

**WORLD 7**  
VIRUS CASES: BRAZIL  
SURPASSES RUSSIA**MONEY 8**  
GIVE LOAN TO ALL BORROWERS  
WITHOUT FEAR OF 3Cs: FM TO BANKS**SPORT 10**  
SHARDUL RESUMES  
OUTDOOR TRAININGPublished From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL  
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI  
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD  
VIJAYWADA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY MAY 24, 2020; PAGES 12+4 ₹4



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

**USUAL SUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Political dividends of Amphan for Didi

In the late evening of Wednesday, May 20, shortly after the full fury of Cyclone Amphan was experienced in the coastal districts of West Bengal, not least Kolkata, Mamata Banerjee appeared to break down in front of the cameras. The lady who, a few hours ago, attempted — with a generous sprinkling of incoherence — to explain the contours of a cyclone and who had boasted that the State Government was ready with its disaster management set-up, seemed completely shattered by the news of the devastation, suggesting that it was all-round destruction.

It is natural to feel sympathetic to a Chief Minister who is a one-woman army, having centralised and personalised the entire administration of a difficult State. Already beleaguered by the Covid-19 threat that had led to the State Government making many wrong turns, the last thing she wanted was yet another challenge of this magnitude. And serious the Amphan devastation certainly was, although it will be a while before a stamp of authenticity can be given to her back-of-the-envelope calculation that repairing the damage would require Rupees One lakh crore of resources.

The Amphan experience was additionally troubling for the State Government for the simple reason that its full effects were felt in Greater Kolkata. In the recent past, cyclonic storms had either hit Odisha in the west or Bangladesh in the east. Apart from the Midnapur coast that was particularly vulnerable, West Bengal had somehow missed being in the eye of a cyclonic storm. This time, the residents of Kolkata experienced its full blast and experienced devastation in the form of uprooted trees, destroyed boundary walls, flying tin roofs of kuchcha structures, waterlogging, destroyed cars and the snapping of electricity cables. The experience was, frankly, quite terrifying.

The CM will probably hope that the need to come together for reconstruction will obliterate the shoddy record of Covid management and create a space for some renewed fight against the Centre

workers stranded in Uttar Pradesh — there were enough short videos and agonised outpourings on social media for the Amphan experience to register in the public consciousness.

Secondly, because Kolkata was in the eye of the storm, there was an immediate demand from the residents to clear up the mess, get the drainage system functioning and restore electricity to areas where supply had been affected. Whereas rural folk tend to be more accepting of their ill fortune, this is not the case with the urban middle class.

The disruption in Kolkata caught the municipal authorities off guard. They were clearly unprepared to deal with the mess Amphan had left behind. A more purposeful administration would immediately have had the pumping stations working round the clock to drain the waterlogged streets as a priority and organise teams to clear the streets off fallen trees from the morning — both imperative to ensure resumption of electricity — the disaster management system that the Chief Minister had boasted of, quite simply became dysfunctional.

Conspiracy theorists suggest that the delay was pre-meditated because the State Government wanted to milk every drop of sympathy for political and financial ends. A former Mayor of Bidhan Nagar, that includes the elite Salt Lake, told me that that it was possible to do an initial clean-up within eight to 10 hours if the systems had been in place. But they weren't.

The results were entirely predictable. Even after 48 hours of the storm, there were areas of Kolkata where electricity had not been restored and the flood waters drained. Naturally, agitated residents took to the streets, hurled abuse at the Trinamool Congress dasas who exercised political control over localities and added to the overall impression of chaos.

In political terms, this was damaging for Mamata. Already under fire for the collapsing public health system and its inability to deal with the growing number of coronavirus cases in the State, the State Government's demand for more Central funds to deal with the damage lost its familiar cutting edge. Indeed, a much-heard reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initial allotment of ₹1,000 crore to deal with the Amphan damage was that the money would find its way to private pockets of TMC leaders. In short, the troubled record of 'cut money' came to haunt the Mamata Government at a time of grave challenge.

It is impossible to anticipate how the initial post-Amphan mess will play out. The Chief Minister will probably hope that the need to come together for reconstruction will obliterate the shoddy record of Covid management and create a space for some renewed fight against the Centre. The possibility of such a turnaround should not be discounted and more so because the main opposition party seems excessively preoccupied with internal convulsions. In the past, Mamata has managed to claw her way back out of very difficult situations, often with the active involvement of the administration and the police. This may well happen again.

However, there is every possibility that the mood in the State has changed dramatically and that the exasperation with shrill politics and administrative ineptitude, not to mention the folklore surrounding corruption, will trigger something big. If the behaviour of the State Government over the past two months is any indication, the next few months will see West Bengal being ruled by a lame-duck administration, one that has lost the political will to govern. If I was a betting man, I would closely observe the mood and moves of the upper echelons of the bureaucracy. They are usually quite reliable weathercocks.

## Maha won't allow flight till May 31



Aeroplanes parked at Chennai airport, during the ongoing Covid-19 nationwide lockdown in Chennai on Saturday PTI

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the resumption of domestic flights from May 25, the Maharashtra Government on Saturday said it will not allow air travel till the end of the month even as the Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Assam, Mizoram and the administration of Jammu & Kashmir have released mandatory quarantine protocols for the air travellers.

Maharashtra's decision will be big blow to the Centre's move to resume domestic flight, also because Delhi-Mumbai is considered to be the business route in India.

The Maharashtra Government has said the lockdown remains till May 31 and accused the Centre of "arbitrarily" making the decision to allow domestic flight operations without holding any consultation with the State.

It said that the State needed time to decide on the

Standard Operating Protocols (SOP) over air travel. A senior official said that outside airport, everything becomes state government's responsibility, hence we can't take any risk.

Tamil Nadu has also urged the Centre to reconsider the reopening of air travel citing a surge in coronavirus cases in Chennai and non-functioning public transport, which will trouble passengers commuting between the airport and the city — a distance of around 10 kilometres.

Goa has requested the Civil Aviation Ministry to permit coronavirus antibody testing for passengers upon their arrival. Maharashtra is also planning to test all visitors.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday made it clear that an unnecessary "fuss" was being made over quarantine of domestic air travellers. Puri said he did not understand the need to quarantine domestic air passengers once flight operations start from next week if they have downloaded the Government's contract-tracing app Aarogya Setu and the status on it shows green (negative).

Turn to Page 4

Kerala, Andhra, Assam, T, J&K, K'taka, Mizoram to quarantine incoming fliers

### International flights before August: Puri

**New Delhi:** India will try to restart good percentage of international passenger flights before August, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said, three days after announcing resumption of domestic flights from May 25. While various States like Karnataka and Maharashtra announced their respective quarantine measures for passengers coming there through domestic flights, the Minister said there was no need for quarantine if a passenger is showing green status on Aarogya Setu app.

Turn to Page 4

**Covid-19**  
**TOTAL CASES: 1,31,422**  
**DEATHS: 3,868**  
**RECOVERED: 54,385**

## Lens on 11 cities giving 80% cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's coronavirus tally reached 1,31,422 with over 6,628 new cases and the Government deciding to focus on 11 municipal areas like Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Pune and Nashik which have reported 80 per cent of the total cases in the country.

Sikkim reported the first case as a 25-year-old student, who returned from Delhi, tested positive. Data from various States registered 6,628 new Covid-19 patients while the death toll stood at 3,868.

The Health Ministry has said mortality rate in Covid-19 cases in is 3.06 per cent as against the global rate of 6.65. A total 6,628 new cases were reported from across the country while 2,552 people went to home after being recovered.

Meanwhile, **Dr JN Pande,**

Delhi loses 23 lives to Covid in 24 hrs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 23 more deaths in past 24 hours due to Covid -19, taking death toll in the national Capital to 231 on Saturday.

In a bulletin issued on Saturday, the Delhi Health Department said the death toll from coronavirus has risen to 231 and the total number of cases mounted to 12,910.

Turn to Page 4

**Director at the Pulmonology Department at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, died of coronavirus on Saturday,** just a day after a mess worker succumbed to the infection.

Turn to Page 4

### HCQ use allowed for non-Covid hospital workers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant decision, the Government has allowed the use of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) as a preventive medication for asymptomatic healthcare workers deployed in non-Covid-19 hospitals, front-line staff on surveillance duty in containment zones, and paramilitary/police personnel involved in coronavirus infection related activities.

The revised advisory issued by the ICMR, however, cautioned that the intake of the medicine should not instill a sense of false security.

Detailed report on P4

2,600 Shramik trains to take 36L home in 10 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Railways has drawn up a schedule to operate 2,600 Shramik Special trains over the next 10 days across the country to ferry around 36 lakh migrant workers, stranded due to the Covid-19 lockdown, to their home States, Chairman of the Railway Board VK Yadav said on Saturday.

It has run 2,600 Shramik Special trains in the last 23 days carrying around 36 lakh stranded migrants, he said, adding 1,000 ticket counters have been opened across India and more will be opened soon.

Turn to Page 4

## Migrants protest route diversion, lack of food, water in Shramik trains

RAMESH K SINGH ■ VARANASI

Hundreds of passengers travelling in Shramik Express staged protest and blocked the busy Delhi-Howrah rail route on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Station (earstwhile Mughalsarai) when they realised that the train was diverted to wrong route.

Similar protest was witnessed when passengers complained to unhygienic condition in train and non-availability of water and food. "The authorities are treating us like animals. They do not know the route and made the train to pass through wrong route," Manish Rai, a passenger said.

Turn to Page 4

Mamata calls Army to help Amphan-hit WB normalise lives

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Three days after super cyclone Amphan hit Bengal, the Army was called out to assist the State Government to normalise life in Kolkata and neighbouring areas, sources in the State Home Department said.

The Army acted within hours and deployed five columns at various places primarily to clear off the major thoroughfares clogged by uprooted trees. It will, however, help in restoration of other facilities like drinking water and power supply too, sources said.

Detailed report on P6

Army Chief visits Leh to review LAC situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh remains tense with three stand-offs including one in Galwan valley. Local Army commanders from India and China have held at least three rounds of talks in the last one week, but to no avail. Against this backdrop, Army Chief General MM Naravane visited Leh on Friday to take stock of the situation. Efforts are also on to resolve the issue through diplomatic means.

Unconfirmed sources claimed the Indian patrol was accosted and beaten up by the Chinese Army in Ladakh 10 days ago.

Turn to Page 4

“In DTC buses, by working as Marshal for safety of women, by helping maintaining social distancing, during the prevailing Covid-19, by distributing ration to needy in Delhi , by serving food in the shelter for labourers, by working hard for disaster management, Delhi Civil Defence volunteers have proved to be heroes of Delhi”

You too can be one of them

# JOIN

## CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS AS VOLUNTEER

Apply online through edistrict portal:

<https://edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in>

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

1. Aadhaar Card.
2. Pan Card.
3. Bank Account.
4. Police Verification.
5. NOC from employer, if employed.
6. Proof of education, residence and age.

For more information, log on to <http://revenue.delhi.gov.in/>

दिल्ली सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF DELHI

Directorate of Civil Defence

Government of NCT of Delhi



HOMETHEATRE

Mystery 2.0 at your doorstep



**HOMECOMING 2**  
**7 episodes, Amazon Prime Original**  
**\*ing: Janelle Monae, Chris Cooper & others**  
**Rating: 5.5/10**

No, the American sweetheart is no longer in front of the camera to guide your homecoming through the web of mystery that hooked you forever in the last season. But she is producing *Homecoming 2*, the Amazon Special series that returned to viewers with the same net of subtle but engaging drama that come in the list of good suspense thrillers.

Julia's role is consummately taken over by a less known but no less impactful Janelle Monae with expressive eyes and a bewitching smile whenever she gets out of the compelling situation she is in, which is rare.

The 2.0 pace is set right at the beginning and it takes just the first shadowy shot of a woman waking up on a boat floating over a deserted waterbody clinging to even

more deserted forest land. She spots a man on the shore but he scoots the moment she calls for help. She has no memory of who she is and why she has found herself in such a dire situation.

That's enough for you to forget about whining about the absence of Julia Roberts who helmed Season 1 to remarkable consequences. The mystery is so well and tightly knit that the purposeful intent of drawing the viewer from episode to episode comes across as one of the most subtle slow-moving, almost invisible ploys to keep the desperate curiosity on.

That it takes over four episodes to start stitching the conclusion in your mind, speaks of a good footnote in the mystery genre but the fact that most would be rearranging their conclusions as the story unfolds makes *Homecoming 2* a viable option, even if you had not been homebound due to the dreaded Coronavirus.

Monae finds herself in an unenviable position with no

friends and apparently many hidden foes as her military tattoo stares her back from the arm with some suspect injection marks. Is she really an air force veteran? Is she the victim of a place called Giest where she is being secretly led to? Or is it altogether a story that defies calculations? Must tune in to watch, even if it is not an intrigue fueller that this riveting series is actually an adaptation of a podcast, something that hooked Julia Roberts to such extent that the big star of the big screen decided to play the psychologist on a job to counsel military vets.

In *Homecoming 1*, Geist was the shady organisation giving amnesia pills to people troubling the Government. In *Homecoming 2*, it does not lose its status of being the deadly troublemaker but all that comes with a twist.

There are side stories too, though very intricately woven into the main plot. For more, there's always Amazon Prime waiting for you.

TELLYTALE

**OTT PLATFORMS TO RESCUE**

Midst the current pandemic situation around the globe where theatres and films shoots are complete shut, filmmakers are looking towards OTT platforms to release the films that are ready and were slated to release theatrically till mid 2020. After *Gulabo Sitabo* and *Shakuntala Devi*, Urvashi Rautela starrer *Virgin Bhannupriya* is also slated to release on OTT platform.

Producer Mahendra Dhariwal says: "Looking at the current situation, there is uncertainty in terms of opening of theatres. We have decided to go direct on OTT since the film is ready."

The film is produced by Shreyans Mahendra Dhariwal under banner Dhariwal Films, presented by Hanwant Khatri and Lalit Kir, is directed by Ajay Lohan.

Bhanupriya played by Urvashi Rautela is an Indian college going conservative girl who decides to lose her virginity. She thinks it should be the easiest thing in today's world however, all her attempts go in vain and as a soothsayer predicts, it is an impossible task that won't happen ever in her life. What happens after that and whether she succeeds in her mission or not forms the whole narrative of the film.

Contrary to the name, the film is a family comedy that explores relationship between youngsters and their families.

**SUMEDH WISHES TO MEET NITISH**

Sumedh Mudgalkar who is charming the audience with his performance as Krishn on Star Bharat's mythological show *RadhaKrishn* is all set to watch the re-telecast of *Mahabharat* on Star Bharat. The reason he is looking forward to watching the show is Nitish Bharadwaj who inspired him with the portrayal of the role of Krishn in the first place. Rumour has it he has always wished to meet Nitish Bharadwaj who played the role of Krishn in this epic show.



When spoken to Sumedh Mudgalkar he said: "As I started preparing for *RadhaKrishn* I tried to learn more and more about Krishn's characteristics. The first memory of Krishna I remember is the stories my grandmother used to share. Secondly, Shri Krishna's portrayal in the *Mahabharat* I watched as a child. Whenever I talk about one of the most mesmerising portrayal of Krishna, Nitish Bharadwaj *ji's* name is always on the top of the list. I remember watching the episodes just before *RadhaKrishn* during my learning process. I've always been a fan, I don't know if I've been lucky enough that he has come across my work ever, but I wish so he does. I hope I get his blessings. I wish I can meet him someday. It's amazing to see Star Bharat is getting the legendary show on the channel."

**NISHKARSH'S DANCING SKILLS**

Dance is an art form which does not only keep you fit but is also one of the best ways to express yourself. Nishkarsh Dixit, who plays the role of Lord Ganesha in Sony Entertainment's mythological drama *Vighnaharta Ganesh* is keeping himself updated about dance forms. He is learning many dance forms with the help of YouTube.

Nishkarsh has always been vocal about his love for dance. He decided to make the most of his free time by learning new and different dance forms with the help of YouTube tutorials. He is learning freestyle, tap dance, locking, popping, and a few others. He gives two hours every day to learn a new dance form.

Plan Your Stay At Home Week



After entertaining the world with its razor-sharp satirical humour, popular animated series *Family Guys* makes its way to India on Disney+ Hotstar Premium. Since its launch in 1999, *Family Guy* has enjoyed a massive cult following and is today considered to be one of the most popular animated sitcoms. Conceptualised and created by Seth Macfarlane, over 350 episodes spanning 18 seasons of the series is exclusively available on Disney+ Hotstar Premium.

Set in the fictional town of Quahog, *Family Guy* features the adventures of the dysfunctional Griffin family as they strive to cope with everyday life where they

are thrown from one crazy scenario to another. Deemed as a family like no other — the Griffin family consists of parents Peter and Lois, their three children Meg — a social outcast, Chris — an awkward teenager and Stewie a genius baby bent on killing his mother and destroying the world.

The talking dog, Brian, keeps Stewie in check while sipping martinis and sorting through his own life issues. These characters have been brought to life by some of the best voices from Hollywood — Seth MacFarlane, Alex

Borstein, Seth Green, Lacey Chabert, Mila Kunis and Mike Henry. Known to exhibit bizarre situations in the form of gags that often parody American culture, *Family Guy* has racked up numerous awards and received widespread critical acclaim particularly for its pop culture references.

After the successful launch of iconic show *The Simpsons*, Disney+ Hotstar Premium has added *Family Guy* to its roster giving fans a gamut of animated content.

Recognising growing demand for action-thriller movies in India, global content leader Lionsgate Play premiered 2019 hit *Primal* in India on May 22,2020 under the popular Friday blockbuster series. *Primal*, directed by Nick Powell and starring Nicolas Cage, Famke Janssen, Kevin Durand and others received positive reviews from cinephiles. Viewers can watch this film on partnered telecom platforms of Lionsgate Play — Vodafone Play, Airtel Xstream, Idea Movies and TV.

The film revolves around Frank Walsh is a skilled big-game hunter specialising in rare and dangerous species. He has recently caught an extremely rare white jaguar in the rain forests of Brazil and now expects to sell it to a zoo for a fortune. Frank books a ship to deliver the jaguar along with other animals to the U.S. However, authorities also need the ship to transport a notorious killer who must be brought to trial, and who, for medical reasons, cannot be transported by plane. On the way to the U.S., the criminal frees himself and releases dangerous animals and venomous snakes.

BAKEIT

CHOCOLATE EGG BROWNIES

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180 C (360 F). Grease and line an eight-inch square baking tin with baking or parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl, add the butter and sugars and beat until pale and creamy. Add the vanilla and eggs and beat again until combined. Sift in the flour, baking powder and cocoa powder and stir until combined. Add the Easter eggs and stir. Place the chocolate batter into your prepared tin and bake in the oven for 35-40 minutes or until a skewer



Ingredients:

- 230 grams (1 cup or 2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 200 grams (1 cup) caster sugar
- 90 grams (1/2 cup) brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 210 grams (1 and 1/2 cups) plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 40 grams (1/2 cup) cocoa powder
- 225 grams (1 and 1/4 cup) mini chocolate Easter eggs.

inserted in the middle comes out clean. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Cut into small squares to serve.

By Executive Chef, Suresh Shelar, Banjara Restaurant, Mumbai

‘I dreamt of being on 70 mm’

He shot to fame after playing Lord Ram in *Ramayan* and rose to stardom as Maan Singh in *Geet Hui Parayi*. Since then he has been a part of several TV shows and films. The actor speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his reaction when he was offered to play Ram and his latest film

■ How did you cope with the lockdown?

It was good. Spent a lot of time watching series and movies. Reading books and spending time with my wife. When you are on the sets, you don't get enough time to be with each other. I read a lot of motivational and biographies. I just completed reading *Tuesdays With Morris*. I read *The Laws of Spirit World, How to Win Friends and Influence People* and *The Power of Positive Thinking*. So, yes, a lot of books on mental well-being given that we need it these days.

■ From TV to films, how did that happen?

After *Ramayan*, I had started getting film offers. But the projects were small. Most actors in a hurry take wrong decisions. While I wanted to do a film but had decided that it would be with a big production house. Meanwhile, I continued to do TV and reality shows many of which I had won. This gave me name and fame. More people in the industry noticed me and I got *Khamoshiyan*, a Mahesh Bhatt and Mukesh Bhatt produced film in association with Vishesh Films.

■ TV actors don't always manage to make it big. Why?

It is difficult to predict these things. There are no set rules. This will either make or break your film career. If one were to say that a big TV actor can't make a career in films would be wrong. Shah Rukh Khan is a case in point. I just feel it is important to work with good producers. A good producer always insists on being associated with a good project and promotes it properly. Whether a film is a hit or a flop is a different story, what is important is that your work is appreciated and you prove that you are a good actor.

■ TV, films or web series, what would you prefer?

It has always been my dream to be a 70 mm screen and be watched with millions of people. There is a high that comes with it. I love films. But today, OTT platforms have become popular as well and are content-driven, there are plenty of opportunities here too. If a good project comes my way, I would take it up.

■ Has content-driven and entertainment combo opened more avenues?

Definitely. It is good for the industry that makers are experimenting. If a film has a combination of entertainment and content, people will love it. Also, such movies are doing well today and making



many households, people read these on a regular basis but some can't manage. Watching serials is a good option.

■ What was your reaction when you were offered to play Ram?

I was doing a series in the South playing a villain. Debina Bonnerjee was also in the show. I was young when the role came to me; I was 21. People told me that in order to get good roles, one had to look mature and older. I had a beard and sported slighted long hair. When the offer came, I thought I would do a better job as a villain. In South, they need well-built men. I was all muscle. To play a hero — Ram, I was not convinced since I was not sure how I would look clean-shave. But we did a mock shoot, I realised that I would fit the role.

■ Has there been any take away lessons from playing Lord Ram?

I was lucky that it was in my first show. My schooling started from there. It not only taught me how to act, but also how to be a good man. *Ramayan* kept me grounded. Before I got this show, there were days of struggle. When I got the role, I was humbled.

■ Did you envision that Maan Singh Khurana would become so popular?

I never realised that this would happen. *Ramayan* had given me so much fame. People would come and touch my feet and offer money. Before this, everyone who had done mythology was typecast. Once the show got over, I was only getting roles to play God. But I would refuse. I told myself that I was an actor and wanted to do diverse roles. It was a challenge for me to do a drama and was hell bent on doing *Geet...* to get a break. But the channel would keep rejecting me by saying I was Ram.

The producer insisted. I had given over 10-15 auditions. Then we decided to give a try and the channel loved it. The minute the show went on air, it gave me instant stardom. The character became such a rage. The serial helped me get noticed and I got films due to Maan Singh Khurana.

■ What next?

Just before the lockdown, I was doing *The Wife* for Zee Studio. Till now, I had been part of projects with two heroes. Here, I play a solo lead. There is a lot of responsibility. But due to the lockdown, we are now busy posting small videos on social media with a message in them.

Teeka tickles funny bone

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with VAIBHAV MATHUR, who plays Teeka Ram in &TV's *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai*, about how he came on board for the role and responsibility that comes with playing such characters, among other things

Much before the infamous *gamcha* was brought in trend by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to cover the nose and mouth during the COVID-19 pandemic, Teeka Ram was already flaunting one. A lose t-shirt paired up with a jeans, a *gamcha* and a pair of *chappals* with a smirk smile on face, Teeka Ram is among one of the favourite characters from &TV's much loved show *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai*.

