 people and jump for a header.

“I don’t know how that works. “I’ve lost more or less everyone that I care about. So that, to me, is more important than a few quid in my back pocket.”

Man Utd urge fans to stay away if matches resume

MANCHESTER: Manchester United have warned fans to stay away from matches played behind closed doors at Old Trafford if the Premier League restarts.

Solskjaer’s side are set to resume small group training on Wednesday as Premier League clubs step up the *Project Restart* plan to finish the season.

But all 92 remaining matches will have to be played in front of empty stands due to the pandemic, leading United to activate a refund or rebate to ticket holders for their remaining home fixtures.



If the Premier League get their wish to play at clubs’ normal stadiums rather than at neutral venues, then United will have four home league matches to play.

Aware of the danger of supporters gathering in large groups during the

health crisis, United have pleaded with their fans to stay away from matches and watch on television.

“We share your disappointment that you will not be able to watch United in person from within the stadium, but we would encourage you to

give your continued loyal support from the comfort and safety of your home,” United said in an email to supporters on Tuesday.

“To help with that, the Premier League and their media partners will work to deliver the very best broadcast coverage of our games.

“We also ask for your co-operation not to travel to any stadiums at which we are playing on matchdays.

“By supporting from home, you will be playing your part to keep all United fans safe. **AFP**

Real, Bayern & Inter to launch European Solidarity Cup

AFP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Inter Milan will stage a new competition called the European Solidarity Cup in 2021 to raise money for medical facilities in Italy and Spain.

The three clubs will play each other in a round-robin group, with Inter against Bayern held in Milan, Real facing Inter in Madrid and Bayern hosting Real in Munich.

Proceeds from the fixtures will be donated to medical facilities in Italy and Spain, two of the world’s worst-hit countries by the coronavirus pandemic.

The aim is “to send out a message of solidarity and fraternity to the people of Europe”, said a statement from Real Madrid.

Dates for the tournament have not been decided. The timing will “depend on the match calendar and when football can be played in front of fans again”, the clubs said.

Bayern will invite 5,000 nurses, carers and doctors to the Allianz Arena for their match against Real Madrid.

“Nurses, carers and doctors in particular are doing an outstanding job for society at the moment,” said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

“We, the three clubs, want to show these heroes our appreciation, respect and gratitude.”

“The great commitment of all healthcare workers has been essential to allow us to look to the future,” said Inter president Steven Zhang.

Leverkusen thump Bremen

BREMEN: Kai Havertz scored twice as Bayer Leverkusen ended the first round of Bundesliga matches in over two months with a 4-1 win at Werder Bremen on Monday which moved them within a point of the top four.

After a slow start to the game in an eery atmosphere, the encounter burst into life with three goals in five minutes.



Havertz nodded Leverkusen into a 28th-minute lead, before Bremen right-back

Theodor Gebre Selassie levelled on the half-hour mark.

But Havertz restored

Leverkusen’s advantage three minutes later with another header, from Kerem Demirbay’s free-kick.

Peter Bosz’s side wrapped up a comfortable victory with second-half goals from Mitchell Weiser and Demirbay.

The heavy defeat leaves Bremen stuck in the drop zone, five points adrift off the relegation play-off spot and nine from safety, albeit with a game in hand. **AFP**

F1 demands quarantine exemptions for Silverstone GP

AFP ■ LONDON

A British Grand Prix would be “impossible” this year if elite sport is not exempt from 14-day quarantine restrictions when entering the United Kingdom, Formula One said on Tuesday.

Silverstone is planning to host two races behind closed doors this summer, subject to Government approval, to make up for some of the lost time in the 2020 F1 season with 10 races already either cancelled or postponed. However, the UK Government’s coronavirus recovery strategy document set

out an intention to introduce a 14-day quarantine rule for international arrivals.

“A 14-day quarantine would make it impossible to have a British Grand Prix this year,” an F1 spokesperson said.

“Additionally it has a major impact on literally tens of thousands of jobs linked to F1 and supply chains.

“We would be travelling back to the UK on F1-only occupied aircraft and all staff would be tested making a quarantine totally unnecessary.

“If all elite sport is to return to TV then exemptions must be provided.”

East Bengal players, official asked to ‘vacate’ flats

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Some East Bengal players, including foreign recruits, and physical trainer Carlos Nodar, who are still stuck here amid the coronavirus-forced national lockdown, have been asked to “vacate their flats” provided by sponsors Quesq Corp.

Most of East Bengal’s foreign players have left home but a few are still here along with the Spaniard Nodar who had preferred to stay back.

“This is the worst thing to happen. Where



will we go now especially when there’s nationwide lockdown in force,” a player told *PTI*, confirming the development. “There is no way we can vacate at this point of time but the management is just ignoring our calls.

Let’s wait and watch.” The Bangalore-based Quesq group, which is exiting the club on May 31, had last month activated the Force Majeure clause, citing Covid-19 pandemic, to terminate all the contracts with

effect from May 1. The players had approached the Football Players’ Association of India.

The East Bengal players said they have received a message from the ‘QEBFC admin team’ which has circulated the message. “As per notification from the owners of the residential accommodations in Rosedale, Uniworld and other residences, we will be handing over the apartments to the respective owners by 25th May, 2020,” read the message purportedly sent by Quesq management.