Meet Vaibhav Mathur *aka* Teeka, a born artist who from his school days knew that his passion lies in acting. "I come from a *kayasth* family, where education is of utmost importance. My father is from the agricultural industry and my mother is a lecturer, so I was expected to become a scholar, which I did but I was not inclined towards taking the conventional career path. Since my childhood, I was into drawing and painting. My teachers predicted that I will do something different. However, I didn't have any idea what will it be, back then," Mathur tells you.

Mathur's acting career started as early as he was in school. "I was in Class XII when my father told me that I should think of pursuing my craft. He told me that theatre was picking up pace and I could try my hands in that. I gave it a thought and enrolled myself into a drama academy. I went on doing theatres for around 12 years and then thought of shifting to Mumbai to earn a living. There, I had my struggle days and after some time I started getting ads and then got a few shows. This is how my acting journey started," he tells you.

Mathur, before doing *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai*, was also a part of *FLR*, both of which are directed by Shashank Bali.

"I share a good rapport with Shashank sir. Though, my part in *FLR* was not that big and I entered the show very late but I enjoyed doing it. Once that show got over, I told Shashank sir that I would like to be a part of his future projects as well. He assured me that he would reach



A still of Vaibhav Mathur from *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai*

out to for the same. After sometime, I got a call from him asking what was I upto these days. I told him that I am looking for work. He asked me to come and meet him for a role. I knew that he was coming up with something great once again.

Once I met him, he told me that I am playing a *tantrik* and I have to showcase my skills to the best. I enacted the same and he was convinced. Then he offered me to play Teeka, a roadside loafer and I was all set for it," Mathur recalls.

He tells you that he never thought that the character would gain such fame. "I had never imagined that Teeka would become a household name. I am overwhelmed with the audience's response. The other day I met a fan who told me that he had named his children Teeka and Malkhan, because they are extremely naughty. It felt great. It is good to know that

people are respecting you in whichever way and recognising you. I am glad that the character helps them have a good laugh," he says.

An actor is all about improvising and adding minute details in his character and that is what Mathur abides by. "Whatever role I play, I make sure that I give it a twist. I try to add certain elements in the character. For Teeka, as well, from day one I tried to evolve the character as much. Also, our director Shashank Bali was confident that whatever I will do with the character will only enhance it.

The script is undoubtedly very well-written, however we have got the space to add some extra *mirch-masala*. Take for example, when Teeka laughs while covering his mouth with *gamcha*. It is all natural. There are people that do that. It is like he is trying not to mock someone directly but in a

satirical way. He usually does this when Tiwari *ji* or Vibhuti *ji* gets insulted, so he enjoys that," he tells you.

When you play such roles — a roadside romeo — there comes extra responsibility to not go over the top and hurt the audience's sentiments. "The character Teeka, though a loafer, is written and portrayed with utmost responsibility. There's decency in him. This character is not fictional, it is there in every nook and corner of the society. However, I try my best to not cross the line. For example, when Teeka and Malkhan try to impress a girl, the girl slaps them and walk away. The two, automatically start singing romantic songs, just to suggest they are not taking it on their egos. They are similar to *gali's* loafers who can never hurt their neighbours," he says.

Mathur says that he had already worked with most of the actors in *FLR* and that it did help to maintain the chemistry in this show as well. "I have worked with Yogesh Tripathi (who plays Happu Singh) and also Saanand Verma (who plays Saxena *ji*) before. Though we didn't have too many sequences together but yes we know each other well. This helps in building the chemistry and improve the comic timing," he says.

He tells you that the atmosphere on the sets can easily be figured out watching them on screen. "The working environment is as lively. We enjoy as much as we do on screen. Everyone pour in their acting skills. There are senior actors too on the sets, so we maintain mutual respect but we have a lot of fun. If the working environment is not good or as comfortable you will not be able to do as good on camera," Mathur says.

He adds that he will never turn away a similar role because it has earned him all the name and fame. "This role is close to my heart. And if in future I will be offered similar roles, I would never say no. But as an actor, it is my responsibility to explore new characters and new genres. So my focus will be on trying different things," he says.



# All domestic flights to operate from T-3

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With domestic air travel all set to start from Monday, Delhi airport officials on Saturday, said that all flights will be operated from Terminal 3 which is usually reserved for international flights operations. All flights will be operating from Terminal 3: Delhi International Airport Limited #COVID19," the DIAL tweeted Saturday afternoon.

Notably, Terminals 1 and 2 are designated for domestic flight operations however amid corona break, domestic operations will run from the T-3.

Earlier, Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had said India would also try to start a good percentage of international passenger flights before August.

Earlier in its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the IGI airport official had mentioned that passengers shall compulsorily walk



through screening zone for thermal screening at a designated place in the city side before entering the terminal building.

Airport operators must make appropriate arrangements for sanitisation of a passenger's baggage before his or her entry into the terminal building, said the SOP dated May 20.

In its exit plan, Delhi airport mentioned about operations readiness amid coronavirus. "Provisions are being

made to ensure PPE like masks, gloves, face shields etc are provided for the safety and health of all employees. Each role is being studied to create the requirement for the safety gears."

"All staff (DIAL and other service providers) will be screened at entry gate for temperature. Employee self declaration on weekly basis through an internal APP. Temporary pop up shops for selling, gloves, masks and other PPE," Delhi airport officials said.

## Daati Maharaj booked for holding temple congregation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday registered a case against Daati Maharaj and some other persons for allegedly performing a ceremony at temple and violating the Government guidelines on lockdown here in Maidan Garhi area

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on Saturday, it came to notice that some photographs of a ceremony at Shanidham mandir Asola have been circulated on social media wherein the social distancing norms were not being followed and a religious congregation was organised in contravention of the lockdown guidelines.

"During preliminary enquiry, it was revealed that on Friday around 7.30 pm, chief priest of Shanidham Mandir Daati Maharaj, along with some other persons, had performed a ceremony at the temple," said the DCP.

"They violated the government guidelines on lockdown issued, following which a case under relevant sections was registered at Maidan Garhi police station on Saturday and the investigation has been taken up," said the DCP.

## Delhi HC to take up urgent matters via video conferencing

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court has decided that from Friday all its judges will sit everyday to take up "urgent matters of all kinds" via video conferencing.

The step follows the high court and the lower courts together having taken up 20,726 urgent matters during the Covid-19 related lockdown from March 24 to May 19.

"As per the latest initiative taken by Chief Justice D N Patel and other Judges of the High Court of Delhi, now, w.e.f. May 22, 2020, all the division benches and all the single-judge benches shall take up urgent matters of all kinds, through video conferencing, during the suspended functioning of the Court.

"All such benches would sit daily on all the working days," said a note, issued by the office of high court Registrar General Manoj Jain.

Till now, urgent matters were being taken up by two division benches and ten single-judge benches, but the judges of these benches were sitting on rotation basis.

There are presently seven division benches and 19 single-judge benches in the high court.

The note further said that the roster benches would also

**The step follows the High Court and the lower courts together having taken up 20,726 urgent matters during the Covid-19 related lockdown from March 24 to May 19**

take up the matters which are at the stage of final arguments and in which consent has been received from both the sides agreeing for disposal of case on the basis of written submissions alone.

It also said that the existing procedure of mentioning of urgent matters, via weblink before joint registrar concerned, would continue to be in force till further orders.

"Non-urgent matters shall be taken up by the roster benches on resumption of regular hearings and as per the order of Chief Justice," it also said.

The seven division benches and 19 single-judge benches are also referred to as roster benches as each of them deal with cases based on specific categories (or roster) decided by the Chief Justice.

PTI

# Govt orders reopening of 66 pvt liquor shops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Excise department has given orders to open 66 more private liquor shops which were closed due to the spread of Coronavirus.

Notably, the Government has earned ₹110 from the cess in just 15 days of imposing special corona fee on liquor.

If officials of Delhi Government are to be believed, Government is expecting more revenue with the opening of more shops. As per the data from the Delhi Excise department, the earning was about ₹55 crore till May 12, whereas after the "special corona fee" the collection went up to ₹70 crore by May 15 and by May 21, the cess amount was ₹110 crore.

While close to 100 liquor

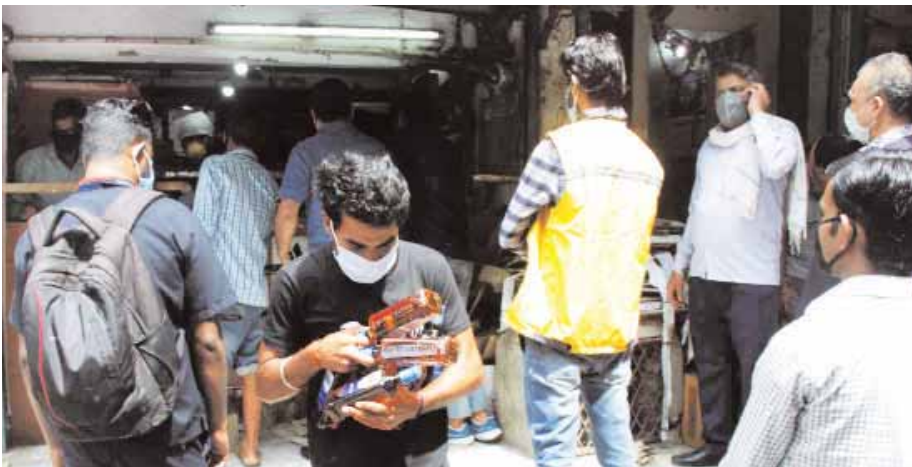
vends were allowed to open in lockdown 3.0, now about 200 shops are functional across the city, including standalone shops and those in market places.

From Saturday, 66 private liquor shops were allowed to open by the Excise Department.

According to official data, Delhi has more than 850 liquor shops, of which around 150 are located in malls and at the airport which will not be allowed to operate. From May 5, the government imposed a special corona fee on liquor which is 70 per cent of the MRP.

With an aim to discourage overcrowding at liquor shops, Delhi Government had initiated e-token system

Earlier, the Delhi Government has also increased the value added tax (VAT) on



petrol and diesel.

According to an official figure for the current financial year, the Government was expecting about 15 per cent of its total revenue generation

from liquor sales.

According to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, every year in April, the estimated revenue generation is ₹3,500 crore, but this year, it

was just ₹300 crore.

He came out in public saying if the situation continued, it will be difficult for the government to pay salaries to its employees.

## One held for supplying illicit liquor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a person for allegedly supplying liquor in the National Capital.

The accused has been identified as Manish, a resident of Sonipat in Haryana.

According to a senior police official, on Thursday night, police got a tip-off regarding transportation of illicit liquor in a car through Bawana area, following which a trap was laid.

Police team asked the driver to stop the vehicle, but he ran away. The policemen started chasing him and nabbed the accused at Mungeshpur Village in Bawana area," said the senior police official.

"Police recovered a total 50 cartons of illicit liquor carrying 600 bottles from the possession of the accused," he added.

## Man held for duping IAF officer of ₹75k on e-commerce website

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly cheating an Air Force officer of ₹ 75,000 on the pretext of purchasing furniture from him through e-commerce website.

The accused has been identified as Ajruddin, a resident of Mewat district in Haryana.

According to Anyesh Roy, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Cyber crime unit, police received a complaint from an Air Force officer that he was trying to sell his old furniture online on the popular e-commerce website.

"He was contacted by a person who claimed to be one Sahil, a constable in CISE. The accused agreed to buy the furniture and said that since he was posted in a remote area of Rajasthan, he could not come

over to make the payment or collect the item personally. Hence, he would make an advance payment through UPI," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"The complainant gave the number of his sister-in-law. The accused sent a UPI link for payment, but instead of money being credited, it was debited from her account on multiple occasions," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"During investigation, police identified the main accused through technical help. Ajruddin, along with his associates, was on run and got arrested from near Nuh bus stop, Mewat earlier this week, the Deputy Commissioner of Police said.

"Interrogation revealed that Ajruddin, along with his associates, created fake IDs of army and paramilitary personnel on e-commerce plat-

forms after copying the photographs from genuine social media profiles," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"On the pretext of being posted in difficult terrain, the accused assure the victims that they would make an advance payment for the product which they want to buy. However, the UPI link generated by them was not for crediting into the victim's account, but for debiting the money," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"When the victims call the accused and demanded the money back, they assured that there was some error in the previous link and they are again sending a link for twice the amount to compensate for the previous erroneous transfer," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police adding that efforts are being made to nab the other accused persons.

## City sizzles at 46.2 degrees Celsius , severe heatwave to continue

**New Delhi:** The national Capital on Saturday witnessed maximum temperature of 46.2 degree Celsius — the highest this season — with the weather office predicting severe heatwave in the coming days.

The India Meteorological Department's Aya Nagar observatory recorded 46.2 degrees Celsius, six notches above the normal.

The maximum temperature at the Safdarjung observatory was recorded at 44.7 degree Celsius. Meanwhile, Palam in southwest Delhi recorded 45.6 degree Celsius while the Lodhi Road observatory recorded a maximum temperature of 44.4 degree Celsius. According to the IMD, heatwave/severe heatwave will continue over most parts Delhi/NCR between May 24 and 27 due to dry and north-westerly winds prevailing over northwest India and Delhi/NCR. IANS

## NDMC provides online services for new connection

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) made its 33 services online, resident can now access facilities such as new electricity and water connection, load enhancement and bill payment among others without visiting offices.

A NDMC official said that residents can access facilities water related services, health services, inclusion of name in birth certificate (0-12 months), yellow fever vaccination,

According to the officials, by introducing more services in online category, the NDMC is providing e-Waste management system, right to information system, new electricity connection, electric load enhancement, electricity bill payment, connection and disconnection in government accommodations for issue of no dues certificate and connection and disconnection of electricity.

"New water connection, water tanker booking, water bill payment, property tax payment and mutation of properties. inclusion of children name in birth certificate (0-12 months), yellow fever vaccination and vector borne disease, etc are also made online," he said.

# 'Convicts aged above 60 to get emergency parole'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In wake of Coronavirus outbreak, the Delhi Prisons department has decided to grant emergency parole to convicts aged above 60 years.

According to a circular issued on Wednesday, the convicts in that age group are more susceptible to coronavirus and the emergency parole will be given to decongest the jail.

If the inmate was convicted for less than five years and

has already completed three months in jail, he or she is eligible for the emergency parole, the circular stated.

For jail term of more than five and upto 10 years, only those convicts will be released who have completed a stay of six months and their appeal is not pending in the court.

"For the prisoners having more than 10 years upto life convicts, except those having specific direction not to release before specific period or not to consider for remission,

he or she should have completed six months or more as convict and overall period of custody undergone should be one year," the circular stated.

"Apart from this, the convicts behaviour in the jail will also be considered. The convicts whose appeal against conviction is pending in High Court or Supreme Court will not be granted the emergency parole," said Sandeep Goel, Director General (Prisons).

# Rly to run 2,600 more Shramik trains in next 10 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has decided to run 2,600 more Shramik Special trains in next 10 days in an attempt to provide relief to migrants to reach home State.

The railways in a statement said that while the country is battling with the pandemic coronavirus, Indian Railways is leaving no stone unturned to bring respite to the severely affected during this crucial time.

"In a major decision, Ministry of Railways has decided to operationalise 2,600 more Shramik Special trains in next ten days across the country as per the needs of State Governments. This initiative is expected to benefit 36 lakh



stranded passengers across the country," it said.

It may be noted that Indian Railways started running "Shramik Special" trains from May 1 to ferry migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and

other persons stranded at different places due to lockdown.

These special trains are being run from point to point on the request of both the concerned State Governments as per

the standard protocols for sending and receiving such stranded persons.

The Railways and State Governments have appointed senior officials as nodal officers for coordination and smooth operation of these "Shramik Specials".

As many as 2,600 Shramik Special trains has been run in last 23 days and around 36 lakhs stranded migrants have been transported till now to their home States.

It is to be noted that apart from Shramik Special train, Ministry of Railways has started 15 pairs of special trains from May 12 and announced 200 train services to be started from June 1.



**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Celebrate

# EID

and offer namaz at Home this year



Make India's fight against Coronavirus successful



The auspicious festival of

## EID falls on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

amidst the scare of COVID-19 Pandemic.

So this year celebrate EID with precautions and follow these guidelines –



**Maintain social distancing of 2 yards at all times**



**Refrain from personal greetings or hugs**



**If you step out for shopping wear face mask, carry sanitizer and maintain social distancing**



**No congregation at mosques or public gathering**

Extended Lockdown along with Section 144 Cr PC is in force, so respect it

## Stay home - Have a safe EID

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : [cp.snshrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in](mailto:cp.snshrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in) | Write to CP, Delhi at: P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

**TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090** **FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112**

DP/02/38/2020



# Boy reunited with parents via Insta, twitter posts

**CHANDAN PRAKASH ■**  
NEW DELHI

A 12-year-old boy who was driven out of home and left to fend for himself by his own uncle and forced to spend nights with dogs in Dwarka, was reunited with parents by senior IPS officers of Odisha and Bihar cadre after the incident was reported on social media.

Vishal, after being thrown out by his uncle, first went to a public toilet to take shelter but after being molested by vagabonds, he made a public park in Dwarka his home. He spent almost two months in park until noticed by a Samaritan Yogita Kumari who used to visit park to feed dogs amid lockdown.

Yogita, an animal lover who lives in Dwarka (Sector 1), enquired about him and posted the story on her Instagram page. She also started feeding him until help arrived. Noticing the plight of the boy, another user Sneha tweeted his story and tagged senior IPS officer of Odisha cadre Arun Bothra and India Cares, a voluntary initiative to help people during this Coronavirus outbreak. .

Talking about suffering of the boy, Sneha, a resident of Delhi and work with a private firm in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan said “The boy was left with his uncle by his parents before leaving Delhi after lockdown. He was left with no option after



being driven out by his uncle. He started living in the park. We managed to get contact of his parents and contacted him to verify the details and left kid with his http://uncle.Family disupte happend and kid is now living in park. His meals are managed by a friend but Streets are not safe. @indiacares.2020 @arunbothra,” she tweeted.

Following the incident, Bothra not only arranged train tickets for his parents but also reached to Sanjay Kumar, a 1997 IPS officer of Odisha Cadre who is presently posted as Inspector General (Sasashtra Seema Bal) Patna, who helped

the parents to reach at Patna junction to board the train to Delhi. “@indiacares.2020 arranged the tickets. The family reached Delhi on today morning and met the child in the park. Moral of the story: You may not have money or position to help people but tagging someone on Twitter is easy & free,” Bothra tweeted.

Talking to *The Pioneer* Sanjay Kumar said that after being informed about the situation, his parents who lives in Kariyan village in Samastipur (Bihar) were contacted and informed about their son. “I managed transport for them to reach at Patna where they took train to Delhi. As soon they reached Delhi, BSF personnel picked and reunited them with Vishal,” he said.

# Jhansi fire brigade asked to be ready with chemicals after sudden movement of locusts

**Jhansi:** The Jhansi district administration has directed fire brigade to keep its vehicle ready with chemicals following a sudden movement by a swarm of locusts.

District Magistrate Andra Vamsi, who chaired a meeting in this regard said, “The villagers along with the common public has been told to inform control room about the movement. The locusts will go places where there is green grass or greenery. Hence, details about the movement at such places must be shared.”

Deputy Director Agriculture Kamal Katiyar said,



“The swarm of locusts, which is moving is small in size. We have got news that nearly 2.5 to 3-kilometre long swarm of locusts has entered the country. A team has come from Kota (Rajasthan)

to tackle the locusts.” At present, the locust swarm is at Bangra Magarpur. “Spraying of insecticides will be done in the night,” he said. **PTI**

# 2,600 Shramik trains to...

**From Page 1**  
“We have operated 260 Shramik Special trains every day on an average for the last four days, carrying three lakh passengers daily,” Yadav said.

To a question on fares of the special trains to be operated from June 1, the Railway Board chairman said the railways was charging pre-lockdown normal fares only.

He reiterated that 85 per cent of the expense of Shramik Special trains is being borne by the Centre and the states are

only paying 15 pc in the form of fares.

Responding to a letter sent by the West Bengal government seeking stalling of all migrant trains to the state till May 26 due to Cyclone Amphan, Yadav said it was due to a natural calamity and things will be back to normal soon.

“The West Bengal chief secretary wrote to me that restoration work is underway and they’ll tell us soon when they will be able to receive the

trains. As soon as they give us clearance, we’ll run trains to West Bengal,” he said.

Responding to a question on why certain trains were being diverted to longer routes, Yadav said since most of the migrant special trains were terminating in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the railways has decided to take decongested albeit longer routes to operate these trains.

“This method is employed even during normal times to avoid congested routes,” he said. The Railways will run 100 pairs of special trains from June 1.

# HCQ for caretakers in non-Covid hospitals

**PNS ■** NEW DELHI

In a significant decision, the Government has allowed the use of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) as a preventive medication for asymptomatic healthcare workers deployed in non-Covid-19 hospitals, frontline staff on surveillance duty in containment zones, and paramilitary/police personnel involved in coronavirus infection related activities.

The revised advisory issued by the ICMR, however, cautioned that the intake of the medicine should not instill a sense of false security.

The recommendation followed meeting of the Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and representatives from AIIMS, ICMR, National Centre for Disease Control,



National Disaster Management Authority, WHO and experts drawn from central government hospitals. They reviewed the prophylactic use of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) in the context of expanding it to healthcare and other frontline workers deployed in non-Covid-19 and Covid-19 areas.

The drug is not recommended for prophylaxis in children under 15 years of age and in pregnancy and lactation, the advisory said.

The advisory said in rare cases the drug causes cardiovascular side effects such as cardiomyopathy and rhythm (heart rate) disorders, it said.

“In that situation the drug needs to be discontinued. The

drug can rarely cause visual disturbance including blurring of vision which is usually self-limiting and improves on discontinuation of the drug,” the revised advisory said.

The drug has to be given under strict medical supervision with an informed consent, it stated.

The data on assessment of HCQ prophylaxis among 1,323 healthcare workers indicated mild adverse effects such as nausea (8.9 per cent), abdominal pain (7.3 per cent), vomiting (1.5 per cent), hypoglycemia (1.7 per cent) and cardio-vascular effects (1.9 per cent), the advisory said.

However, as per the data from the Pharma covigilance programme of India, there have been 214 reported instances of adverse drug reactions associated with prophylactic HCQ use, it said.

# Modi discusses Covid situation with Lankan Prez, Mauritius PM

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday discussed the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic with Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

Sri Lanka is fighting Covid-19 effectively under Rajapaksa’s leadership, Modi wrote on Twitter.

“India will continue to support our close maritime neighbour in dealing with the pandemic and its economic impact,” he said.

The two, the Prime Minister said, agreed to accelerate Indian-assisted development projects in Sri Lanka and also strengthen investment links.

Modi congratulated Prime Minister Jugnauth for successfully controlling Covid-19 in Mauritius. “Our people share warm and special ties, based on

shared culture and values. Indians will stand by their Mauritian brothers and sisters at this difficult time,” he said.

An official statement later said President Rajapaksa briefed Modi on the steps being taken by his government to restart economic activity.

“In this context, both the leaders agreed on the need to accelerate Indian-assisted development projects in Sri Lanka. They also discussed the possibilities of promoting investments and value-addition in Sri Lanka by the Indian private sector,” the statement said.

During the conversation, Modi conveyed his best wishes for the health and wellbeing of Sri Lankan people.

Another statement said Prime Minister Jugnauth conveyed his condolences for the losses caused in India by cyclone ‘Amphan’.

**PTI**

# Maha won’t allow flight till May...

**From Page 1**  
“If you have taken a test and your test report is negative, following which you don’t have any symptoms, I believe there should be no need for quarantine. The Aarogya Setu app is like a passport, if your status on the app is green. Why should anyone want any quarantine?” he asked.

The State Governments’ decision over quarantine being mandatory for air passengers may hamper the domestic flight

operations as well as economic activities across India. The Government has decided to open flight operations to speed up economy activates amid coronavirus pandemic. Besides, except Shramik Special train passengers, States do not put all migrants or arriving in the States to quarantine. In some States, they asked people to fill a form and allow them to go home.

Karnataka Government has mandated 14-day quarantine for

all passengers coming to the State via flights. As per the protocol, returnees from high prevalence States coming via road, rail, air should be kept in institutional quarantine for seven days and after negative coronavirus test, they should be sent for another seven day home quarantine.

As of May 22, Karnataka Government has included Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh in high prevalence

States. “Returnees from low prevalence States should be asked to follow 14 days of home quarantine,” the State Government said.

In a tweet, the Jammu & Kashmir administration also decided to put all people under quarantine on their arrival in the Union Territory (UT). The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have also decided to quarantine people arriving on flights as well as by other modes of transport.

The Kerala Government said the passengers would have to stay in home or institutional quarantine for 14 days. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said that all those arriving via domestic flights will have to undergo quarantine for 14 days.

Assam had also said that the State will quarantine passengers flying in for 14 days. Assam has recorded 259 cases and four deaths so far. Passengers flying to Mizoram will have to obtain prior permission of the State Government for air travel and have to undergo a corona test on arrival and mandatory quarantine for 14 days.

# Lens on 11 cities giving 80% cases

**From Page 1**  
With over 47,190 cases and death toll to 1,577, Maharashtra continues to earn the tag of worst-affected State and capital Mumbai has over 27,000 cases alone. Cities, like Pune and Nashik, are the other hotspots in Maharashtra. Sixty deaths were reported on Saturday.

With 396 new patients, tally of coronavirus cases in Gujarat rose to 13,669 with 27 deaths. Death toll due to pandemic reached 829 while with 277 new coronavirus cases, tally rises to 10,001 in Ahmedabad. Twenty-four people succumbed to pandemic taking death toll in district to 669. In Tamil Nadu, 5 more Covid-19 fatalities pushed death toll to 103 while number of cases stand at 15,512 with 759 fresh infections.

Delhi reported record 591 new cases taking the total cases to 12,190. Two hundred and thirty one people have succumbed to the virus in the national Capital while Madhya Pradesh saw surge in number to 6,371 with 201 new cases. Uttar Pradesh reported 5,735 while West Bengal which is facing double whammy of Amphan

cyclone and coronavirus registered new 157 cases taking the total to 3,459.

Karnataka too recorded its biggest single day spike on Saturday with over 200 new cases of Covid-19, along with a death, taking the total number of infections to 1,959 and the death toll to 42.

The State reported 216 fresh infections of coronavirus, of which 187 were returnees from neighbouring Maharashtra. As of May 23 evening, cumulatively 1,959 Covid-19 positive cases have been confirmed in the state, which includes 42 deaths and 608 discharges.

Rajasthan reported a total number of 6,657 confirmed cases while the Covid-19 toll in the State climbed to 155. Eighty new Covid-19 cases were detected in Jammu & Kashmir taking the tally to 1,569 while six cases in Ladakh were reported over past three days. The UT was declared coronavirus-free days ago.

India has tested over 1.15 lakh samples for Covid-19 in the past 24 hours, Indian Council of Medical Research stated on Saturday.

# Army Chief visits...

**From Page 1**  
Northern Command chief Lt General YK Joshi and 14 Corps chief Lt General Harinder Singh briefed the Army chief about the situation.

His visit came at a time when the Indian side has bolstered its troop strength at all the face-off points after the Chinese did so, sources said here on Saturday.

Naravane’s trip to Leh took place a day after New Delhi rejected Beijing’s claim that the Indian Army was responsible for escalating tension at the LAC in Sikkim and Ladakh.

Rebutting this, India said it was the other way round and the Chinese were proving a hindrance in the Indian Army’s patrolling in Ladakh.

The latest face-offs are now on in Galwan valley where the Chinese have pitched 90 to 100 tents and have increased its troop strength to nearly 500. They charge the Indians with building a road close to the LAC thereby violating treaties. However, India maintains that the road is well within its territory and the Chinese are escalating tension by undertaking construction activities like barracks. Moreover, they have deployed more vehicles besides maintaining aerial vigil through helicopters. The stand-off at this point is spread over three to four kms and located at a height of more than 4,000 feet.

The other two stand-offs are in the Daulat Beg Oldie sector of Ladakh where the Chinese have moved forward towards the LAC with more than 300 to 400 soldiers each on the two locations. There too, the Chinese are objecting to construction activities undertaken by India to improve its infrastructure including roads and airfields to ensure logistical lines throughout the area.

Incidentally, the Galwan valley has seen such situations in the past too and the two armies fought a battle in the 1962 war here. Given the strategic importance of the Galwan valley and nullah, the Indian Army too has strengthened its positions, sources said.

The LAC has become “hot” in terms of transgressions in the last two weeks or so with at least two face-offs in Naku La in Sikkim and Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh turning violent with personnel from both sides indulging in fistcuffs. Some officers and soldiers of two armies were also injured in the fracas. While the situation on both these two locations has now somewhat normalised, three new flashpoints have now emerged in eastern Ladakh. Sources also said the Indian Army has not let its guard down in Sikkim and Ladakh.

# International flights before August: Puri

**From Page 1**  
The minister, while addressing a Facebook Live

session, clarified again that the app is not mandatory for air passengers and they can instead give a self-declaration form.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, few states have questioned the necessity to restart domestic services from Monday, he admitted, adding that some hesitation was expected even as the Centre has been trying to meet their concerns.

Puri said during the session, “I can’t put a date on it (restarting international

flights). But if somebody says can it be done by August or September? My response is why not earlier depending on what is the situation.”

When asked about the minister’s announcement on resuming international services, Vistara said it will await instructions and guidelines from the Civil Aviation Ministry. Other airlines did not respond to PTI when asked about this matter.

“I am fully hopeful that before August or September, we will try to start a good percentage of international civil aviation operations, if not complete international operations,” he said.

“We must have a more ambitious goal (regarding international flights). Why not start them by mid-June or June-end or in July,” he added.

All scheduled commercial passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 25 when the Modi government imposed a lockdown to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

The minister said that the Vande Bharat Mission, which began on May 7, would be able to bring a total 50,000 Indians, who have been stranded abroad, home by the end of this month.

Between May 7 and May 21, around 23,000 Indians have been repatriated through flights operated by Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express under this mission. Passengers have to pay money to book a seat on any repatriation flight being operated under the Vande Bharat Mission.

Puri said India is planning to bring stranded Indians from Sri Lanka through ships or flights under the Vande Bharat Mission.

The minister said if some passengers do not have smartphones, it is not as if they will not be allowed to travel for they do not have the Aarogya Setu app.

“We have said it is an advisory, it is preferable...If you do not have the Aarogya Setu app, you can give a self-declaration form,” he stated.

“If someone has Aarogya Setu app, it is like a passport. If you have green status, why should anybody want any quarantine,” Puri said.

The app gives colour-coded designation to users as per their health status and travel history. It helps the user know if he or she is near anyone who has tested positive for the deadly virus.

Incase a passenger does not have the app, he or she can

get tested for the virus two or three days before the flight’s departure, get a medical certificate, and just fill in the form that he or she is COVID-19 negative, Puri noted.

“If you haveA arogya Setu app, and if you have got yourself tested for COVID-19 and have been found negative, and if you do not show any symptoms, then I think there is no need for quarantine,” he said.

With the spike in COVID-19 cases weighing heavily upon it, senior officials of the Tamil Nadu government have expressed concerns about resumption of domestic flights from May 25. While most states are ready, Puri said few states have talked to his “senior colleagues (ministers) and questioned the necessity of restarting domestic flights so soon.”

The minister said during the session, “They said the Centre should delay it further by 2-3 days. So, they (ministers) asked the states to send the concerns in writing. But the states did not.”

“This will keep going on. When we are dealing with a situation like this, we should expect that there would be some hesitation. But it is our (Centre’s) responsibility and we should make efforts to make those concerns.”

# Migrants protest route...

**From Page 1**  
Around 1,200 passengers were travelling in a Shramik Express from Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) to Muzzafarpur (Bihar). On May 21 mid-night the train was stopped at the outer signal of the Pt Deen Dayal Upadhaya (PDDU) station. When it did not move for six hours, the passengers realised there is some mistake.

“Actually the train was diverted to a wrong track. As the train was to go to Muzaffarpur it should have been diverted to Varanasi instead it was diverted towards PDDU station in Chandauli district,” Manish said. “As it was night, passengers did not realise the mistake and thought that it was stopped at the outer because of non-availability of platform. In the morning we realised what actually had happened,” he said.

The passengers lost cool. They blocked the adjacent rail track by putting boulders on the track disrupting the movement of trains completely. Due to this, several other trains

including Rajdhani Express and Special Shramik trains were delayed for hours.

Later, RPF personnel and senior Railway officers reached there and pacified the passengers and then the train was moved towards its destination.

It was second such mistake which came to light within two days. On Friday evening a Shramik Express from Panvel in Maharashtra to Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh was held up at Vysnagar Halt - a railway station between Varanasi and PDDU junction.

“We waited for almost 10 hours. We asked the station master but he said he cannot allow the movement of train unless asked by the high officials. There is no movement of trains and still the shramik expresses are stalled. Why?,” asks Dhananjay.

The piqued passengers went on rampage damaging windowpanes of several coaches. Later they squatted on the railway tracks refusing to move. They left only after the railway police intervened and everyone on board was given a meal. The

train later resumed its journey.

At the same Vyasnagar station, another Shramik Express train coming from Bhiwandi (Maharashtra) to Varanasi was also stopped for hours. Early this week another train scheduled to go to Jaunpur was also diverted towards PDDU instead of Varanasi Junction.

A few days back migrant workers from Gujarat to Bihar threw away the food served at Kanpur junction saying it was rotten. They said pooris served to them were hard “as if they were cooked 3-4 days back” complained the passengers.

Another incident was reported in Unnao, where passengers heading from Bengaluru to Bihar smashed windowpanes at a platform complaining about lack of food and water arrangements after the train made an unscheduled stop at the station. District Magistrate Unnao Ravindra Kumar said that directions have been given to station master to make adequate requirements for water at all platforms.



**RAHUL'S INTERACTION WITH MIGRANTS**

# Cong releases video

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday released a video of an interaction between former party chief Rahul Gandhi and a group of migrant workers walking back to a village in Uttar Pradesh from Haryana amid the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown.

In his introduction to the video, Rahul said Covid-19 has hit a lot of people but the worst affected are migrant workers walking thousands of kilometres back to their homes, without food and water and despite being beaten up and threatened.

"But they did not stop and continued to walk back to their homes. I want to give you a glimpse of their thinking, fears, dreams, aspirations and their future," he said.

The migrant crisis has triggered a political slugfest between the opposition Congress and the ruling BJP, with both sides accusing each other of playing politics on the issue.

The former party chief also demanded that the government should immediately ensure a direct cash transfer of ₹7,500 to each of 13 crore families.

The Congress said Rahul has been extremely active on social media for many years now, becoming one of the 10 most followed politicians in the world on Twitter with 14.2 million followers.

Over the past few weeks, he has been regularly releasing longer format videos of his conversations with noted experts, such as former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Raghuram Rajan and Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee.

In the pipeline are a number of new video formats and innovative communication approaches that he will use to take his message to the widest possible audience in India and abroad, the party said.

The video interaction released took place on May 16 near Sukhdev Vihar flyover in New Delhi. The migrant workers were on their way from Ambala in Haryana to Uttar

## Rahul was out to spread 'political pollution': BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his video on his interaction with the migrant labourers saying he was out to spread "political pollution". The party also lashed out at the opposition for playing "negative politics" even at the time of global pandemic.

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that Rahul is spreading political pollution instead of offering any solution to the problems. "This is a time of unprecedented crisis with Coronavirus, Amphan Cyclone and Visakhapatnam gas tragedy all happening at once and the Congress must help the government," he said.

For his part, another senior BJP leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar alleged that the Congress and other parties were engaged in an exercise of hypocrisy and making contradictory comments on the strategy to be adopted to battle out Coronavirus pandemic.

Pradesh's Jhansi, a distance of about 600 km.

Rahul met them when they stopped to rest after walking more than 100 km.

In the 17-minute video, the Gandhi scion is seen sitting on a footpath with the migrants and interacting with them.

For almost an hour, he listened to their story and hardships, the discrimination they faced, their reasons for deciding to flee their workplace, and why they were forced to walk back to their homes, their fears, dreams and aspirations, the Congress said.

At the request of the group, Rahul and Congress volunteers organised transport and necessary permissions to get them back safely

## Maya calls Rahul video a drama

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a series of tweets, BSP Supremo Mayawati attacked Rahul Gandhi saying his video looks less like an act of sympathy and more like drama. She also said that had Congress given jobs to labourers in the last 70 years, this situation wouldn't have risen. She slammed BJP too for "walking in the footsteps of Congress".

Javadekar said, at a time when the entire country should unitedly fight against this pandemic, the Opposition is continuously playing negative politics and their meeting called by Congress reflects it. He alleged that the Congress and other Opposition parties are

commenting on 20 lakh crore rupees package without understanding its benefits. He said Modi-government has organised a single ration card which can be used anywhere in the country and also arranged for "free grain" for those who have no ration card.

The BJP leader said congress and other opposition were initially asking why lockdown was not being extended by now same parties were questioning its extension by the government. Similarly, he said at first opposition said why government was not allowing stranded migrants to travel to their native places but now since 50 lakh of them have reached their places, same parties were playing by "organising few buses".

He said on the one hand opposition parties talking loud about cooperative federalism on the other the same Congress and other Opposition-ruled states are not giving permission to run as many trains needed for migrant workers.

The workers remained non-committal about returning to their workplaces, insisting it is important to save their lives.

They claimed they had not received any monetary help from the government. The migrants said more than the Coronavirus, hunger is hurting them and that is why they were not afraid of getting killed on the roads. Rahul concluded the video with a message to migrant workers: "My brother and sisters, you are the strength of this country, you carry the weight of this country on your shoulders. The entire country wants there should be justice (nyay) with you. It is our duty to empower this strength of the country."

## Maya calls Rahul video a drama

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a series of tweets, BSP Supremo Mayawati attacked Rahul Gandhi saying his video looks less like an act of sympathy and more like drama. She also said that had Congress given jobs to labourers in the last 70 years, this situation wouldn't have risen. She slammed BJP too for "walking in the footsteps of Congress".

Javadekar said, at a time when the entire country should unitedly fight against this pandemic, the Opposition is continuously playing negative politics and their meeting called by Congress reflects it. He alleged that the Congress and other Opposition parties are

commenting on 20 lakh crore rupees package without understanding its benefits. He said Modi-government has organised a single ration card which can be used anywhere in the country and also arranged for "free grain" for those who have no ration card.

The BJP leader said congress and other opposition were initially asking why lockdown was not being extended by now same parties were questioning its extension by the government. Similarly, he said at first opposition said why government was not allowing stranded migrants to travel to their native places but now since 50 lakh of them have reached their places, same parties were playing by "organising few buses".

He said on the one hand opposition parties talking loud about cooperative federalism on the other the same Congress and other Opposition-ruled states are not giving permission to run as many trains needed for migrant workers.

The workers remained non-committal about returning to their workplaces, insisting it is important to save their lives.

They claimed they had not received any monetary help from the government. The migrants said more than the Coronavirus, hunger is hurting them and that is why they were not afraid of getting killed on the roads. Rahul concluded the video with a message to migrant workers: "My brother and sisters, you are the strength of this country, you carry the weight of this country on your shoulders. The entire country wants there should be justice (nyay) with you. It is our duty to empower this strength of the country."

## Doctors treating coronavirus patients up in arms against Union Health Ministry's new guideline

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Healthcare professionals treating coronavirus patients in designated hospitals are up in arms against the Union Health Ministry's new guideline which asks them to vacate quarantine facilities if they are not showing any symptoms of the disease.

Under the previous guideline, all doctors, nurses, technicians and sanitation workers in the Covid-19 wards had to work 14 days in a row and remain in quarantine for the next 14 days to ensure that they did not take the infection back home.

However, the revised guideline from the Ministry on management of manpower in the hospitals issued on May 15 said that there was no need for quarantine of healthcare workers after Covid-19 duty, unless there had been a breach in the personal protective equipment or any other form of high-risk exposure.

The clauses in the latest guideline, however, has not gone down well with the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) which observed a black ribbon protest on Friday demanding proper quarantine for all healthcare workers on Covid-19 duty.

Dr Shivaji Dev Barman, President of FORDA, said that we have requested the Ministry to amend the guidelines and allow us 14 days quarantine as well as testing so that we can go home without any tension. The Coronavirus can show its effect by two to 14 days.

Non-symptomatic healthcare workers have been found to be coronavirus positive in many cases even after wearing PPE kits.

A circular from Delhi's Lady Hardinge Medical College issued on Thursday said, "Hotel facility during post-duty period in Covid-19 and suspected Covid-19 zones provided to healthcare workers is hereby withdrawn and the occupants are directed to please vacate their rooms immediately. If any overstay is noticed, charges paid for the



overstay will have to be recovered from their salaries."

The accommodation will be available to those still on Covid-19 duties at the hospital. A similar demand was at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) hospital in Delhi.

Dr Ekta Yadav, president of the RDA at RML hospital, however, said that they were hoping that the health ministry takes back these guidelines by the time the next shift ends.

Doctors at Safdarjung hospital have negotiated a five-day quarantine for healthcare workers in the Covid-19 wards, so that they can be tested once before they go back home.

"At the hospital level, our medical superintendent has allowed five-day quarantine for healthcare workers from the Covid-19 wards, so they can stay in the hotel till they are tested once," said Dr Manish Kumar, president of the RDA of Safdarjung hospital.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is providing quarantine to only those who are recommended by the hospital infection control committee.

The dharamshalas of the hospital, which are used by the relatives of the patients usually, were being provided to the healthcare workers from the hospital.

"We are following the health ministry guidelines," said Dr DK Sharma, medical superintendent of the hospital.

The guidelines define "high risk exposure" as a healthcare worker treating Covid-19 patient or handling their samples without proper personal protective equipment (PPE) or probable breach of the PPE.

It will also be required if a healthcare worker is in contact with a positive person at a distance of less than 1 metre for more than 15 minutes without masks, face-shields or goggles.

# 'Hunar Haat' to reopen after five months



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Due to the outbreak of Coronavirus, 'Hunar Haat', an income and employment generating platform providing an opportunity to artisans and craftsmen from across the country to showcase their handmade and indigenous products, would reopen after a gap of five months, from September 25.

Despite the pandemic, a schedule is planned to organise the artisan fair in 25 cities until early next year. This time, Hunar Haat will also use the digital medium to sell products online.

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the 'Hunar Haat' will witness larger participation of artists and craftsmen this year with the theme of "local to global".

He said 'Hunar Haat', which has provided employment and employment opportunities to more than 5 lakh Indian artisans, craftsmen, culinary experts and other people associated with them in the last 5 years, have become popular among the people.

It provides market and opportunity to master artisans and craftsmen from remote areas of the country and has become a credible brand of rare exquisite indigenous handmade products, said the Minister.

In February this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Hunar Haat, which was organised at India Gate. He had encouraged and lauded indigenous handmade products of

**Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the 'Hunar Haat' will witness larger participation of artists and craftsmen this year with the theme of "local to global"**

artisans and craftsmen.

The 'Hunar Haat' may receive further boost with Prime Minister stressing use of local in a bid to become self-reliant in the wake of global pandemic.

Appreciating the artisans and craftsmen and their products in Mann Ki Baat programme, Prime Minister Modi had said "I witnessed hues of our country's diverse expanse, cultures, traditions, cuisines and the warmth of emotions"

According to the statement issued by Ministry of Minority Affairs, craftsmen have utilised lockdown period to prepare rare indigenous exquisite products at large scale.

They will bring them for display and sale in the next Hunar Haat, which is beginning from September 25.

Social distancing, hygiene, sanitisation and use of masks will be ensured at 'Hunar Haat'. There will be a special 'Jaan Bhi, Jahaan Bhi' (Lives and livelihoods, both) pavilion to create health awareness among the people with the theme of 'Say no to panic, yes to precautions'.

# Coronavirus outbreak throws global immunisation programme in disarray

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 in itself may not be virulent for the kids but travel restrictions, delivery delays and parents' fear of leaving home amid Coronavirus outbreak have thrown in disarray the global immunisation programme-putting approximately 80 million children under the age of one, both in rich and poor countries alike, at risk of diseases like diphtheria, measles, and polio.

These are the observation of the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, Gavi and the Sabin Vaccine Institute.

The reasons for disrupted services vary. Some parents are reluctant to leave home because of restrictions on movement, lack of information or because they fear infection with the ovid-19 virus.

Other than that, many health workers are also unavailable because of restrictions on travel, or redeployment to Covid response duties, as well as a lack of protective equipment.

"Disruption to immunisation programmes from the Covid-19 pandemic threatens to unwind decades of progress against vaccine-preventable diseases like measles, said WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Measles and polio vaccination campaigns, in particular, have been badly hit, with measles campaigns suspended in 27 countries and polio campaigns put on hold in 38 countries.

At least 24 million people in 21 Gavi-supported lower-income countries are at risk of missing out on vaccines against polio, measles, typhoid, yellow fever, cholera, rotavirus, HPV, meningitis and rubella due to postponed campaigns and introductions of new vaccines.

India has recently issued advisory, asking the states to continue with the vaccine

## Use cup-shaped mask if you feel irritated, speech-distorted

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

If your mask is leaving you irritated, speech-distorted and causing fogging on glasses, then you can opt for the cup-shaped mask developed by researchers from Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bangalore. They say it helps to create enough space in front of the mouth while speaking. This snug-fit mask causes no speech distortion, no fogging on glasses, and indeed, packs well all around, leaving practically no room for leakage while breathing.

The product from the CeNS which is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology also helps to create enough space in front of the mouth while speaking. The innovation has been transferred to a Bangalore based company Camellia Clothing Ltd for mass production.

"Another important advantage is its high breathability allowing one to wear it without any discomfort. Further, the researchers have chosen the fabric layers such that there is a possibility of

deactivating pathogens sheerly by the electric charges that may prevail under mild friction due to the triboelectric nature of the fabric. These advanced-level tests are being carried out.

"While an ergonomic design for COVID-19 protection mask is essential for its ease of use for long hours, it is often not paid much attention beyond a few standard designs. A good design should minimize the feeling of intrusion and leakage around the edges, but maximize the ease of breathing and talking while holding its place," said Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.

With the increase of active COVID cases in India and other countries, usage of face masks has been advised for the general public. While the healthcare professionals can use the special and high technical quality medical masks, for the general public, a mask with moderate filtering efficiency should suffice. It should be comfortable to wear to encourage public to wear it for long hours.

1970s. More than half (53 per cent) of the 129 countries where data were available reported moderate-to-severe disruptions, or a total suspension of vaccination services during March-April 2020.

Gavi CEO Dr. Seth Berkley said: "Due to Covid-19 this immense progress is now under threat, risking the resurgence of diseases like measles and polio. Not only will maintaining immunisa-

## Kangra tea could be effective in boosting immunity: Research

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists from Palampur-based Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT), a lab of the CSIR, have claimed that the chemicals in Kangra tea could be effective in boosting immunity as they can block the Coronavirus' activity better than anti-HIV drugs. Incidentally, ICMR is planning to introduce anti-HIV drugs to treat Covid-19 patients.

Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director, IHBT, during a webinar at the institute on the International Tea Day recently said, "Using computer-based models, our scientists screened 65 bioactive chemicals or polyphenols, particularly three that could bind to a specific viral protein more efficiently than commercially available anti-HIV drugs approved for treating COVID-19 patients. These chemicals might block the activity of the viral protein that helps the virus to thrive inside human cells."

Tea catechins production process which has been transferred to Baijnath



Pharmaceuticals, and Ready to Serve Teas and Tea wines could be game changer for Kangra tea, added Dr Kumar. Catechins are natural antioxidants that help prevent cell damage and provide other benefits.

At the event, Tea vinegar technology was transferred to a Dharamshala-based company. Tea vinegar has anti-obesity properties.

Also herbal green and black teas blended with AYUSH-recommended herbs were also launched. These

products could be very useful for boosting immunity against COVID-19, he said.

Dr RK Sud, Chief Scientist, IHBT said that on the recommendations of India, the United Nations (UN) recognized the tea's medicinal properties and cultural importance and declared May 21 as International Tea Day.

President of Kangra Tea Planters' Association, Arun Thakur and Chairman Palampur Cooperative Tea Factory, Rajinder Thakur

talked about the issues confronting the Kangra tea industry. They said that while tea mechanisation which was introduced by the institute is paying dividends, its affordability is

"Similarly, the tea plantation needs to be extended in the State by replacing pine trees which give nothing but forest fires. Whereas tea plantation being environment friendly conserve soil moisture and prevent soil erosion and generates livelihood to the masses," they opined.

## AIIMS' pulmonology dept head succumbs to corona

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dr JN Pande, Director at the Pulmonology department at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, died of coronavirus on Saturday, just a day after a mess worker succumbed to the infection.

Sangita Reddy, a senior Delhi doctor and the Joint

Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals Enterprises, shared the news in a tweet.

"Deeply saddened to hear that today Covid-19 claimed its most illustrious victim, Dr JN Pande, Director and Prof of Pulmonology at AIIMS, Delhi. A stalwart of the med-



ical world his work in pulmonology will continue to

ensure better health for many. My Condolences to his family," she tweeted.

Pulmonology is a medical specialty that deals with diseases involving the respiratory tract.

Hundreds of doctors and health workers across the country are being infected with coronavirus since its outbreak.

the expense of long-term progress in our fight against other diseases," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director.

## BSF reports 21 new corona cases



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) has reported 21 new cases of Covid-19 infection in its ranks in the last 24 hours. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) reported six new cases during the period.

The BSF has a tally of 120 active cases whereas 286 infected personnel have recovered and discharged from hospitals.

As many has 406 persons have been infected due to the coronavirus in the BSF (120 active plus 286 recoveries) which was the highest number among the Central paramilitary forces.

All of the infected BSF men are under treatment at designated Covid-19 healthcare hospitals, a BSF spokesperson said.

Nine personnel (Kolkata: 5, Tripura: 4) recovered from the infection during the last 24 hours. They have been put under quarantine as per the protocol.

With six new cases, the CRPF has total count of 129 infected persons.

As many as 219 infected personnel have recovered from the pandemic and two others succumbed to the disease.

A total of 350 persons had contracted the disease included those who have recovered or died.

The positive cases in the CRPF were detected from Guwahati and they have been admitted in Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH).



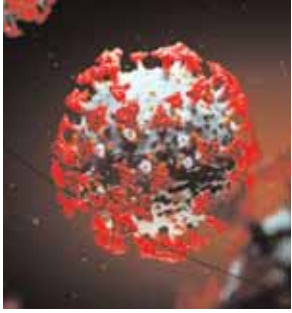
# Kerala sees 62 new cases in single day

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Giving an impression that things going out of control in the State, the number of coronavirus cases in Kerala shot up to 62 on Saturday, the highest to be recorded in a single day since the breaking out of the pandemic in mid-January.

Out of the 62 persons tested positive on Saturday, 18 were those who reached the State from foreign countries while 31 were those from other States in the country.

The number of hotspots in the State too rose to 37, accord-



ing to a release issued by the State Government on Saturday evening. Those who tested positive on Saturday include seven health workers in the State.

As on Saturday, there were 275 covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the State. The announcement by the Government that there would not be any lockdown on Sunday on account of Id-ul-Fitre had aggravated apprehension in the minds of the people about further spike in the number of coronavirus positive cases.

The release said that till date 515 persons were cured of the pandemic and discharged from the hospitals. But 182 persons were hospitalised on Saturday.

# 2,423 Indians arrive in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 2,423 Indians released by the State Government, Indians began returning to Mumbai by special flights from various countries since May 10. The last special flight, carrying 196 Indians, arrived in Mumbai from Johannesburg on Friday.

Till date, highest number of 653 people came from United Kingdom, while 243 arrived from Singapore, 150 from the Philippines, 107 from Bangladesh, 201 from Kuala Lumpur, 107 from San Francisco, 208 from New York, 195 from Chicago (all USA), 201 from Malaysia, 78 from Ethiopia, 16 from Oman, 29 from Manila, 185 from Jakarta, 126 from Johannesburg, 2 from Afghanistan and 2 from

## VANDE BHARAT ABHIYAN

According to a statement released by the State Government, Indians began returning to Mumbai by special flights from various countries since May 10. The last special flight, carrying 196 Indians, arrived in Mumbai from Johannesburg on Friday.

Till date, highest number of 653 people came from United Kingdom, while 243 arrived from Singapore, 150 from the Philippines, 107 from Bangladesh, 201 from Kuala Lumpur, 107 from San Francisco, 208 from New York, 195 from Chicago (all USA), 201 from Malaysia, 78 from Ethiopia, 16 from Oman, 29 from Manila, 185 from Jakarta, 126 from Johannesburg, 2 from Afghanistan and 2 from

Kuwait.

"Till June 7, we are expecting more Indians to return from Jakarta, Johannesburg, London, Manila, Tokyo, Colombo, Mauritius, Nairobi and other countries," a senior state government official said.

On its part, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has reserved 3,342 rooms in 88 hotels in various parts for instructional quarantining of Indians arriving from different parts of the world.

Meanwhile, State Tourism Minister External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and about Vande Bharat Mission phase 3, involving the arrival of flights beginning from June 7. "This afternoon, Hon'ble

minister of External Affairs @DrSJaishankarji and I had a telephonic discussion about Vande Bharat Mission phase 3, starting around June 7th to have more flights from and to Maharashtra," Aditya tweeted, after speaking to the External Affairs Minister on Friday afternoon.

"We positively discussed plans for more flights from various countries all over the world, to bring back our citizens home. Both governments, the Union and the State are working closely to ensure more flights fly to and from Maharashtra in phase 3, and bring back Indians safely.. I thank Minister @DrSJaishankarji for his support and guidance for the same as Hon'ble EAM, " Aditya added.

# Srinagar admin faces hardship in containing people movement

**EID SHOPPING**  
PNS ■ JAMMU

Ahead of Eid, which is likely to be celebrated on Monday, the district administration is facing tough times containing movement of local residents on the streets of Srinagar. Despite making passionate appeals and involving local clerics large number of people stepped out of their homes for Eid shopping on Saturday.

Traffic police cops faced hardships at several city junctions regulating the flow of traffic on ground zero. Simultaneously, mobile vehicles, fitted with loud speakers were seen moving across different localities warning local residents against stepping out for Eid shopping.

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary used the social media platforms to send across a direct message to all those people, currently quarantined in different locations, to wait for their test reports and avoid using pressure tactics to return home during Eid.

"Since Covid outbreak, it's not a normal world, it wasn't normal Ramzan, isn't going to be normal Eid. Please exert no pressure for sending quarantined home without reports. It's not normal life" tweeted Dr Choudhary. Meanwhile, 80 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected and one more patient died in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir taking the total tally of cases to 1569 on Saturday. Out of these 80 cases, 21 cases were detected from Jammu division and 59 from Kashmir division.

At present, a total number of 774 cases are active positive in Jammu & Kashmir and the same number of 774 cases have recovered so far. A total number of 21 deaths due to covid-19 have been reported, 2 from Jammu division and 19 from Kashmir.

# Army deployed in cyclone-hit WB for restoration work

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Three days after super cyclone Amphan hit Bengal, Army was called out to assist the State Government to normalise life in Kolkata and neighbouring areas, sources in the State Home Department said.

The Army acted within hours and deployed five columns at various places primarily to clear off the major thoroughfares clogged by uprooted trees. It will however help in restoration of other facilities like drinking water and power supply too, sources said.

"We received the orders and started at 2.30 pm. Then we started work at around 4 pm and have cleared about a km of road at the Southern Avenue," an Army officer said. Initially three columns were called in to assist the State administration but two more columns were sent later on sources said.

The Army will assist the State administration and will work in tandem with the 26 teams of the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and SDRF, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said while putting the total worth of the loss due to the cyclone to about ₹1 lakh crore.

An additional 10 teams of



NDRF was rushed in by the Centre from Pune sources said. "On receipt of written request from Principal Secretary Disaster Management and Civil Defence, Government of West Bengal for deployment of additional teams, ten additional NDRF teams have been mobilized and are being rushed at the earliest from NDRF locations outside West Bengal. Teams are likely to reach Kolkata by late night today (Saturday)..." the Union Home Ministry said in a statement.

The State Government also requested the Indian Railways and the private sector in providing manpower and equipment, as "we will have to clear thousands of trees and constructions" that were blocking hindering communication.

"Government of West Bengal mobilises maximum strength in unified command mode on 24x7 basis for immediate restoration of essential infrastructure and services. Army support has been called for and NDRF and SDRF teams deployed," the Home Department said adding the "Railways, ports and private sector too (have been) requested to supply teams and equipment."

The cyclonic storm that hit the land on May 20 at a record speed of 195 kmph before ravaging Kolkata at a maximum speed of 135 kmph left nothing intact that came its way. A similar storm had killed 1 lakh people in Odisha in 1999 while another that hit Bengal in 1737 claimed 3,00,000 lives.

While documenting the extent of loss Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee later said that the cyclone had completely destroyed about 10 lakh houses in the South 24 Parganas alone. The State Government sources said in total about 6 crore people

have been affected. This included about 76 lakh people living in the district headquarters. "Nearly 99 percent of the South 24 Parganas have been wiped out," she said.

Meanwhile, even as Army began work of clearing trees at Southern Avenue, Tollygunge and other areas hundreds of people descended on the streets demanding restoration of water supply, power and mobile connectivity. At Kasba the residents blocked road for several hours asking the ministers to come and see their condition.

Similarly at Bansdroni, Garia, Behala, James Long Sarani and other areas the police had a trying time to contain the restive people including women and children.

At Garia a senior executive working with a private firm said her family had not seen water flowing in for the past three days. "We have not taken a bath for three days and are cooking our food with mineral water." At Jadavpur a professor said he was "finding it difficult to keep my family indoors as we have no power and it is hot and humid. If the inmates come out on the streets how will you maintain social distancing."

# 60 more deaths, 2,608 new cases in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Coronavirus continued to crule the roost in Maharashtra on Saturday, as it claimed 60 more deaths and left 2,608 others infected in various parts of the State.

With uncontrollably high fresh fatalities and infections, the total number of deaths rose to 1,577 and infected cases to 47,190 in Maharashtra. "Out of the total infected cases, 32,201 are active cases," a state health department official said.

Of the total 60 deaths reported on Saturday, Mumbai accounted for 40 deaths, while there were 14 deaths in Pune, two in Solapur and one each Vasai-Virar, Satara, Thane and Nanded city.

Out of those dead 41 were men and 19 were women. Twenty nine of them aged over 60 years, 24 were from the age group 40 to 59 years and 7 were aged below 40 years. "Thirty six out of 60 patients (60%) had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease," a state health department bulletin said.

There have been as many as 578 Covid 19 triggered deaths in Maharashtra during the last nine days. The death tally has been as follows: May 15- 49, May 16 -



67, May 17 - 63, May 18-51, May 19 -76, May 20 -65, May 21 - 64, May 22-63 and May 23-60

With no let up in the number of fatalities and infections in Mumbai, the total number of deaths in the metropolis mounted to a staggering 949 on Saturday. As many as 1566 new infected cases were reported in Mumbai, taking the total number of positive cases in the metropolis to 28,817.

Similarly in Pune where the number of deaths has increased in recent days, total number of deaths has risen to 297, while the total number of infected cases has jumped to 4805. On the testing front in the state, as many as 2,98,696 samples out of total 3,48,026 samples tested negative, while 47,190 tested positive for Covid-19 until Saturday

There are 2345 active containment zones in the State currently. As many as 16,414 surveillance squads worked across the state on Saturday and surveillance of 65.91 lakh population was done.

Meanwhile, 13,404 patients have been discharged till date after full recovery. Currently, 4,85,623 people are in home quarantine and 33,545 people are in institutional quarantine.

# Palghar lynching: Maharashtra Govt shunts out area Dy SP Gaurav Singh

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a belated fallout of the much-discussed Palghar lynching incident in which three persons, including two Sadhus, were beaten to death, the Maharashtra Government on Saturday shunted out Palghar's Deputy Superintendent of Police Gaurav Singh and replaced him with Dattatreya T Shinde in his place. More than a month after the incident sparked a major political controversy in the country, the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government decided to

transfer Palghar's DSP Singh - who had earlier on May 7 been sent on "compulsory leave" - out of his post. He has not been given any fresh posting so far. Shinde, who has succeeded Singh as Palghar's new DSP, was earlier the Managing Director of the MahaVitaran, one of the state electricity undertakings. As part of a major reshuffle undertaken after the lynching incident, the state government had earlier suspended five police officials were suspended last month, while it had transferred 35 constables to different

places within the district.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16, three persons were lynched by a 200-strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district on suspicion that they were thieves.

The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle.

Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadchinchale village on Dabhadhi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70), Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and driver Nilesh Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivli in north Mumbai. The place where the incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

After the incident, three Kasa police had registered three FIRs in connection with the lynching and assault on policemen. All the accused had been arrested a day after the ghastly crime. In the first FIR, the police had charged 110 accused with murder under IPC Section 302.

The deceased --- identified as

# IMD predicts heatwave for Northwest plains

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday predicted heat wave to severe heat wave conditions over the plains of the Northwest, Central and adjoining Peninsular India for the next five days and intense rainfall activity over Northeast between May 25 and May 27.

Issuing an orange alert for Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rayalseema, Chandigarh and Delhi, and Rajasthan from Sunday, the IMD said dry northwesterly winds prevailing over Northwest and Central India since past two days are expected to continue to prevail over the next four to five days. The highest maximum temperature of 46.6 degree Celsius was reported at Churu and Ganganagar in Rajasthan. Jhansi and Pilani also recorded temperature of 46 degree Celsius on Saturday.

Under its influence, heat wave to severe heat wave conditions are expected over plains of Northwest and adjoining Central India. Rainfall activity has significantly reduced over south Peninsular India, giving rise to development of heat wave conditions over parts of the region as

well, it said

Meanwhile, under the influence of converging strong southwesterly winds from the Bay of Bengal, Northeast will experience heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls between May 25 and 27.

Heat wave conditions have been observed over West Rajasthan and in isolated pockets over Haryana, Delhi, East Rajasthan and Vidarbha since two days. The prevailing hot and dry weather in the region is also due to the absence of easterly winds which were all drawn towards the cyclone that wreaked havoc over North Odisha and Bengal on May 20

Meanwhile, parts of Northeast India have been experiencing heavy to very heavy rainfall since past two days, it said, issuing a red alert specifically for Assam and Meghalaya on May 26 and 27. In large areas, a heat wave is declared when the maximum temperature is 45 degrees Celsius for two consecutive.

Severe heat wave condition is when the mercury touches the 47 degrees Celsius mark for two consecutive days. In small areas, like Delhi, a heat wave is declared when the temperature soars to 45 degrees Celsius even for a day, according to the IMD.

# CBI registers case for illegal smuggling of sea cucumbers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against unknown persons after recovery of dried sea cucumbers from Lakshadweep. The offence relates to recovery of three dead sea cucumbers on February 14 this year. The recovered wildlife consignment weighed 540 grams.

The case has been registered under various cognisable sections of Wildlife (Protection) Act and under 120-B (criminal conspiracy of the Indian Penal Code)

On February 14, 2020 after collection of all non-biodegradable wastes from waste collection bins placed at different parts of Agatti Island in Lakshadweep by municipal staff, it was transported to the Central Garbage Depository at Agatti Island, reads the FIR.

At the time of garbage segregation, three dried sea cucumbers were found in the non-biodegradable waste. Following the recoveries, the Sea Cucumbers Protection Task Force was informed and the agency took possession of the recoveries.

Hunting or possession of sea cucumbers is a penal offence under the Wildlife (Protection) Act as it is a protected species under the Act. Sea cucumbers considered vital for the fragile ecology of the islands.

# ADMK Govt completes 4 yrs in office

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It's an anniversary which Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy and other members of the council of Ministers would prefer not to speak about. On Saturday, the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu completed four years in office and entered the last phase of the tenure of this Government. It was on May 23, 2016, J Jayalalithaa, popularly known as Amma, took oath of office as Chief Minister for the second time in succession after returning to power single-handedly.

But the joy of the AIADMK cadre was short lived as Jayalalithaa breathed her last on December 5, 2016 and O Panneerselvam took over as the Chief Minister. He was eased out of office on February 6, 2017 as the fall out of a palace coup staged by V K Sasikala, the close aide of Jayalalithaa. Sasikala who was expected to sworn in as Chief Minister ended up in Parappana Agrahara Jail following the Supreme Court's ratification of the Bangalore Special Court verdict sentencing her to four years imprisonment in the

Disproportionate Asset Case. Before she set out for Bangalore, Sasikala got Palaniswamy, her close confidante, elected as the chief minister. Within months of him swearing in as Chief Minister, Palaniswamy consolidated his hold over the Government and the party and threw out the Sasikala clan from all influential positions in the Government and party.

The initial days of Palaniswamy was enmeshed in uncertainty. MK Stalin, leader of opposition and DMK's working president, used to claim that the Government was on life-support system and it would fall down anytime.

The 18 MLAs who cast their lots with the Sasikala clan were disqualified by the Speaker. The disqualification was upheld by the Madras High Court as well as Supreme Court. In the ensuing by-election, the AIADMK managed to win 11 out of the 24 constituencies that went to the polls in three phases.

A Government which was described by many political pundits as a sitting duck became strong as months went by and is almost certain that it

would complete the present term without any hiccups.

Opinions are divided about the achievements of the government which came to office in 2016. "By and large, the performance of Palaniswamy Government was satisfactory though it is difficult to compare it with the one led by Jayalalithaa. The overall functioning was reasonable but whatever good will they got during the last four years got tarnished because of the poor handling of the coronavirus pandemic," said T Ramakrishnan, leading political commentator and author.

He said though the Palaniswamy government had managed to put up a good show during the initial days of the pandemic, it lost track somewhere and things went out of control. "The four-day close down starting from April 26 ordered by the Government did irreparable damage and Tamil Nadu was not the same again," said Ramakrishnan.

K A Johny, political columnist and commentator is of the view that the Palaniswamy Government was a miserable failure on all counts from day one.

# DMK MP held for anti-Dalit speech, granted bail later

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

RS Bharati, Rajya Sabha member and senior DMK leader was arrested early Saturday morning by Chennai Police under charges of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. The arrest was in connection with a complaint filed by Arun Kumar, a Dalit leader, who had said that Bharati had insulted and humiliated the marginalised communities while addressing a public meeting held in Chennai on February 15.

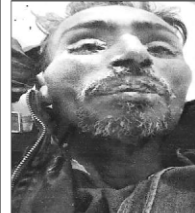
Bharati was granted interim bail by a court in Egmore till June 1. Arun Kumar had alleged that the DMK leader made derogatory comments about the Dalits in the State during his speech when he stated that the depressed classes were elevated by the DMK as an act of charity.

The reported comment had resulted in a lot of controversy among Dalit outfits in the State. Bharati, the organising secretary of the DMK had caused major embarrassment to the ruling AIADMK by filing a series of

cases in the Madras High Court accusing Ministers and party leaders of corruption and scam. Speaking to reporters after he was released on interim bail, Bharati alleged that the arrest was a political conspiracy against

him by the AIADMK Government. "We won't succumb to these conspiracies. We will continue to raise our voice against this corrupt Government," Bharati told reporters.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age** : About 50-52 years, **Height**: 5'1", **Complexion**: Sallow, **Face**: Long, **Build**: Normal, wearing blue colour shirt, chocolate colour jacket and blue colour jeans, was found unconscious on 15.03.2020 at BK Roy Court, Asaf Ali Road, Kamla Market, Delhi. he admitted in hospital, during the treatment he died on 22.03.2020. In this regard a DD No. 52-A dated 22.03.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. The dead body was been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of MAMC, Hospital, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO : P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743**

DP/94/CD/20

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male namely **Shyam** **Age** : About 65 years, **Height**: 5'5", **Complexion**: Sallow, **Face**: Round, **Build**: Thin, wearing lining T-shirt, blue colour jacket and grey colour pant, was found dead on 18.03.2020 in front of H.No. 3155 Kucha Tara Chand, Darya Ganj, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 50-A dated 18.03.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi. The dead body was been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of MAMC, Hospital, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO : P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-23279331, 23274683**

DP/107/CD/20







FINANCE MINISTER TO BANKS

Extend loan automatically to all eligible borrowers without fear of 3Cs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said banks have been asked to extend loans automatically to eligible borrowers without fear of 3Cs - CBI, CVC and CAG. She said clear instructions have been given in a meeting with CEOs and MDs of public sector banks and financial institutions on Friday that the banks should not be scared to extend loans as 100 per cent guarantee is being given by the Government.

In case of default, the individual bank or official will be hauled up, she said in a conversation with BJP leader Nalin Kohli uploaded on the party's social media platforms. "Yesterday, I reiterated that by saying, if a decision goes wrong, and if there is a loss, the

Government has given 100 per cent guarantee now.

It is not at all going to be on the individual official and on the bank, and therefore without fear they should take this automatic route in the sense, everybody eligible for additional term loan and additional working capital should be given," she said.

As part of the ₹20.97 lakh crore comprehensive economic package, the Government announced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) worth ₹3-lakh crore for the MSME sector, hit hard by the coronavirus crisis.

It is being said that the genuine bonafide decisions in the banking sector are being impacted because of the worry of undue harassment by 3Cs-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Central Vigilance



Commission (CVC) and Comptroller and Audit General (CAG).

The Finance Ministry has taken several steps to allay those fears including withdrawing some of the notifications which were causing fears among bankers, she said.

"...Concerns these banks have had in their minds earlier, and may have even now are absolutely well founded. In fact, through my last 7-8 months, I have spent at least three different times with the banks to say that the fear of the 3Cs as they refer to the CBI, CVC, and also the CAG should not be in their minds," she said.

When asked about criticism about leaving many critical sectors including hospital-ity, auto and civil aviation in the economic package, Sitharaman said the Government has not taken a sectoral approach but a holistic approach. "Except agriculture and the power sectors where reforms would be undertaken, other than that I have not come up with any sectoral reference. What has now become to be called as MSME package, it includes MSME,

and also aims at touching others (sectors) too...So the sectors that you are referring to can also benefit through this," she said.

It is based on the understanding that any enterprise "with a certain exposure to the bank and with a certain invested capital, or with a certain turnover if they need additional term loan, additional working capital in order to buy their own material to restart, in order to be able to pay some fixed cost, it can take that route," she said. She expressed hope that from June 1, liquidity would start flowing from banks without any new collateral. During the meeting with bankers, the Finance Minister said it was emphasised that the loans should be sanctioned in a simple manner and if possible digitally to avoid any physical contact.

Future actions to stimulate economy will depend on how COVID crisis pans out: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the RBI project- ed economic contraction in 2020-21, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said future fiscal policy actions to stimulate the economy will depend on how COVID-19 pandemic pans out. The government has already announced a ₹20.97 lakh crore economic package, which includes Reserve Bank's ₹8.01 lakh crore worth of liquidity measures till May 17. Sitharaman said making a "realistic assessment" of eco-

nomic growth would be difficult at this point of time as there is no clarity on when the pandemic would retreat. "I'm not closing the door at all. I want to keep getting inputs from industry, implement what we have announced and depending on how things pan out we have to respond accordingly. We are only 2-month old in this year, we have 10 months to go," Sitharaman said in a conversation with BJP leader Nalin Kohli. The Reserve Bank on Friday had said the impact of COVID-19 is more severe

than anticipated and the GDP growth during 2020-21 is likely to remain in the negative territory.

It projected some pick-up in growth impulses from second half (October-March) of 2020-21 onwards. Last week, the minister had announced an economic packages five tranches, which included a ₹3.70 lakh crore support for MSMEs, ₹75,000 crore for NBFCs and ₹90,000 crore for Power distribution companies, free foodgrains to migrant workers, increased allocation for MGNREGS.

BOB to offer up to ₹12k cr loans to MSMEs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State-run Bank of Baroda on Saturday said it can offer up to ₹12,000 crore in loans to MSMEs under the ₹3 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) announced by the Government.

Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a 100 per cent credit guarantee scheme worth Rs 3 lakh crore to support the medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) which have been adversely affected by the coronavirus crisis.

All existing MSME borrowers with outstanding credit of up to ₹25 crore as on February 29 and with an annual turnover of up to ₹100 crore would be eligible for funding under the scheme.

"In our case, that particular portfolio amounts to be ₹58,000 crore.

So, 20 per cent of that would be around ₹10,000 c

Fin Min not considering calamity cess on GST

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is not considering imposition of calamity cess on the GST as businesses are grappling with low sales and declining demand, sources said.

Reports had earlier said that the Central Government is considering a calamity cess on the Goods and Services Tax, similar to flood cess imposed by Kerala in June last year. Ministry sources said that in the present economic scenario during the COVID-19 pandemic, any purported proposal of introducing a calamity cess would be nothing less than an adversity itself. This would prove to be counter-productive, as sales are already at low volume and the industry is facing a deep crisis for want of demand and likely labour challenges, a source said. "Any such measure would further dampen the consumers' sentiment and could weaken markets' strength, especially when the government is endeavouring its best to boost the consumption," the source said.

Air India unions threaten may not extend support to 'normal operations' and FDTL norms

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Air India pilot unions IPG and ICPA on Saturday threatened they might not be able to extend support to the airline's "normal operations" and in the matter of flight duty and time limitations (FDTL), alleging that financial and other issues of employees remain unresolved.

The two unions, which represent the pilots operating Boeing and Airbus aircraft of the airline, in a joint letter to the personnel department, also sought to know the outcome of the various cost-cutting measures which the carrier initiated in March to deal with its precarious finances in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) and the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) letter comes ahead of the resumption of commercial passenger services on domestic routes from May 25, which were suspended about two months ago along with international services in the wake of COVID-19 and subsequent

lockdown imposed by the government on March 25.

Air India had announced a host of measures to reduce costs, including withdrawing special allowances for pilots and other facilities for its officials, a 10 per cent deduction in allowances (excluding basic pay, HRA and variable dearness allowance) in respect of all employees, except cabin crew, for a period of three months effective from March.

It had also announced undertaking negotiations to review all agreements with lessors and hotels to reduce their rates.

"We have communicated our precarious financial situation to your office with sufficient notice and clarity. Since it has fallen on deaf ears, we would like to inform you, we may not be in a position to extend FDTL and support for normal operations if the management does not take care of the frontline workers categories and move forcefully to generate revenue for Air India," the two unions said in a joint letter on Saturday.

DCB Bank Q4 net slips 28 pc to ₹69 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

DCB Bank on Saturday reported a 28 per cent decline in net profit at ₹69 crore for the March quarter, impacted by the coronavirus crisis.

The private sector lender had posted a net profit of ₹96 crore in the same period of 2018-19. Income during the January-March quarter of FY20 rose by 8.5 per cent to ₹434 crore, as against ₹400 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal, DCB Bank said in a release.

The bank's profit after tax in FY20 stood at ₹338 crore, up 4 per cent from ₹325 crore in 2018-19. Income during the year grew 10.5 per cent to ₹1,656 crore as against ₹1,499 crore in the preceding fiscal.

"Both FY 2020 and Q4 2020 Profit Before Tax was impacted by ₹63 crore Covid-19 Regulatory Package Provision. The bank conservatively made more provision than required as per guidelines," it said.

Indian economist appointed to key World Bank position in South Asia on climate

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A bhas Jha, an Indian economist, has been appointed by the World Bank to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia, the global lender said. Jha's appointment comes at a time when Cyclone Amphan has badly hit West Bengal, Orissa in India and Bangladesh.

In his capacity as World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia, one of the top priorities of Jha will be to encourage and help the South Asia region (SAR) Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change team to connect and collaborate across Global Practice boundaries, the bank said in a statement on Friday.

And also to the World Bank to conceive and deliver innovative and high-quality development solutions to

respond to client demands and strengthen disaster risk management and climate action in the region, the statement said.

Based out of Singapore, Jha will also work closely with other Practice Managers, Global Leads and Global Solutions Groups to incubate, pilot and scale-up innovative and high-quality development solutions, and to promote the generation and flow of global knowledge to serve these countries, the bank said.

According to the bank, Jha's mandate is to nurture, lead, inspire and deploy a team of highly qualified professionals to deliver the best solutions for these countries. Jha, an Indian national, joined the Bank in 2001 in the office of the Executive Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka and has since worked in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific regions.

Union Minister deliberate on reforms needed to boost exports

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Several Union Ministers, including Piyush Goyal, Nitin Gadkari and Narendra Singh Tomar, on Saturday interacted with stakeholders of some key industries like food processing, marine and auto parts.

Besides commerce minister Goyal, MSME minister Gadkari and agriculture minister Tomar, Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Giriraj Singh and Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal also took part in the virtual interaction.

The Ministers also held discussions on ways to boost domestic competitiveness and increase India's share of global exports in food processing, marine and auto parts. Had a meeting with food and marine processing, ready to eat segment and auto parts stakeholders.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-27-T-R2-19-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with (i) Provision of IBS in between block section of Rottak-Samarogpalpur, Jind-Barsola & Jakhal-Bareta. (03 Nos). (ii) Provision of IBS between KIP-RE section at km 77/3-4 in Delhi division.  
Approx cost of the works in: Rs. 15.50 lacs  
Address of the office: Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi  
Earnest Money: Rs. 31000.00  
Date & time of submission of tender: 25.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.  
Opening of tender: 25.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs.  
Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi  
1171/20  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**UJVN LIMITED**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Tel.: 0135-2763808 & Fax-0135-2763508, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tender from interested contractors for following work:  
1. Tender Notice Reference: NIT No.-02/2020-21/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Annual Upkeep and Horticultural Works of Pashulok Barrage Premises & Offices at Rishikesh.  
2. Estimated Value of Tender: Rs. 22,70,582.00 respectively.  
3. Tender Cost: Rs. 1180.00 (Including GST) respectively.  
4. Earnest Money: Rs. 57,000.00 respectively.  
5. Period of Completion: 12 Months respectively.  
6. Last Date of Downloading of Tender: 17.06.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs. (IST)  
7. Last Date of Submission of Tender: 18.06.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs. (IST)  
8. Date of Opening Tender: 20.06.2020 at 11:00 hrs. (IST)  
For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com) and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.  
पत्र. 334 दिनांक 23.05.2020  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**UJVN Limited**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax No.: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
For and on behalf of UJVN Limited, Executive Engineer, (Civil) UJVN Limited, Lohiahead Khatima invites sealed & separate tenders from interested bidders. Brief summary of tenders are given below-  
1. Tender Reference No.  
NIT No. -03/EE.(Civil)/Lohiahead/Khatima/2020-21: "General Cleaning work of Lohiahead Colony for the Year 2020-21".  
NIT No.-04/EE.(Civil)/Lohiahead/Khatima/2020-21: "Horticulture Maintenance, Development of Lawns and Clearing Grass at Sharda Power House Lohiahead for the Year 2020-21".  
2. Tender Cost : Rs.16,22,250.15 and Rs. 15,14,375.07 Respectively.  
3. Tender Fee : Rs.1180.00 and Rs. 1180.00 Respectively (Including GST)  
4. Earnest Money : Rs 40,600.00 and Rs. 38,000.00 Respectively  
5. Period of Completion : 12 Months  
6. Last Date of downloading Tender : Upto 17:00 hrs. of 18.06.2020  
7. Last Date of submission of Tender : Upto 17:00 hrs. of 19.06.2020  
8. Date & Time of Opening of Tender : at 11:00 hrs. of 23.06.2020  
9. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting the Tender : Executive Engineer (Civil), Lohiahead, Khatima.  
For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our website. The tenders can be downloaded from our website i.e. [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com) and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.  
329/UJVN/Advt./Dated 23-05-2020 "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Tata Projects augments hospital infra with 2,304 beds across India for Covid patients

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Engineering firm Tata Projects on Saturday said it is augmenting hospital infrastructure with 2,304 beds at multiple locations across India to treat COVID-19 patients. "As one of the fastest growing and most admired infrastructure companies in India, we felt the need to use our expertise in executing large and complex urban and industrial infra-

structure projects towards augmenting, upgrading the nation's hospital network," Tata Projects Chief Strategy Officer Himanshu Chaturvedi said in a statement.

Today, the company is proud that its teams of engineers, technicians and workers are working tirelessly towards strengthening the fight against COVID-19, he added.

"We believe that our support in the fight against

COVID-19 will further help in once again accelerating India's progress at the earliest," Chaturvedi said. Recently, at Mumbai's KEM Hospital, Tata Projects transformed two wards encompassing 65 beds and specialised medical equipment so that it can handle more serious coronavirus cases. In addition, Tata Projects is also turning a large section of KEM Hospital's orthopaedic centre into a 115-bed isolation centre.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**AMC OF AC PLANTS & ILLUMINATION IMPROVEMENT AT STATIONS**  
Sr. Tender Notice No. & Date: Work and location: Approx. cost of work in ₹ EMD in ₹  
1 EL/Maint/4/307/WA/15 dtd. 22/05/2020 Valsad-Surat: Manning, Operation and Annual Maintenance Contract of AC plants. 13,26,640 26,500/-  
2 EL/Maint/4/307/WA/1 dtd. 22/05/2020 Nandurbar: Manning, Operation and Annual Maintenance contract of AC plants. 7,30,432/- 14,600/-  
3 EL 81772/WA/5 dtd. 22.05.2020 Mumbai Division: Illumination improvement at stations of Mumbai Division. 1,35,58,953/- 2,17,800/-  
Date & time of submission: Sr. No. 1 & 2: on 23-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & Sr. No. 3: on 22-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. Date & time of opening: Sr. No. 1 & 2: on 23-06-2020 at 15:30 hrs. & Sr. No. 3: 22-06-2020 at 15:30 hrs. Please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**INSTALLATION OF ATMs ON MUMBAI DIVISION**  
Tender No. C4/151/ATM/20. Date: 23/5/2020. Name of work: E-tenders are invited from reputed banks (Public Sector Bank/ Scheduled Commercial Indian Bank) for installation of ATMs on the 11 locations on Western Railway, Mumbai Division. The required documents are available on the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Since it is an e-tender it is to be submitted on-line.  
Sr. e-Tender Notice No. & Date: Work and location: First Year Reserve Price in ₹ EMD in ₹  
1 C4-151-ATM-20-PBHD-vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Near Railway water pump house below BMC FOB landing of North FOB Circulating area. 2232186 272600  
2 C4-151-ATM-20-DDR- vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Dadar west side: Existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank above middle FOB, near STD booth. 4454690 544000  
3 C4-151-ATM-20-MDD- vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Malad West side : Existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank, next to TC Office at PF NO. 1, entry/exit form middle. 2038946 249000  
4 C4-151-ATM-20-MEL- vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Marine Line (W) (1): Existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank on the south side FOB Opp to West booking office. 2425448 296200  
5 C4-151-ATM-20-MMCT-1- vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Mumbai Central Main (1): Existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank, east side circulating area, outside PF no. 05, opp. Pay and Park. 2232186 272600  
6 C4-151-ATM-20-STC- vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Santacruz(E)2 Existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank, near south east BMC's bridge, western Railway Parking Circulating area. 2425448 296200  
7 C4-151-ATM-20-MIRA- vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Mira Road (E)(1): At existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank behind southeast booking office. 1749034 213600  
8 C4-151-ATM-20-BYR dtd. 23/05/2020 Bhayander (W) (1): Existing site of Kotak Mahindra Bank, landing North FOB at west side, outside of PF no. 01 1459142 178200  
9 C4-151-ATM-20-MMCT-2- vol. I dtd. 23/05/2020 Mumbai Central Main/ Existing site BOB,outside PF No 5, opp. Pay and Park. 2875835 351200  
10 C4-151-ATM-20-VR (w-vol. I), dtd. 23/05/2020 At west side, near rikshaw stand circulating area, Virar (w). 488574 59500  
11 C4-151-ATM-20 (new) BYR (W) (3) dtd. 23/05/2020 Existing site of HDFC bank near Northwest landing of North FOB. 389260 47600  
Executive: Sr. DCM. Date & Time of closing of Submission: Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 22.06.2020. Date & time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 Hrs. on 22.06.2020. Website where Tender Form is Available : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Date of uploading tender: - 23/05/2020. Tender Closing Date & Time: - 22/06/2020 at 15:00 hrs. NOTE:-1. Reserve Price is stipulated for this tender. For more details like tender form cost, period, etc. please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Follow us on [@SCRailwaysIndia](https://www.facebook.com/SCRailwaysIndia)  
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website : [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
T. N.No. 49/2020 dt. 22.05.20  
**SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS**  
e-Procurement Tender Notice  
The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. "For all Indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)."  
Tender No. Brief Description  
82.20.5086 LIQUID MEDICAL OXYGEN GAS  
90.19.1156 M.S.FLATS STEEL SIZE 40MM X 6MM  
Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening: S.No.01 on 10.06.2020; S.No.02 on 15.06.2020;  
Corrigendum  
1). Tender No.10.20.3196 due on 16.04.2020 (Published in AT Notice No.45/2020 dt.07.03.2020) is being postponed to 02.06.2020. (2) Tender No.10.20.3152 due on 23.04.2020 (Published in AT Notice No.45/2020 dt.06.03.2020) is being postponed to 04.06.2020. (3) Tender No.10.20.2975 due on 22.04.2020 (Published in AT Notice No.45/2020 dt.06.03.2020) is being postponed to 02.06.2020. (4) Tender No.10.19.5014 due on 28.02.2020 (Published in AT Notice No. 39/2020 dt.24.01.2020) is being postponed to 02.06.2020. (5) Tender No.10.19.1173 due on 23.04.2020 (Published in AT Notice No. 40/2020 dt.31.01.2020) is being postponed to 02.06.2020. (6) Tender No.56.19.1193C due on 20.05.2020 is being postponed to 09.06.2020. (7) Tender No.56.19.1187A due on 20.05.2020 is being postponed to 09.06.2020 (8) Tender No.56.19.1187A due on 20.05.2020 is being postponed to 09.06.2020 (9) Tender No. 56.19.5332 due on 19.05.2020 is being postponed to 08.06.2020. (10) Tender No.56.19.5092 due on 19.05.2020 is being postponed to 08.06.2020. (11) Tender No.56.19.1199A due on 19.05.2020 is being postponed to 08.06.2020. (12) Tender No.56.19.1198A due on 28.05.2020 is being postponed to 09.06.2020.  
Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway e-procurement website above.  
Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad  
A0615  
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**EASTERN RAILWAY TO RUN SPECIAL TRAINS**  
The following Special Trains will be run with effect from 01.06.2020. The details are as under :-  
02377/02378 Sealdah-New Alipurduar-Sealdah Spl (Daily)  
Composition : AC First Class-1, AC First Class-cum-Chair Car-1, AC 2-Tier-2, AC 3-Tier-6, Sleeper Class-6, General 2nd Class-3 and Power Car-2 = 21 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 01.06.2020 for Train No. 02377 & 02.06.2020 for Train No. 02378. Stoppages, Timings & Days of Service : Same as 12377/12378 Sealdah-Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik Express.  
02357/02358 Kolkata-Amritsar-Kolkata Special (Bi-weekly)  
Composition : AC 2-Tier-1, AC 3-Tier-5, Sleeper Class-9, General 2nd Class-3 & Power Car-2 = 20 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 02.06.2020 for Train No. 02357 & 04.06.2020 for Train No. 02358. Stoppages, Timings & Days of Service : Same as 12357/12358 Kolkata-Amritsar Durgiana Express.  
02307/02308 Howrah-Jodhpur-Howrah Special (Daily)  
Composition : AC 2-Tier-1, AC 3-Tier-4, Sleeper Class-12, General 2nd Class-3, 2nd AC-cum-3rd AC Composite Coach-1, Pantry Car-1, GSLR-2 = 24 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 01.06.2020 for Train No. 02307 & 03.06.2020 for Train No. 02308. Stoppages, Timings & Days of Service : Same as 12307/12308 Howrah-Jodhpur Express.  
02381/02382 Howrah-New Delhi Special (Tri-Weekly)  
Composition : AC 2-Tier-2, AC 3-Tier-5, AC-1st-Cum-AC-2nd-Composite Coach-1, Sleeper Class-9, General 2nd Class-2, Pantry Car-1, Power Car-2 = 22 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 02.06.2020 for Train No. 02381 & 04.06.2020 for Train No. 02382. Stoppages, Timings & Days of Service : Same as 12381/12382 Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express via Gaya.  
02303/02304 Howrah-New Delhi-Howrah Special (4 days a week)  
Composition : AC-1st-cum-AC-2nd-Composite Coach-1, AC 2-Tier-2, AC 3-Tier-5, Sleeper Class-9, General 2nd Class-2, Pantry Car-1 & Power Car-2 = 22 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 01.06.2020 for Train No. 02303 & 02.06.2020 for Train No. 02304. Stoppages, Timings & Days of Service : Same as 12303/12304 Howrah-New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express via Patna.  
02201/02202 Sealdah-Puri-Sealdah Special (Tri-Weekly)  
Composition : AC 1st Class-1, AC 2-Tier-1, AC 3-Tier-4, Sleeper Class -7, Pantry Car-1 & Power Car-2 = 16 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 01.06.2020 for Train No. 02201 & 02.06.2020 for Train No. 02202. Stoppages, Timings & Days of Service : Same as 22201/22202 Sealdah-Puri-Sealdah Duranto Express.  
02024/02023 Patna Jn-Howrah-Patna Jn Special (except Sunday)  
Composition : AC Chair Car-3, 2nd Class Chair Car-16, Power Car-2 = 21 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 01.06.2020 for Train Nos. 02024 & 02023. Path, Timings & Stoppages : Same as 12024/12023.  
02213/02214 Shalimar-Patna Jn-Shalimar Special  
Composition : AC 1st Class-1, AC 2-Tier-1, AC 3-Tier-4, Sleeper Class-7, GSLR-2 = 15 Coaches. JCO with effect from : 01.06.2020 for Train No. 02213 (From Shalimar : Monday, Wednesday & Friday) and 02.06.2020 for Train No. 02214 (From Patna Jn : Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday). Path, Timings & Stoppages : Same as 22213 /22214.  
Above Trains will continue till further advice.  
Tickets in the above trains may be booked through online (IRCTC Website) & offline (Counters & Agents).  
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager  
EASTERN RAILWAY



Ramesh's father Lalji (name changed) is a daily wage earner. But once the lockdown was announced he lost his daily earnings. With every extension of the lockdown the struggle for the family to eat two square meals a day became tough. In the last week of April, when Government was yet to open sale of liquor, Lalji managed to buy cheap liquor and returned home in an inebriated state. When his wife questioned him, he would pick a fight. When Ramesh, 12, intervened he was beaten black and blue. He was saved by his neighbours who called the police.

This is not a solitary case. There are thousands of such cases where cries of children are drowned in the silence of lockdown. They are hungry. They are frustrated and are confined to the four walls of their house with no hope in sight. They are too small to understand the change world is going through because of COVID-19. But these forced changes have made them cranky and stressful and thus are subjected to more abuse.

"It is the child who has become the target of violence within the family. *Band darwazo ke pichhey hinsa badhdhi hee hai lockdown mein.* (Behind closed doors cases of violence have only gone up during this lockdown," Sangeeta Sharma, member of Child welfare Committee in Lucknow, says.

She tells you that a child is in lot of stress right now because he is not able to meet his peers. Locked in one room he can't expect all the things from parents and what he expects, he is not getting. "Before the lockdown was enforced a child had a lifestyle where there was freedom. But now the life has changed. When he yearns for the same freedom he is being scolded. Parents shout at him and sometimes even beat him. Believe me, the agonising cry of children is emanating from every lane and colony across India but we are not in a position to help them," Sharma tells you.

The NGOs and experts working in this field agree that the number of child abuse cases have gone up during the lockdown. There are measures imposed to slow the spread of Coronavirus but, however, there is nobody to look at those who are victims in their own home, there is no hope for them or any measures in place to prevent their abuse. Factors like poverty, domestic violence, lack of recreation facilities for children or a father with a vice for alcohol or drugs are the reasons behind child abuse. This is because in the lockdown parents and children are forced to stay indoors for days on end.

The four-walls of the house are no longer safe for the young ones because they are also a witness to domestic violence. Additional Director General of Police Anju Gupta who heads the 1090 Women Powerline, the wing of Uttar Pradesh police meant to protect women, says that before the lockdown they used to receive approximately 7,100 calls per day which has gone up to 8,700 calls during lockdown. The effect of domestic violence on children has a tremendous role to play on his psyche. They are likely to develop behavioural problems like regression and they many start living in constant state of fear.

Sharma says situation is different in case of children. "It is true that we are not getting complaints in large volumes. It does not mean that crime against a child is not happening. The number is there but we have no information and are unable to reach those in immediate need of help," Sharma tells you.

According to her, the number is much higher than the normal average what they see because this is the time when all the family members are at home. It is a ticking time bomb, essentially, for victims of domestic violence, children who are abused and neglected. "We have seen a large decline in the calls coming in for abuse and neglect of children, and we know that ground reality is different," she says.

To buttress her point, she says the Lucknow unit of Child Welfare Committee received 36 cases in January 2020, 40 in February, 43 in March and just 16 in April this year. This is the trend in Lucknow, and believe me this trend can be replicated for India. Everywhere the scenario is the same, she says.

Surojit Chatterjee of Save the Children tells you that with an increase in phases of lockdown life has become more restrictive making it difficult for children. "They are experiencing drastic changes in their daily schedules. They were used to going out and playing with friends. Now, they are now confined to their homes under the watchful eyes of their parents for longer durations thus making them irritable, cranky and stressed out," he said.

Chatterjee opines that there are many children whose suffering is going unnoticed because schools are closed and they are away from the "eyes, and ears, and love of teachers" and other people who are required to report their concerns about the treatment of children.

"Though I do not have the numbers, the risks to children from domestic abuse have been heightened by the Coronavirus lockdown, with victims getting little or no respite from their abusers," Chatterjee says. "People talk about domestic violence but we forget the children who are often the forgotten victims of domestic abuse," he says.

Sarita (name changed) came to Lucknow for studies and was staying in a hostel. After lockdown she went to her aunt's house in Lucknow where she was beaten up. She lodged a complaint with the police who informed the Childline and later referred her to Child Welfare Committee.

Take the case of Sushma (name changed), 9. Her father, a daily wage earner, has lost employment because of lockdown. The family was totally dependent on charity or community kitchen which operated in their locality in Kanpur. For some reason the kitchen stopped providing food. She was hungry. She has not eaten for two days. Failing to bear hunger pangs, Sushma asked her mother for food. The frustrated mother beat her daughter black and blue. Her cries drew the attention of neighbours who called an NGO that works with children.

Childline India received 4.6 lakh complaints in 21 days of which intervention was carried out in 9,385 cases. Of this around 20 per cent account for child protection aspects (protection from abuse). According to a study by the NGO — Save The

In the first 11 days of the lockdown due to COVID-19, the helpline for children in distress received 3.07 lakh calls of which 92,105 calls were about abuse and violence. BISWAJEET BANERJEE speaks with NGOs and experts to tell you more

# MAJOR ISSUE OF MINORS

## What the Constitution says

IT CONTAINS A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF THE CHILDREN. IT HAS EMPOWERED THE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE SPECIAL LAWS AND POLICIES TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILDREN. ARTICLES 14, 15, 15(3), 19(1) (A), 21, 21(A), 23, 24, 39(E) 39(F) CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION, SAFETY, SECURITY AND WELLBEING OF ALL CITIZENS, INCLUDING CHILDREN

Children -- there are over 20 lakh children who are living in the streets under abject poverty. Around 80 per cent of them do not have legal document denying them access to social entitlements.

"It is felt that a large number of children may not have had opportunities to report their distress as they may not have access to mobile phones, their friends, teachers or other concerned adults. At this situation, not only we are getting less information but rescuing them is also a gigantic task. Because of pandemic situation commutation is a problem. However, communities are fast quarantining themselves, and are not allowing any outsider to enter their villages; therefore, they find it difficult to rescue a child from such communities," spokesperson of Childline India says.

It said: "Shelter for the child rescued is also an issue in some districts as the child care institutions are hesitant to receive new children. The rehabilitation aspects are getting delayed due to lack of railways and other transport."

Child abuse in India one of the biggest social stigmas. As per the definition given by UNICEF, violence can be physical and mental abuse and injury, neglect or negligent treatment, exploitation and sexual abuse. The violence may take place in homes, schools, orphanages, residential care facilities, on the streets, in the workplace, in prisons and in places of detention.

Two top lawyers of Supreme Court Summer Sodhi and Aarzoo Aneja have written a letter to Chief Justice of India SA Bobde requesting him to take suo motu cognizance of increase in the number of child abuse cases during the nationwide lockdown. The letter says that though during the lockdown the overall rate of crime had gone down, incidents of abuse and violence faced by children have risen.

"Under normal circumstances, it is not considered safe for abused children to stay at home as it might result in further suffering at the hands of their own family members. However, during the lockdown, the danger to these children is exacerbated, as they are unable to leave their homes. The isolation has further shattered support networks, making it even more difficult for the victims to seek help or escape," the letter said.

It said child abuse incidents have already risen in India due to the lockdown and will keep increasing if steps are not taken immediately to protect and support the victims of child abuse. "This Court is, therefore, requested to take cognizance of the issue of protecting the rights of children and their safety in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The need of the hour is to issue guidelines to various authorities for protecting children from violence and abuse, which is inflicted upon them by their own family

## Petty excuses for abuse

The lockdown fatigue has started setting in resulting in increase in domestic violence which experts say, can lead to a bigger conflict if not stopped now.

Suresh Mukund, a police officer says that almost all the police stations are now getting complaints about domestic violence where husbands are even beating up wife for not putting garlic in *daal*. The wife dialed 112 and police was forced to intervene. The violence often leaves behind an unknown victim that is the child in that family.

Lenin Raghuvanshi Convener of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCCHR) said that as people are almost locked in their homes small fights are common. But with people losing their income they go into depression lead to domestic fight. "But it is the child who is the real victim of these violence which are manifestation of lockdown fatigue. The adults are vocal and in case of violence can raise their voice. But it is the child who not only gets the beating for no fault of his but also fails

to lodge complaint because during lockdown he does not know where to go," Raghuvanshi says.

Dr SK Pandey, Medical Officer of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow said that lockdown fatigue among people is because of restrictions being imposed on them. 'It is the monotony of routine that is making people restive. There is no change for them. They are now cranky and get angry at any small pretext," Dr Pandey says.

He says such situation sometimes leads to depression and anxiety. "A study carried out by researchers from the University of Sheffield and Ulster University, shows rise in rates of anxiety and depression when restrictions are imposed. The increase was quite marked when announcement of lockdown was made in Britain. Similar could be the case in India too where anxiety increased after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 21-day lock down. This resulted in panic buying. And the subsequent increase in lockdown aggravated the situation further," Dr Pandey says.

members/relatives/care takers, taking measures to ensure that counselling is made available to them. The NGOs/ Organisations which work in the field of child welfare need to be mobilised at this time of child abuse pandemic. Hence the present letter petition," it said.

The letter further says that the person committing the abuse is putting in danger the life of a child, and clearly violating the fundamental right of life and the right to live with dignity of that child, which is a facet of Article 21 of the Constitution of India as held by this court in plethora of cases.

"Violence in any form has a very deep impact on the overall development of the child. Child abuse results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development and dignity," Anjani Tiwari of Salam Balak Trust (SBT), says.

The SBT works with street children in Delhi. Tiwari is witness to street fights these children undergo. Public places like stadium, railway stations and bus stations are their home. They live there, earn their livelihood through begging and slowly start taking drugs. The streets fights have made them arrogant and any change in their lifestyle like the present day, lockdown has a deepening impact on their psyche.

"On the third day of the lockdown I saw chil-

dren pelting stones at the passing by vehicles near Jamuna Bazar. This was part of withdrawal symptom. For two days they did not get drugs they were used to and were showing their anger by pelting stones," Tiwari says.

These children sniff a piece of cloth soaked in Whitener which they say gives them a good sleep. "They live in a world of their own. If they do not get Whitener they sniff a solution used in puncture repair," Tiwari shares.

The disturbing fact, he says is that he could not see these children anywhere now. Railway stations and bus station which used to be their abode are deserted. The big temples where they used to beg are closed. "I know the children are being abused in Delhi. On the pretext of giving drugs they might be coaxed into illegal activities. They need medical help immediately. Their cries are deafening, but we need an ear to hear that," Tiwari tells you.

The Chairman National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Priyank Kanungo says that generally these street children were seen on roads but they can't be seen anywhere today. Either they have left for their native places or have gone to some other place. "We do not know where they are," he says.

## TERMS TO KNOW

- Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity, in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.
- Physical abuse of a child is that which results in actual or potential physical harm from an interaction or lack of interaction,

which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power, or trust. There may be single or repeated incidents.

- Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that s/he does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violate the laws or social taboos of society. Child sexual abuse is evidenced by an activity between

a child and an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power; the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of other person. This may include but is not limited to: the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; the exploitative use of a child in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; and, the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.



- Emotional abuse includes the failure to provide a developmentally appropriate, supportive environment, including the availability of a primary attachment figure, so that the child can develop a stable and full range of emotional and social competencies commensurate with his/her personal potential, and in the context of the society in which the child dwells. There may also be acts toward the child that cause or have a high probability of causing harm to the child's health or phys-

ical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. These acts must be reasonably within the control of the parent or person in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Acts include restriction of movement, patterns of belittling, denigrating, scapegoating, threatening, scaring, discriminating and ridiculing.- Neglect is the inattention or omission on the part of the caregiver to provide for the development of the child in all spheres: health, education, emotional

development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions, in the context of resources reasonably available to the family or caretakers and causes, or has a high probability of causing harm to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. This includes the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm as much as is feasible.

(Source: Report of the Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention, WHO).



# Need ways to outlast Pujara: Cummins

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia's premier pacer Pat Cummins is well aware of Cheteshwar Pujara's capabilities, insisting that they will need to "take their medicine" to outlast the Indian middle-order mainstay in the home series this summer.

Pujara's exploits with the bat in India's series win in 2018-19 is still fresh in Cummins' mind and he would like to avoid a repeat of the same in the upcoming tour.

Pujara was the star of India's breakthrough 2-1 series win over Australia, amassing 521 runs from four Tests at an average of 74.42 with three centuries and one fifty.

"He (Pujara) had a mammoth series for them (in 2018-19). He's one of those players that'll take his time, he's in his own little bubble and he doesn't get disturbed by too much," Cummins told *cricket.Com.Au*.

"We've got to find a way to outlast him if he bats the way he did last time. There wasn't too much in the pitch so you couldn't manufacture anything. So I think (we need to) take our medicine a bit more and try and outlast him."

Cummins hopes the conditions this time would be in Australia's favour, saying they would need to get the likes of Pujara out of his comfort zone to stop India.

"But we'll wait and see. Hopefully the wickets are a bit bouncier (and) we've got a few more options," he added.

The 27-year-old believes that he has evolved as a bowler from the 2018-19 tour.



Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood reacts after Cheteshwar Pujara plays a shot during 2018-19 Border-Gavaskar series cricket.com.au

"I think each Test I play, I learn a little bit about my own bowling. I've probably played 10 or 15 Tests since that series and I feel like with each series I get a little bit better," he said.

"There were a few lessons; the first lesson I learnt was how brutal Test cricket is. They might bat all of day one and there's nothing that'll stop them batting all of day

two unless we take wickets, which they did a few times.

"They showed us what you have to be, what level you have to be at, to be the best team in the world."

Overall, Cummins, currently world No 1 Test bowler, feels Australia is far better equipped to handle the Indians now than last time.

"I think we'll be ready for them this time," he said.

"Everyone's a little more experienced this time because obviously we've got a couple of class batters back in the side and someone like Marnus (Labuschagne) has played a bit more and done brilliantly.

"So I feel like we're in a better position."

## Stakeholders will have to make effort to rebuild cricket: Finch

MELBOURNE: Australia's limited over captain Aaron Finch believes cricket boards across the world will have to compromise and make "one big effort" to get the sport back on track following the coronavirus hiatus. There are speculations that the 13th IPL, which was suspended indefinitely, might be conducted in October-November at the expense of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Finch, who is on the board of players' union, said it is not only about the IPL and all stakeholders have to make compromises to get cricket to thrive again.

"It will get to a point, not just for IPL but for all cricket, there'll be a compromise from a lot of different stakeholders — organisations, countries, players, the ICC — to get cricket back and countries thriving again," Finch was quoted as saying by *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"I think the ICC are meeting next week to start discussing the FTP (Future Tours Program) again. The next couple of weeks we'll have more idea what that looks like, what compromises will be made for different tournaments and countries."

Stakes are high for Australia as India is also scheduled to tour Down Under for a Test and ODI series with \$300 million riding on it.

Finch said things always won't be in favour of Australia but compromises will have to be made.

"Everyone working together to get the best result for everyone... Some situations where it's not ideal for Australia we have to compromise and give. It will be one big effort, I think," the 33-year-old said.

"With India coming out here this summer, Kevin Roberts (CA CEO Roberts) said it was a nine out of 10 (chance). I think there will be give and take in a lot of different things like that."

Australia is likely to resume cricket with a limited-over series in England after the Bangladesh Test tour was postponed due to the global health crisis.

However, Finch said he has no concerns about playing in the UK as they would be staying in a bio-secure environment and would be able to train during the 14-day quarantine period.

"I'd be super excited to get any cricket back - if it's international cricket all the better," Finch said. "If it's done really well with the quarantine bubble and regular testing, I don't see it being an issue. I'd be keen to get back playing as soon as possible." PTI

## Resume cricket but only if there is no risk of spurt in local transmission: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC has advised its member nations to exercise caution while resuming cricket activities, fearing a spurt in local transmission with many countries still struggling to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Safety first* is one of the primary considerations of the ICC's back-to-cricket guidelines and involving the Governments at all stages is a must.

"The resumption of cricket activities should begin only if there is no perceived or known risk that doing so might result in an increase in the local transmission rate," the ICC said in its guidelines.

While England remains one of the most affected countries, major cricket-playing nations such as India and Pakistan have seen a spike in the number of coronavirus positive cases in recent weeks.

The world governing body of the sport added: "Every effort should be made to ensure that risks associated with the cricket environment — field of play, training venue, changing rooms, equipment, management of the ball have been mitigated before any training session or match."

Under the subhead Government advice, the apex body guidelines stated, "ICC Members (and their own cricket communities) should be guided by the advice of their respective Governments in relation to when sporting activity is resumed.

"Where sporting activities have been expressly forbidden by Governments, no cricket activity should commence until approval to do so has been obtained from the Government."

Government advice should also be sought in relation to "travel restrictions (domestic and international) and quarantine requirements."

The ICC has also called for the need to educate players and all other stakeholders on the updated safety protocols in what is going to be a vastly different world. Sharing of equipment will become a thing of the past.

"Wherever possible, items of cricket equipment should not be shared with anyone else unless an appropriate cleaning protocol is followed.

"Players should be advised to minimise the use of changing rooms, shower facilities and other communal areas. "Where possible, players should be encouraged to shower and change at home instead of at match and training venues."



## IPL has helped English cricket grow: Buttler

LONDON: The Indian Premier League has helped English cricket grow, feels Jos Buttler, admitting that the cash-rich T20 tournament is the best in the world after the ICC World Cups.

Buttler said he was desperate to be a part of this year's IPL, which now has been indefinitely suspended.

The World Cup-winning England wicketkeeper batsman, has been a part of two franchises in the IPL. After playing for Mumbai Indians in the 2016-17 season, Buttler moved to Rajasthan Royals in 2018.

"There's no doubt that it (IPL) has helped English cricket grow and the numbers of players who were involved in the last few years," Buttler said in the BBC Podcast — *The Doosra*.

"It was something I was desperate to play for. For me it's the best tournament in the world, taking out the World Cups," he added.

Buttler, who made massive strides as a white ball player after a few seasons of IPL, said the league is like the fantasy cricket he aspired to play as kid, with the top stars of the game rubbing shoulders together.

"Some of the match ups you get to see in the IPL are great. Bangalore has been amongst the top three teams with (Virat) Kohli, AB and Gayle coming up and then to see them up against a (Jasprit) Bumrah or a Dale Steyn or (Lasith) Malinga.

"As a kid growing up that is what you want to play — fantasy cricket. Mix all the teams together what it will be like if Kohli and de Villiers play together," he added.

Buttler credited Kevin Pietersen, who advocated for the creation of a separate window for the IPL, paving the way for English players to be a part of the cash-rich tournament.

"English cricket has got quite an interesting history with the IPL. The documentary about Kevin Pietersen and how he wanted to get involved and the road blocks he faced," he said.

"He really paved the way for a lot of us to go and now play in the IPL with more blessing from English cricket. He is a pioneer in building the steps in place to realise just how important the IPL is for developing cricketers," Buttler added. PTI

## Shardul starts outdoor training

PTI ■ PALGHAR

Pacer Shardul Thakur on Saturday became the first India cricketer to resume outdoor training after a two-month coronavirus-forced break.

Thakur, who has featured in one Test, 11 ODIs and 15 T20s, hit a local ground at Boisar in Maharashtra's Palghar district along with some domestic players.

The Maharashtra Govt has allowed opening of stadiums for individual training in green and orange zones without spectators. This was after the Home Ministry offered relaxation in restrictions for the fourth phase of the lockdown.

"Yes, we practised today. It was good and definitely pleasing to practice after two months," Thakur said. An official said that the Palghar Dahanu Taluka Sports Association started the net sessions at Boisar, which is around 110 kms away from Mumbai.

Strict safety protocols were followed, with each bowler getting his own set of disinfected balls.

"All the safety measures were followed. The bowlers got their own balls which were disinfected and temperatures of the players who came for practise were also checked," the official said.

Mumbai batsman Hardik Tamore, who made his Ranji debut for the domestic giants last season, was also seen training at the same ground.

## 4 Indians in Hogg's current world Test XI



SYDNEY: Former Australia spinner Brad Hogg has picked four Indians in his current world Test XI.

Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane and Mohammad Shami were the players from Team India who made a cut in Hogg's team. However, it was surprising to see that neither Virat Kohli nor Cheteshwar Pujara could find a spot in the team.

"Everyone will ask why is Virat Kohli not in this team?" Hogg said in a video posted in his *YouTube* channel. "But if you look at his last 15 Test innings, only four times he has gone over 31 (runs). That's why Virat Kohli is not my Test team this year."

"Rohit Sharma's a bit lucky to find a place in this XI. He's averaged over 90 but has played Test cricket only in India. But I love the way that he's so relaxed, just pushes the ball through the off side and also works the ball off his legs," he added while speaking about Rohit.

The former left-arm chinaman picked Proteas wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock as captain of the team.

Apart from the four Indians, the other players who found a spot in the team are Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Babar Azam, Pat Cummins, Neil Wagner and Nathan Lyon. IANS

## We'll find methods to shine ball without saliva: Woakes

PTI ■ LONDON

England all-rounder Chris Woakes feels banning the use of saliva on balls will not be an issue as bowlers will eventually find other ways to shine the ball.

Woakes feels applying saliva on the ball is a habit and it will take some practice to get rid of it when cricket resumes.

"Moving forward you're going to have remind yourself that you can't use those things to shine the ball," Woakes was quoted as saying by *Wisden*.

The 31-year-old said the bowlers' job will become harder without the use of saliva on the ball.

"Don't get me wrong, you can shine the ball without saliva and sweat, it probably just doesn't have the same effect. You might have to work a little bit harder on rubbing on the trousers," he said.



"We will find ways to shine the ball, whether that's being a little bit more aggressive on the shining side of things.

I'm sure we will find a way of getting some shine into that ball and making sure it does move off the straight," he added.

## 'Non-usage of saliva hard to implement'

NEW DELHI: Former Australia pacer Brett Lee feels the latest ICC guidelines, instructing against the usage of saliva on the balls in the post Covid-19 scenario, will be difficult to implement.

"When you have done something your whole life from 8,9,10 years of age where you lick your fingers and you put on the ball, it's very hard to change that overnight too," Lee said on *Star Sports show Cricket Connected*.

Lee, who played 76 Tests and 221 ODIs, however expects some leniency from the world cricket body in this regard.

"So, I think there's going to be a couple of occasions, or there's going to be some leniency from the ICC, where there

may be warnings. It's a great initiative, it's going to be very hard to implement, because cricketers have done this for their whole life," added Lee.

Even veteran South African cricketer Faf Du Plessis agreed with Lee, saying the same applied to fielders too.

Giving his own example, Du Plessis, said he is used to the habit of taking a bit of his spit on his fingers before catching the ball in the slips.

"For the fielders, it's the same. As Brett (Lee) mentions, I'm used to taking a bit of spit on my fingers before I catch the ball at slip. If you look at someone like Ricky Ponting, he has a big spit on his hands every time he tried to catch a ball," Du Plessis said. PNS

## Aus spin bowling nosediving: Warne

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

The legendary Shane Warne believes Cricket Australia should force the states to pick a spinner in every first class game to improve the quality of spin bowling in the country which is currently "going downhill fast" due to the increase in drop-in wickets.

"A spinner should play every single game, no matter what the conditions are like, so that particular spinners can learn how to bowl on day one or day four. At the moment, they (states) only pick them when the conditions suit," Warne was quoted as saying by *The West Australian*.

"How are they going to learn if you don't allow them to play state cricket? There has to be a responsibility on the states to pick one spe-



cialist spinner in every game. And if they don't, well maybe Cricket Australia has to step in. Otherwise spin bowling will go downhill, and is going downhill fast."

Warne, one of the greatest leg-

spinners the game has produced, said there is a dearth of quality spinner who can fill in the shoes of Nathan Lyon and urged CA to ensure that states include a spinner in every Sheffield Shield game.

"Nathan Lyon is one of the best spinners in the world, and we're so lucky to have a great spinner in Lyon. If something happened to him, we've got a spinner with very little first class experience that could be up against some of the best players in the world of spin," he said during the launch of *Advanced Hair Studio's* new website.

"We have some good spinners in Australia, but they're not getting the opportunities. Cricket Australia should maybe put some pressure on the states and say, 'You have to pick one specialist spinner in your team every time.'"

## No sporting event in near future, says Rijiju

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said India will not host any international event in immediate future and fans will have to learn to live with the new normal of sporting activities happening behind closed doors in the post Covid-19 world.

Rijiju's statement gain greater significance in the context of the suspended IPL, which the BCCI wants to host in October-November in case the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia is postponed.

"We have been working for quite some time now to resume sporting activities but before that we have to think about practice and training. We are not going to have a tournament kind of situation immediately," Rijiju was quoted as saying by *India Today*.

"We have to learn to live with the situation where sporting events will

have to be carried forward without spectators in stadiums and sports venues," he added.

Talking specifically about the 13th edition of IPL, which has been put on hold for an indefinite period due to the pandemic, Rijiju said it is the Government's prerogative to take a call on conducting any tournament in the country.

"In India, the Government has to take a call and it will take a call depending on the situation. We cannot put health at risk just because we want to have a sporting event.

"Our focus is fighting Covid-19 and at the same time we will have to work a mechanism to get back to normalcy. It is difficult to confirm dates but I am sure we will have some kind of sporting events this year," he said.

Asked about the prospect of the Tokyo Games that were scheduled for



this year but were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic, the Sports Minister said he is hopeful of the quadrennial event taking place on the revised dates.

"Olympics is still far away and we have full confidence in the Japanese Government and IOC and every country will support that the conduct of Tokyo 2021 will not be postponed. There are too many stakes in Olympics, so it is difficult to even foresee that Olympics can be postponed," he said.

"As far as India's preparation goes, we are at the best stage of our preparation of any Olympics so far in history. This is going to be India's biggest contingent so far and have medal-winning prospects. But I am not saying we are so prepared to finish in the top 10 or 5 but our long term target is that India will be in the top 10 in 2028."



# KAI POCHE

Havertz bags another brace as confusingly excellent shape-shifter stars for Leverkusen again

AFF ■ BERLIN

Borussia Dortmund warmed up for their looming top-of-the-table clash against Bayern Munich with a 2-0 win at Wolfsburg on Saturday in the second weekend of the Bundesliga's restart from the coronavirus-enforced suspension.

Goals by Raphael Guerreiro and Achraf Hakimi sealed an away win in front of empty stands to leave them a point behind league leaders Bayern.

On Tuesday, Dortmund host defending champions Bayern in a showdown behind closed doors.

This was the second weekend of the Bundesliga's restart, following a two-month hiatus, as the first top European league to resume during the coronavirus pandemic.

A minute's silence was held before kick-off in the afternoon's four matches to remember the victims of Covid-19, which has so far claimed 8,216 lives in Germany.

In Wolfsburg, Portugal winger Guerreiro, who netted twice in last week's 4-0 derby thrashing of Schalke, scored his third goal in two games to open the scoring in the 32nd minute.



Leverkusen's German midfielder Kai Havertz in action against Borussia Mönchengladbach



Raphael Guerreiro, 2nd left, celebrates after scoring Dortmund's opening goal past Wolfsburg

Erling Braut Haaland, who had scored 10 goals in nine league games since joining in January from Red Bull Salzburg, mistimed his attempt to meet the cross, but Guerreiro was on hand to tap home.

With the players calls echoing around the near-empty stadium, Dortmund had a let off early in the second-half when Wolfsburg winger Renato Steffen clipped the crossbar.

England winger Jadon Sancho helped sealed the win when he dribbled at the Wolfsburg defence, then laid a pass off to Hakimi, who fired home 12 minutes from time.

In the final minutes, Wolfsburg had replacement Felix Klaus sent off for fouling Hakimi.

Bayer Leverkusen built on Monday's drubbing of Werder Bremen by moving up to third place with a 3-1 win at Borussia Mönchengladbach, who dropped to fourth.

With the terraces at Borussia Park decked with 13,000 cardboard cut-outs of home fans, Leverkusen's rising star Kai Havertz, who also

scored twice in the 4-1 rout of Bremen, again netted twice.

Playing up front as a striker, the 20-year-old Germany winger darted onto Karim Bellarabi's pass into the area and fired home with seven minutes played.

French forward Marcus Thuram levelled with his eighth league goal of the season for Gladbach just after the break.

Havertz netted a penalty when his long-range shot flew hit the far corner.

In the action-packed dying stages, Bremen had defender Philipp Bargfrede sent off for a second yellow card and Freiburg had a goal ruled offside.

The result leaves Bremen two

# Götze to part ways with Dortmund

AFF ■ DORTMUND

Borussia Dortmund sports director Michael Zorc confirmed on Saturday that Mario Götze, who scored the winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final, will leave at the end of the season.

"We will stop working together with Mario Götze in the summer," Zorc told Sky before away game to Wolfsburg.

"It is a joint decision after a constructive conversation. Mario is a really good guy."

The decision caps a frustrating season for the 27-year-old attacker, who has made only five league starts this term.

Götze wrote himself into German football folklore by volleying home a cross during extra time in the 2014 World Cup final to seal a 1-0 win over Argentina at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium.

Six years on, Götze has struggled to replicate the displays that once prompted former German FA technical director Matthias Sammer to describe him as "one of the best talents we've ever had".

Having come through the academy, Götze helped Dortmund win the league and cup double in 2011 and 2012 before he left for



Bayern Munich in 2013.

However, he failed to hold down a first-team place in Munich and returned to Dortmund in 2016. The following year he was then sidelined for several months by a debilitating metabolic disorder.

Götze made his 200th appearance for Dortmund on the opening day of this season, but he has featured sparingly since the arrival of Erling Braut Haaland in January.

points from 16th — which carries a relegation play-off at the end of the season — but six points from 15th, which guarantees safety.

Bottom side Paderborn are now nine points from safety with seven games left after their 1-1 draw at home to Hoffenheim.

On Friday, Hertha Berlin drubbed neighbours Union Berlin 4-0 at the Olympic Stadium in the capital's derby.

Hertha's new coach Bruno Labbadia celebrated a second win in as many games to lift his team up to 10th.

# La Liga can resume week of June 8: Spain PM



Real Madrid players train during team's group practice session ahead of La Liga restart

MADRID: Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced on Saturday that La Liga can resume from its coronavirus lockdown on the week of June 8.

"The resumption of major professional sporting competitions and in particular La Liga will be allowed from the week of June 8,"

Sanchez told a press conference.

La Liga president Javier Tebas has said the preferred date for games to resume is Friday, June 12 and Sanchez's announcement means that plan has been given the green light from the Government.

"We are very happy with the decision. It is the result of the great

work of clubs, players, coaches," wrote Tebas on Twitter. "But it is very important to follow the health protocol and respect the trajectory of the pandemic. We cannot lower our guard."

More than two months after the Covid-19 pandemic halted the season in Spain, players have begun training in small groups as they aim to be as ready as possible for the planned reboot next month.

A compressed calendar would mean teams playing matches both in midweek and at weekends while fixtures will be held behind closed doors, with only 197 people allowed to attend, according to a protocol prepared by La Liga.

Players will also undergo tests for coronavirus the day before games and will have their temperatures taken before being allowed to enter stadiums.

# Setien keen on Neymar Barca return

AFF ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona boss Quique Setien says he would love to coach Neymar and would be "delighted" if the Brazilian returns to the club from Paris Saint-Germain.

Barca tried to re-sign Neymar last year but were unable to agree a deal with French champions PSG, whom he joined for a world-record fee of 222 million euros (\$264 million at the time) in 2017.

An agreement may even harder to strike this summer given the financial implications of the coronavirus pandemic, although reportedly Barcelona could offer players in exchange.

"I would love to be able to coach him some day," said Setien, speaking to *beIN Sport*.

"We are talking about an exceptional level. Fortunately I have already fulfilled one of my dreams,



which was to coach (Lionel) Messi but I would be delighted if Neymar comes." Neymar previously formed a successful attacking trio with Luis Suarez and Messi at Barcelona but Suarez's future is uncertain.

The 33-year-old has not played since January when he underwent surgery on an injury to his right knee, and Setien admitted he needs more time to regain full fitness.

Asked if Suarez was fully fit, Setien said: "No, I think he's in a good condition and has been working with the group. But we see that he lacks a bit of confidence."

"He underwent an operation and after two months I would say he's still recovering. But it's clear that soon (he will be ready), I don't know whether it will be two, three or four weeks."

# Boxers to have joint camp in Patiala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Boxing Federation of India plans to restart camp training for its Olympic-bound boxers from June 10, bringing both men and women together in Patiala amid strict Covid-19 safety guidelines which bar access to ring and human sparring for now.

This was decided at a video conference between the Olympic-bound boxers, who have made the cut for the Tokyo Games, BFI Executive Director R K Sacheti, Vice-President Rajesh Bhandari, High performance Directors Santiago Nieva (men) and Raffaele Bergamasco (women), and chief national coaches C A Kuttappa (men) and Mohammed Ali Qamar (women).

"This is the plan going forward. Boxers were of the view that there is no substitute for formal training at the camp even though they have all done pretty well on their own so far," a federation official said.

"The women (who train at Delhi's IG stadium) will also be training at NIS Patiala in a joint camp," he added.

The nine boxers, who have qualified for the Tokyo Games are Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Satish Kumar (+91kg), M C May Kom (51kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), and Pooja Rani (75kg).

Of these, Vikas, Manish and Ashish could not attend the call but consented to a resumption on June 10.



"Vikas, in fact, wanted a resumption by June 1 but we explained the situation to him. Barring a couple of girls, nobody else had any apprehension," said a source.

The immediate resumption of the camp in the last week of this month was ruled out because of the logistical issues, such as inter-state travelling, that might have cropped up due to the ongoing lockdown, which is set to end on May 31.

All of the boxers have been training at their respective homes ever since the nationals camps came to a halt in mid-March owing to the virus outbreak.

Boxers have been barred from doing human sparring, told not to enter the ring and use their personal equipment for all forms of training as part of the safety protocol to negate the threat of the virus.

The federation remains optimistic about conducting its national events in the usual window of October-November and has also bagged the hosting rights of the Asian Championships, tentatively planned for December.



# Poch wants PL return

LONDON: Mauricio Pochettino says returning to the Premier League is his "priority", stating he is eager to manage again six months.

The 48-year-old is heavily linked with Newcastle if their proposed Saudi Arabia-backed takeover goes through, while speculation over the Manchester United job has never gone away.

"After six months, our tanks are completely full," Pochettino told various British media outlets.

"I have tried with my coaching staff to review everything that we did in the last seven years (including Southampton) because we never had a break until now."

Pochettino, who still lives in London, said he "loved" England and the Premier League.

"I am not going change (my feelings) now because I am not involved in the Premier League," he said. "Because I am no longer the Tottenham manager, I am not going to change my vision."

"I still think the Premier League is the best league in the world. We enjoy it a lot. Of course, it's one of the options. Of course, it can be my priority but I am not closed to move to a different country."

November despite Pochettino having enjoyed a successful five-and-a-half year spell in charge of the London side.

"I am so happy that he is at Tottenham, replacing me," admitted Pochettino who is now officially off the payroll at Spurs after his six-month gardening leave ended.

That leaves him free to take other jobs without the worry of prospective employers having to pay compensation.

"And of course I am happy as well to leave the club in the way that we left it, with all the facilities that are the best in the world."

"For sure, he is very grateful for the way that we helped to build the club, which is now his club."

Pochettino recalled how he and Mourinho had forged a close relationship during their days as rivals in Spain's La Liga.

"With Jose, we know each other for a long time," he explained.

"When I was the coach of Espanyol, and he was at Real Madrid, we had a very good relationship."

"He's a top coach. And in life, look what happens. I always think I'd replace him. "He was at Real Madrid. I say, 'Oh, maybe one day I can take your place at Real Madrid', and look at how life works out! He has taken my place at Tottenham. Unbelievable, eh?"

# Players improved under my charge: Dennerby

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India U-17 women's football team head coach Thomas Dennerby on Saturday said his wards have made improvements in fitness and the technical aspects, departments that were "found wanting" when he took over.

The 60-year-old Dennerby was appointed as head coach of the national team for the FIFA U-17 World Cup, to be hosted by the country and has now been postponed by three months to February next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When I arrived in India, I found the girls having very good technical skills, good reading of the game and good touch of the ball. But if I compared them with the best in Europe and United States I could see they are bit less in fitness level and pace of the



game," the Swede said.

"Even if you have a good technique and good passing and so on, you have to reduce the number of touches, have to play fast and speed up the game. That is the most important thing," he said from his home in Sweden during a chat on the official Facebook page of the Indian

football team.

He left for Sweden last month after the players returned home and training stopped due to the pandemic.

Dennerby, who took the senior Sweden team to a third-place finish in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, said the Indian players have made

improvement since then.

"We have speeded up the game, fitness level has also increased. Most importantly, the decision making is much quicker now. That is the most important thing in football."

"Even if you are very quick but if you have so many touches, if you have problems in receiving the ball, you can't speed up the game."

"We have been trying to play with few touches, find spaces, make quick decisions, run fast and pass the ball with accuracy so that the pace of the game is increased, there is lot of things to do."

He said playing against higher ranked sides, like in the tournament last year in India against Sweden, will help his team as these kind of opponents will give less time to react and press his players hard.

# Andreescu, Kenin headline June tennis invitational field

AFF ■ MIAMI

Bianca Andreescu and Sofia Kenin, winners of the past two Grand Slam titles, headline a 16-player field for an invitational women's tennis tournament in Charleston, South Carolina in June.

The Tennis Channel is set to air the event and a release on *Tennis.Com* said 16 WTA players would take part, divided into teams and playing 16 singles matches and eight doubles matches.

The tournament starts June 23 and is so far the largest scale tennis event to be confirmed

since the ATP and WTA tours were shut down amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Canada's Andreescu, the reigning US Open champion, and Australian Open winner Kenin head the field, but it will be Americans Madison Keys and Bethanie Mattek-Sands serving as team captains.

Former world No 1 Victoria Azarenka, 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens and 2016 Olympic Gold medalist Monica Puig are also scheduled to compete.

Charleston has long hosted a WTA tournament, but this year's event scheduled for April 6-12 was cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Introduction of computers has changed approach to chess, says Anand

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Five-time world champion Vishwanathan Anand feels the advent of computers has changed the way players have approached chess over the years, with the two opponents sitting in front of the board remaining the only constant in the game.

Talking about his journey, the former world champion said he had to work hard to become the player he is today.

"I was six years old when my older brother and sister were playing chess, and then I went to my mom and asked her to teach me as well. My progress as a chess player wasn't sudden, it came through lots of hard work over many years," Anand said on *Star Sports* show *Mind Masters*.

"The chess I learnt in the 80s, we no longer play chess like that. The introduction of computers has changed the approach, the way you study complete-



ly. Only the two players in front of the board has not changed," he added.

Anand said chess requires you to constantly study the opponents' game and gauge what's going on in their minds. "In chess, you don't beat the board. It's more important to beat the player on the other side. Everyone thinks you make the best moves, but it's more about who makes the last mistake on the board,"

Anand said. "You need to constantly put yourself in the minds of the opponents and study their game along with your own," he added. The 50-year-old said he hits the gym to release the pent up tension in the body after every game.

"You cannot pump your fist and there's no emotional release in a game like chess. After a game I always go to the gym not for fitness but to calm down and the stress goes away."

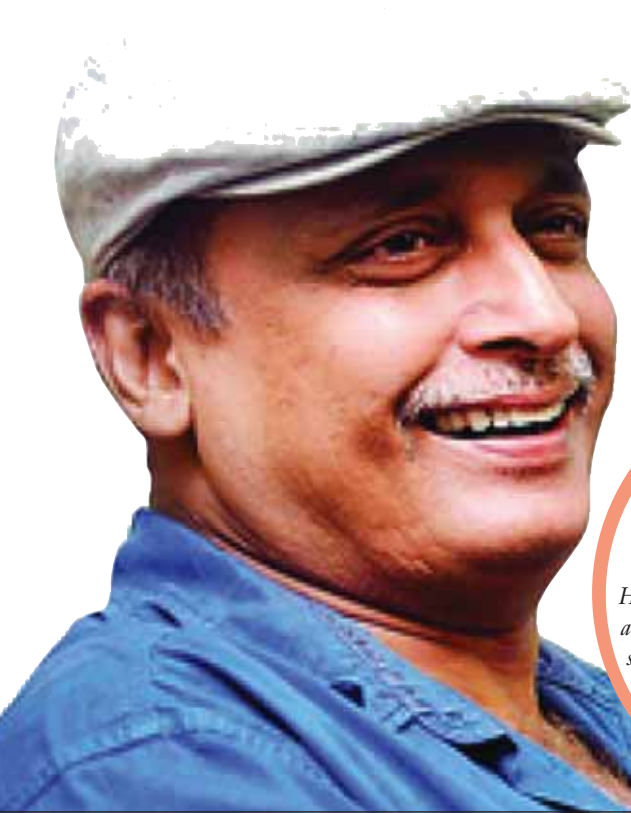
Anand said the 1987 World Junior chess championship and the 2017 World Rapid Championship are two of the most important tournaments of his career.

"Winning the first World Junior in 1987 was a match I will never forget, the feeling of overcoming the Russians gave me great pride."

"And, winning the World Rapid Chess Championship in 2017, at a time in my career when I was contemplating retirement, that win came just at the right time and gave me great satisfaction."



# ‘I regret not retaliating to verbal abuse’



Talktime

PIYUSH MISHRA

He has many feathers to his bat. The do-it-all actor believes in keeping calm and focused. He speaks with Musba Hashmi about his latest project Illegal, what drew him to it and the bad experience he had in the industry

■ **What is your role in Voot Select’s Illegal?**  
I play Janardhan Jaitley, a hotshot criminal lawyer. However, the twist in the character is that he is into politics as well. He is cruel and but sometimes kind too. In a gist, he is a dangerous man with too many shades to his character.

■ **What attracted you to the project?**  
I go by my intuition. Whenever I read the scripts, I know whether I want to do the project. There is no rocket science behind it, it is purely intuitive.  
■ **How did your debut Bharat Ek Khoj happen with you?**  
Naseer (Naseeruddin Shah) called me to Mumbai to be a part of that TV series. I did three episodes. TV, that time, was not doing so well, so I was trying to figure out what to do next. It was a good experience and I got to work with some of the finest actors. But I returned to Delhi after a year and got back to theatre. Gradually, things started falling in place and I paved my way into the industry.  
■ **How has your journey been thus far?**  
It was extremely hard but also full of creativity. I did a lot of theatre work. I gave a three-hour solo performance. Then in 1998, I did my first film *Dil Se*. Then I

returned to theatre. In 2001, I again went to Mumbai to write the dialogues for *The Legend Of Bhagat Singh*. By the time, I was already doing some project or the other but didn’t yet shift to the Financial Capital of India. In 2003, when *Maqbool* happened, it was then when I finally shifted to the city with my family.  
■ **Was there a moment when you felt like quitting?**  
There were hard times, ofcourse, but quitting was never an option. In 2003, when I shifted to Mumbai, I made up my mind *ab toh jeena bhi yahin marna bhi yahin*.  
■ **How does it feel to write or perform powerful dialogues when you are on sets?**  
Honestly, we are paid for this. This is what our job demands and we have to do it. If not, then we are not getting our pay cheque, this is the primary condition. Second, we do it because the audience likes it. Whatever we do on screen is for the

sake of our audience. There is no pressure, it is part of our craft.  
■ **You don several hats. From actor to screenplay director, you do it all. How easy or difficult is it?**  
I am born like this. I do various things. But at the same time, I don’t lose focus and concentration. I try to stay patient and don’t confuse things. I dedicate equal time to everything and eventually it comes easy. It’s not a big deal and everyone can do it provided they keep their mind calm and focused.  
■ **A best or worst memory in the industry.**  
Once a senior actor under the influence of drugs abused me during a film’s workshop. I won’t disclose the actor’s name. I regret why I didn’t bang his head back then. *Bas ek yeh ek kasak mere mann mein reh gayi hai*. Gradually, the anger is going away and I think I should forgive him.  
■ **How has the industry changed in all these years?**

In many ways and for the better. The change started happening from 1998. Shoojit Sircar, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Imtiaz Ali, Raju Hirani and Anurag Kashyap led the bandwagon. They brought about the change. They introduced new scripts with fresh content which gave the new actors and writers more opportunities. Also, people like myself and Nawazuddin Siddiqui started getting main roles, this is not a small thing. The demand for the chocolate boys as main leads started fading. Now, if you are talented enough you will get good opportunities, you don’t need to have a set pattern of looks.  
■ **Upcoming projects.**  
There are few web series. Then there’s a sci-fi film *JL-50*. The cast includes Pankaj Kapur and Abhay Deol among others. I was doing a film on Sheikh Rahman in Dhaka before the lockdown, hopefully will get back to it after the lockdown gets lifted.

# Rides that matter

There are doctors and nurses who are working day in and out to fight the pandemic. Then there are the unsung heroes, who are not making headlines but are no less. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with cab drivers who are doing their bit in the time of crisis

None of us would have ever imagined that staying indoors would be the last thing that the human race would do to save themselves from a lethal pandemic that has gripped the world. Masks, sanitisers, gloves and a mandatory six-feet distance has become the new normal. More often than not people are talking about the post-pandemic world and how to deal with it but to reach there seems a milestone that the human race has to achieve.

The ones who definitely needs a salute during this hard time is all the frontline workers — doctors, nurses and police officers — who are risking their lives to keep us safe. But then there are the unsung heroes, who are no less. Meet a 24-year-old woman cab driver, Pooja Kumari who is all happy to have been able to give back to the nation in a way or two.

Kumari, joined Uber two years back and is a proud woman driver partner for the company. “Before taking up driving, I used to work for a company. There one of my friend who was learning how to drive encouraged me to try hands at the wheel. The idea fascinated me and I agreed. After completing my training, I was looking for a job. Not many companies were hiring woman drivers back then. Then I started working with one of the leading cab service companies then I got to know that Uber too was open to hire women drivers with better facilities, so I decided to switch. Since then it has been an amazing experience,” she says.

Kumari leaves home at 8 in the morning and return by 9 pm. “I am working with the Uber Medic Team. With the partnership between NHA and Uber, I am helping cancer patients commute from their houses to the hospitals for treatment. Currently there are very less ambulance services functioning for non-Covid patients but it is important not to forget those who are suffering because of deadly diseases like Cancer. They too are in need of immediate help,” Kumari, who lives with her sister and brother-in-law in Jasola



Padamnochan Malik, Uber Medic Team Driver Partner

Vihar, New Delhi, says.  
Riding with a woman at the driver’s seat came as a surprise to many riders, she says. “I didn’t have to face too many challenges. I am fortunate that my experience with the riders has been great. Whenever, I rider got to know that I am a girl, they appreciated my spirit. Some of them even took time to realise that they are riding with a woman driver,” she tells you.

Kumari is one of those warriors that are out in the battlefield with a smile. “These are difficult times for everyone. To be out there on the road amidst such a pandemic is threatening. I too have certain fears. I want to be safe. But then if we will take a step back during such times then who will help those in need. To overcome the fear, I make sure that proper safety protocols are followed in the car. I always

have my mask and gloves on. I sanitise my gloves at short intervals. Once the rider leaves the car, I sanitise the seat with a disinfectant spray before picking up the next rider. Adding to all that, we have a roof-to-floor plastic sheeting enclosing the driver, which acts as a protective barrier to limit contact between the driver and the rider,” she tells you.  
Kumari adds that she try and avoid to get out of the car at all times. “I carry my lunch and water bottle. During my duty hours too, I avoid stepping out of the car. I feel more safe in my car than in any other place,” she says.

Unlike many others, Kumari’s family has been extremely supportive and appreciates the fact that she is doing something good. “Once I return home, my sister keeps a bucket of hot water ready at the doorstep so that I can wash my feet and hands. She then serves me tea and wash my clothes,” she tells you.  
There is more. A 43-year-old medic driver, Padamnochan Malik who is living miles away from his family is too contributing to the cause. “This is the



Pooja Kumari, Uber Medic Team Driver Partner

best time to serve the country in any way possible. I am fortunate that the company gave me a chance to work, it not only helped me earn a living but also feel proud of the fact that I can be of use during such a crisis,” Malik, who

is the sole bread winner for a family of five along with his mother, tells you.

Malik, whose family lives in Odisha, works eight hours a day. He has been working with Medic team for about two months now. “I help doctors from RML Hospital, Connaught Place to travel from their houses to the hospitals safely everyday. It gives me immense pleasure to help doctors commute safely. I always tell them that they should take extra care of themselves, *agar woh hi beemar pad gaye toh hamara kya hoga?*,” he asks.

Just like Kumari, his car too his well sanitised every day. “Gloves and masks are a must. I make sure to follow the safety protocols and talking about my riders, they are doctors themselves they all wear PPE suits and they take better precautions than anyone else,” he says.

Working on war footing is not everyone’s cup of tea these days. Malik too was apprehensive of taking the decision initially but then he decided to take a leap of faith. “When I received a call to be a part of the medic team, I was not sure. There was a fear that how safe will it be to go out and work all day. My family too resisted, they told me not to take the risk. But, then I thought to give it a chance since it was an opportunity that may not come afterwards. I took the chance. First few days went in thinking about my safety, but as time passed it became a habit and I started feeling safe. Now there are no apprehensions at all. And like I said before, I feel proud,” he says.

The only thing that Malik is missing is his family. “I am miles away from my family. I live alone here in Delhi. Once the lockdown gets lifted, the first thing I will do is to go back to my kids — two daughters and a son — though talking to them over the phone is a routine but I want to see them in person,” Malik, who takes around three trips a day, tells you.

We cannot thank these warriors enough as for what they are doing during these unprecedented times. Not only they, there are many people — The Other Warriors — who are doing their bit to the best of their capability to help fight the pandemic.

# ‘Shown my versatility to industry’

PAVLEEN GUJRAL, aka Pammy of Angry Indian Goddesses, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her latest project, how a lawyer turned into an actor and why she chose a web series to make a comeback

◆ **Tell us about your role in Marzi? What made you say yes?**  
The series is an adaption of a BBC original series *Liar*. When a project is backed by something great and is internationally acclaimed, there is some kind of trust on the project. The project has Rajeev Khandelwal and Aahana Kumra in lead. I always wanted to work with Rajeev Khandelwal, we know what he is capable of and seen his work. Second, it is backed by a great script and screenplay. Third, Viacom was on board and so I know the adaptation would be great. Then I came to know about the character and the graph and escalated and how she gets involved.

◆ **How did you come on board the project?**  
There were about three rounds of auditions. Interestingly, I never flew down to Mumbai for these. I sent a self-test and it all worked out. Also, the makers had seen my previous work. I have been lucky with all my projects. *Bhor*, *Angry Indian Goddesses* and *City of Dreams*, all of these through either no auditions or auditions over the phone. I give a lot of auditions, but projects that have worked via self-test or my previous work. But it totally depends on the project.

◆ **You took a break after Angry Indian Goddesses. How tough was it to work again?**  
It was tough. There were a few things that worked against me. I don’t stay I Mumbai; I am based in Delhi. So, I had to do a lot of travelling and build my base again. When I took a break, my daughter was very small and I chose to take a break. But the good is that the industry is at a stage where if the actor is good, age is no longer bar and one will get good work.

◆ **Do you think that people will see you beyond Pamela?**  
Definitely. After Pamela, I did *Bhor* where I play a village teacher. There was not even a speck of make-up, wore a *saree* and sported spectacles. In *City of Dreams*, it was a totally different role. I have done my bit in a variety of roles and shown a versatile side of myself. But I have still a long way to go.  
◆ **How much boost did Angry Indian Goddesses give you?**  
Yes, I felt that it made the industry notice me. Casting directors call me due to that role. When I get critics like Shubhash K Jha give a special mention and send a message that my performance in the film was something that one would want one’s grandchildren to see, it warmed my heart. When the critics applaud your work and the audience does the same, that changed my life.

◆ **Most people say that the first film can make your break you. How much would you agree?**  
I don’t think it is true. It depends on what one’s contribution is in the first film. It also depends on the banner and who the director is. If you have a small role in a big movie, you are getting started but if it is a hit, it’s an added advantage. How you move henceforth makes all the difference.  
◆ **Is it necessary that films be content-driven instead of entertainment driven?**

There should be a balance. People watch movies to be entertained. If it is purely content-driven, people would not watch it. For example, *Devi*, the short film. The film was content-driven but entertaining as well. Even with *Angry Indian Goddesses*, it had a lot of messages — LGBTQI rights, woman empowerment and women standing up for themselves and was engaging. In *Marzi* too the message is no means no. But it comes with a lot of twists and turns to keep audience engaged.

◆ **From a lawyer to an actor. How did that happen?**  
I did study law and even practice it for six in High Court. I had also done a lot of theatre in school and wanted to actor but it was not an approved career choice in my family. Hence, switched to law and enjoyed it. But realised it was not something that I enjoyed. I explored being a model, an emcee and a host, which I still do and then *Angry Indian Goddesses* happened and found my true calling.  
◆ **Why you chose a web series to make a comeback?**  
After *Angry Indian Goddesses*, I got a lot of projects that didn’t allow me to explore myself. I didn’t want to be part of a project that appeared to be forced. But with *Marzi*, it was something that clicked.

◆ **What next?**  
*Bhor* is suppose to release on an OTT platform. *Made in Heaven 2* was supposed to start shooting. *Marzi 2* is also in the pipeline. Then there are two movies that were to release this year but now everything is uncertain now.



# IT’S A PAW-FECT VACATION

Both the pets and the pet parents are enjoying their continued togetherness due to the lockdown. DEVANSHI SHAH outlines a few ways in which domestic animals soothe the emotions of a pet parent

It’s been almost two months into lockdown, and those of you with pets have probably eased into a mutually gratifying routine with your cats, or dogs. If you thought your pets have had it good during this time because, they being eager to spend more time with you, have finally got some one-on-one interaction because of the quarantine — you’re right.

They are doing better with you around. But know this — so are you! That’s right, the more time you spend with your pet, the better you’re likely to be doing yourself. This is because it is an established fact that pet-parents who spend more time with their charges:

**Are emotionally stronger:** Studies prove that people with pets become emotionally more resilient than people without a domestic animal. Being home-bound with your dog or cat gives you the opportunity to care for another being, and the mutual dependency releases happy hormones in both pet-parent and animal that is good for their long-term



wellbeing. As the quarantine has people climbing up the walls with boredom and desperation to get out, a pet is not just the best outlet, but 100 per cent guarantee that you won’t be dealing with the same social with-

drawal symptoms you peers are.

**Enjoy mental stimulation:** In the old-days housewives were seldom the ones to go senile. Looking after a home and its inhabitants gave them enough mental engagement to keep

the grey cells healthy. This is true for people with pets. Planning their meals, healthcare and exercise routines on a daily basis is bound to keep you fruitfully occupied during the quarantine and the more creative you are with these tasks, the better.

**Have a sense of purpose:** Watching back-to-back episodes of *Suits* may be fun. For a while. By the third day, it does nothing to give you direction in your life. But if you’ve got a cat, or a dog, to care for, you’re guaranteed the added perk of feeling grounded, purposeful, and motivated. Having a dog or cat is like caring for a child, or an elder, and after you’ve done a few chores for them, cleaned-up after them, you’ll feel more satisfied with your routine when settling down to binge-watch your favourite serials on Netflix.

**Feel secure:** Yes, your dog keeps your home guarded. But that’s not the only sense of security we are talking here. Having a pet means long-term emotional security. Most humans are petrified of being alone and, as life gets


unpredictable, it is a scientific fact that most humans actually fret about being left alone and miserable at some point in their lives. This could turn into a fear of losing your parents, pressure to stay attached to a partner even if a relationship is not working out, and filling your time with worthless pursuits just to avoid these fears. Having a pet is typically the best way to liberate yourself from such toxic emotions. The unconditional love, and bonding, with a domestic animal drives away all insecurities related to loneliness.

So if you don’t already have a pet, this could be your cue to adopt one. Just consider all the emotional benefits of having a pet and we’re not even getting into how cute they are!


The writer is Founder-CEO, PetKconnect







# the pioneer agenda




Sometimes when things you love get really commercial, you end up feeling betrayed by it  
— Gwyneth Paltrow

FROM THE INSIDE

**From Corona to karuna**

There is no escaping the law of Nature. We can find comfort and peace in the Godhead by chanting His name

2



**Tune in to collective obligation**

The world is a unified organism, where no individual existence has a reality independent of the whole

4

*Chai: The Experience of Indian Tea* is a journey into the heartlands of tea, across the length and breadth of India, offering a glimpse into the making of the cup that cheers — the locales, the people, the process — a visual treat for the tea connoisseur, the casual tea-lover, the tea industry enthusiast, the tourist, write REKHA SARIN & RAJAN KAPOOR. May 21 was the International Tea Day. An edited excerpt:

# A CUPFUL OF HEALTH

*My experience...convinced me that tea was better than brandy, and during the last six months in Africa I took no brandy, even when sick, taking tea instead.*

— Theodore Roosevelt

Tea deserves all the preference it receives from those who relish it. The beverage not only has a high sustenance value, but has also been proven to endow several positive effects on health. In a world of progressive scientific research, the biological composition of the tea plant has come under study because of the correlation of longevity and health in many ancient tea drinking cultures like China and Japan.

In its everyday aspect, tea is considered a beneficial agent for relieving fatigue and aiding clarity of thought, besides being favourable for digestion. Although its stimulating effects are derived from its caffeine content, unlike coffee, drinking tea in large quantities does not cause hyperactivity, insomnia, or stomach irritation, as this compound is present in a ratio that is half the level of caffeine in coffee. A 190 ml cup of tea contains approximately 40-50 mg of caffeine, while full flavour coffees average 110-120 mg per cup.

Green, oolong, white and pu-erh tea infusions contain even less caffeine than black teas. Not only do they undergo lesser oxidation, but it is so because such teas are made with multiple infusions: since water is added more than once, and as the liquor gets poured off, it reduces the content of caffeine. Caffeine is considered safe when it is consumed at a dose of 400 mg or less per day which would include the intake of soft drinks such as colas. Hence, be it black or green tea, whichever it may be, it is safer to enjoy several cups of tea rather than multiple cups of coffee.

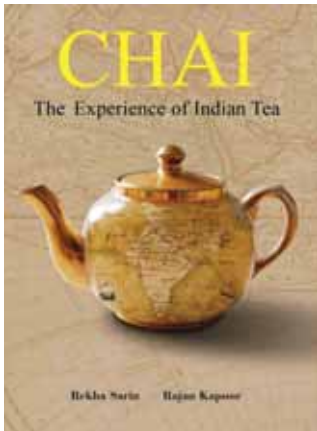
**AN INVALUABLE ANTIOXIDANT**

In all, this exhilarating beverage ranks as a useful component of nature's health repository. The leaves of the *Camellia Sinensis*, especially the buds and tender shoots contain catechins and polyphenols. These are part of the molecular family of flavonoids that are beneficiary compounds made by plants.

Tea gains much of its refreshing pungency from its secondary ingredient, polyphenols TF and TR which are derived from a precursor magic compound Epi-gallo-catechin-gallate (EGCG) that is found in green tea leaves.

Its content is a little higher in green tea, as compared to the fully fermented black teas, because during the oxidation process, most of the catechins are converted into complex polyphenols, thearubigins and theaflavins. Oolong tea contains a mix of catechins and polyphenols, as it is semi-fermented. Instant and iced teas, on the other hand, do not have the same amount of polyphenols as an equal volume of brewed tea. Instant teas are generally derived from low grade source material.

All these different types of catechins and polyphenols have great value as they serve as antioxidants that neutralise the damage caused by an excess of free radicals in the body. The latter, in simple terms, are the by-product of the normal process by which oxygen is combined with glucose in our body cells, to make energy; they are not in themselves harmful. In fact, the immune system may itself produce free radicals to neutralise viruses and bacteria. It is only when they are produced in excess that they begin to attack the cell membranes



THERE IS A NATURAL BIOFLAVONOID FOUND IN TEA THAT HAS BEEN FOUND TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE ENDORPHIN LEVELS, WHICH IN TURN REDUCE PAIN AND ANXIETY SO THAT IN CASES OF SHOCK AND STRESS, A CUP OF TEA SOOTHES THE NERVE



and tissues and pave the way for cancer, besides perpetuating blockage that plays a role in heart disease and accelerates the ageing process.

Antioxidants act as vital scavengers that mop up the damage caused by rogue free radicals by neutralising them and consequently preventing cell and tissue damage.

Although antioxidants in the form of catechins and flavonoids are found to some extent in red wine and in green leafy vegetables like broccoli and spinach, and fruits such as apples and berries as well as in dark chocolate, tea remains one of the most important sources of antioxidants.

A study at the Antioxidant Research Centre in London published in *Free Radical Research* in February 1999, put forth the following formula: 2 cups of black tea = 1 glass of red wine = 7 glasses of orange juice = 20 glasses of apple juice.

Tea, therefore, with its high content of antioxidants, is a potential agent for fighting cancer. Similarly, biological research also reveals that the antioxidants in tea can counter the artery-damaging potential of the reactive free radicals. According to TNO, a Dutch innovation organisation, quercetin, a valuable polyphenol found in tea and other vegetables and fruits, has anti-oxidative properties and prevents the formation of plaque.

In this manner, it helps the endothelial layers of the arteries to remain flexible for good circulation and makes the blood cells less prone to clotting and is a good preventive for heart disease and strokes. Although these diseases are attributed in great part to genetic and lifestyle factors, health studies do show some positive insights into the antioxidant benefits of this beverage.

Moreover, the catechins in tea offer the advantage of being an aid for killing infection as they block viruses and bacteria from hooking on to cell walls. Therefore they can help protect against diseases like influenza, food poisoning, dysentery and cholera. By the same



measure, they can kill mouth bacteria that are harmful for teeth and gums and lead to periodontal disease.

Tea also improves the functioning of the intestines by blocking the growth of bad bacteria and enhancing good bacteria and is therefore a good digestive. It is said to be detoxifying as the catechins can scavenge harmful heavy metals like lead, chromium, mercury, which may get ingested with food.

**TEA FOR BEAUTY & RELAXATION**

In itself tea has no calories at all, and it is merely the addition of sugar in each cup of tea that leads to weight gain. Milk however, is not objectionable, as long as it is just a dash.

There is also the belief that green tea helps

in slimming. While it can by no means be construed as a miracle drink, green tea is known to give a metabolic boost that may shed off a few extra calories by about four per cent. By virtue of its antioxidant qualities that help fight ageing and skin damage, tea extracts with their refreshing aromas are also used in facial creams, skin packs and perfumes.

The comforting qualities of the beverage are no old wives tale either. There is a natural bioflavonoid found in tea that has been found to significantly increase endorphin levels, which in turn reduce pain and anxiety so that in cases of shock and stress, a cup of tea soothes the nerves.

**TEA AS A SOURCE OF MINERALS**

The tea plant has the natural ability to absorb fluoride from the soil and so a tea infusion readily releases this mineral into the water, making it a beneficial drink for healthy teeth. It is estimated that a single cup provides 0.1 mg of fluoride and can provide forty-five per cent of the body's daily requirement. Studies have also shown that there are some estrogenic compounds in tea, together with elements of manganese that help in increasing bone mass by five per cent, thereby reducing fracture risk. It also contains potassium, a mineral vital for maintaining body fluid levels. The beverage acts as a diuretic. This benign brew is also known to have Vitamin C, zinc and folic acid, and is therefore regularly recommended for pregnant women.

Finally, it is not to be forgotten that during the days of its discovery in China, the beverage was recognised at first for its remedial worth. Modern health research still continues to reiterate this fact.

Excerpted with permission from *Chai: The Experience of Indian Tea*, by Rekha Sarin & Rajan Kapoor, Niyogi Books, ₹1995. The book was awarded the Best in the World — Gourmand Cookbook Awards in the Beverages Category (2015)



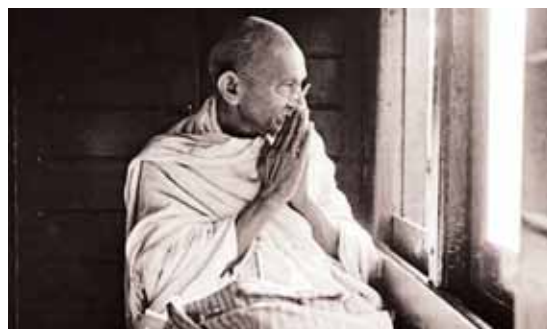


IT IS THROUGH GRATITUDE  
FOR THE PRESENT MOMENT  
THAT THE SPIRITUAL  
DIMENSION OF LIFE OPENS UP  
— ECKHART TOLLE



**HIDDEN SOULS**  
PRAMOD PATHAK

## Back to Gandhi



The coronavirus pandemic has changed many things in the world most of which are going to stay. At least for a considerable period. Not only did it ensure that the wheels of globalisation come a full circle, it also brought several realisations on the part of the humanity at large. The most important was that conservation and not consumption be the model for a sustainable growth and viable economy. In all this turmoil Gandhi stands vindicated. His ideologies, which could better be termed as practices, and also his economic thought. We are back to the basics and, more importantly, understand why it makes a lot of sense. If all the effects of pollution that we callously inflicted on mother earth in the last 50 years could be undone in 50 days, we must have become much wiser in this lockdown period. Gandhi had always been emphasising *swadeshi* and self-reliance. His *swadeshi* movement that caught the imagination of the masses during the Indian National Movement was in a way a game changer. It proved a very effective strategy aimed at weakening the British Empire and was a powerful tool in the hands of the Indian National Congress which was spearheading the movement. A few details of the Swadeshi Movement may help in understanding what it was all about. Gandhi had given a clarion call to boycott British products while advocating Indian products and production process. Though *Swadeshi* as a slogan had been a part of the overall strategy of the nationalists before Gandhi's advent on the scene, it was the entry of Gandhi that gave the movement a shot in the arm and resulted in making it a mass movement. Incidentally, the first few Industrial Policy Resolutions of independent India had emphasised self-reliance and import substitution as the major goals. How we digressed is a different story all together, but this is a time to rethink and redo. What Gandhi exhorted and advocated some 100 years ago has once again become the *mantra* for India's rise in the post Covid world. Gandhi had given a complete prescription for sustainable development of India and it included a self-sufficient village economy and focused on local production of goods for local needs. As things unfold in the pandemic, we now see reason in what Gandhi had championed then. It is a grim economic scenario. Jobs and opportunities are dwindling and millions of migrant workers working in different parts of the country are forced to return to their respective villages. It is imperative to strengthen the village economy and start the process of revival. There cannot be a better strategy than making the villages self-sustaining units of Indian economy. As the former President of India Abdul Kalam had suggested in his PURA philosophy, that is, Providing Urban Facilities in Rural Areas. That is the essential first step. The rural infrastructure must support the strategies of growth and provide a conducive atmosphere for entrepreneurship development. Rural entrepreneurship has played a crucial role in development of many European and Asian economies. It is India's turn now. Gandhi said that India's soul lived in villages. We must now try to enrich the soul.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

# FROM CORONA TO KARUNA

There is no escaping the law of Nature. We can find comfort and peace in the Godhead by chanting His name, writes RADHANATH SWAMI



The corona phobia is spreading all over the world more rapidly than coronavirus. It is the subject discussed everywhere. Transactions have reached an *impasse*. Almost everyone has self-quarantined themselves in their respective places. Roads appear derelict. The future is uncertain. Many people all over the world are dying due to the deadly virus. The eerie statistics make for the news headlines. Scientists are racing against time to find the vaccine. Governments are implementing lockdowns in their country to restrict the spread of the pandemic. The atmosphere is sombre everywhere!

Nobody wants to die. That is the fact of life. Every living entity struggles hard to keep himself alive in this world. But death is forced upon us by the cruel nature. Why? Why Nature is so cruel? I want to live forever but I am forced to die. Why such dichotomy? An intelligent being will understand something is notoriously wrong here. Actually, we don't belong to this world. This is not our real home. We are not in our natural environment now. When we are in exotic environ-

ment like water or air, we are afraid but when we land on land, we feel safe as that is our natural environment. Similarly, leaving our natural environment, the spiritual world we came to alien environment that is the material world thus inviting monumental anxiety.

If you just turn back the pages of previous newspapers you will get spooked. Before coronavirus outbreak there were other calamities keeping us engaged constantly. India and Pakistan were on the brink of war, there was Dokhlam standoff, communal violence over CAA, rising rape cases, economic slump, heavy floods due to torrential rains, Cyclone Fani, Cylone Bulbul, etc.

You may think this was only for India. But for rest of the world too, list is endless — Massive fire in Amazon forest, melting of ice caps due to global warming, US Iran War, two major 737 MAX flight crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, bomb blasts in Sri Lanka, rising gun violence in the US, US-China trade war, Australian bush fire, rising cases of cancer patients, Swine flu outbreak, and many more. These are few amongst many hitting

THE LAWS OF KARMA ARE EXTREMELY STRINGENT. ONE MAY ESCAPE THE LAWS OF GOVERNMENT, BUT ONE CANNOT ESCAPE THE LAW OF NATURE. NATURE AWARDS THE REACTIONS TO THE LIVING ENTITY ACCORDING TO WHAT HE DESIRES AND DESERVES

us like the constant tides in an ocean.

But Coronavirus outbreak is a Pandemic! It is declared global emergency by WHO. It is not a measly problem of some one country! OK. Accepted the fact that it is a pandemic affecting the whole globe and we need to follow proper precautions and guidelines laid by the government. But Lord Krishna has already declared in the *Gita* (8.15) that this world is a place of misery. Birth, Death, old age and disease (*Janma-mātyu-jarā-vyādhi*) are constantly haunting and daunting us. For a given individual anywhere, he has some or the other problem in his life making him miserable. Whether it is a small epidemic or pandemic. He is in anxiety most of the time.

The pain in the body is a good natural mechanism to alert us to take the treatment. In COVID-19 case the patient has flu like symptoms of fever, cold, cough, and so on. When he gets the symptoms, he can rush to the hospital to take treatment in time. Many are getting cured and being discharged from hospitals. So, the point is pain in the body coerces us to go to doctor and take treatment.

Similarly, the constant miseries inflicted upon us by nature are indication that we need treatment. And the best treatment recommended in this age is chanting the Holy names of God.

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Hare Hare*

Chanting will make us peaceful in this world and next too. That is the immense power of Holy Name. It is more powerful than Coronavirus also.

Also, if one understands the teachings of *Bhagavad Gita* that one is not this body but spirit soul (2.22) he will be peaceful. Just as we change clothes daily while the person remains the same, the soul keeps changing bodies according to his karma. The soul is unaffected by the miseries of this world. The body is subjected to the change but the soul is unchangeable. The moon although appearing with the clouds is not affected by the jittery movements of the clouds, it remains steady as it exists at different level than the clouds. Similarly, the soul remains unchangeable in this changeable world.

*Bhagavad Gita* also speaks about law of Karma. The laws of Karma are extremely stringent. One may escape the laws of government but one cannot escape the laws of nature. Nature awards exactly the reactions to the living entity according to what he desires and deserves. Nothing more or less.

Sometimes, nature divulges mass Karmic reaction in form of Tsunami, earthquakes, volcanoes, massive floods, severe drought, etc. So many people get affected. It may seem Nature acting blindly. Material Nature may act in mass but not blindly.

Only they will die who are supposed to get the Karmic reaction others won't even though in the epicenter of the calamity. And we have witnessed many cases of people or small children surviving massive earthquakes buried under debris for days while those staying in their safe and affluent houses are killed. Nature's law punishes the sinful and awards the pious without a doubt.

By chanting and reading *Gita* daily we will fully get cured and go back home back to Godhead where there is no — birth, old age, disease and death and no Corona but only *Karuna* (mercy) of God. Everything is within the plan of God although it may not be exactly the plan of God. If we remain alive through this pandemic, we will serve God here and if we die, we will go to Kingdom of God and serve Him there. The eternal nature of Soul is to serve God always.

The writer is a spiritual guru at International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

## Resurgence of Nature

To save the planet, our mission must be to prevent global warming, the climate crisis, close wet markets and wildlife trade, says MADAN LALL MANCHANDA

It is after decades that great things are happening to our environment. As a result of the clear air, for the first time in three decades, the snow capped peaks of Gangotri became visible from UP's Saharanpur. It was a pleasant surprise. These are the same mountains which can otherwise be seen from Missouri, reports VK Jain, conservator Saharanpur district.

The spring has been markedly different. There has been rejoicing about return of blue skies, sparkling rivers, new crop of leaves on *Cycas* palms. Each of them has a glassy new foliage. The flora and fauna have been getting back to normal. Marigold, Jasmine, Lilies and roses have grown in abundance. The nature is bountiful reads another report from Jind.

Noise pollution levels have completely gone down which allows you to hear birds more clearly. Birds, whose chirping sounds have been heard the loudest in the NCR during the lockdown include, the brown rack, Chat, Indian robin, oriental magpie robin, refocus, tropic, common hawk Cuckoo, Asian Koel, barbets rosy starlings, and even the golden oriole — a bird which migrated from the hills of the Himalayas, sums up Jasjeev Gandhlok.

Gandhiji, would have been pleased to note that consequentially surge of nature to reiterate that the resources of Earth needs to be exploited minimal as this earth has sufficient for every humans need and that simple way of life, he advocated is best. To save the planet, our mission must be preventing global warming and the climate crisis, close wet markets and wild life trade undeniably, Gandhiji's ideals are beneficial ecologically.

But Gandhiji's ideals can be disastrous economically retorts Rashmi Dasgupta and raised the big question before the humans decide to use their formidable brains to recalibrate 'Progress' so that it



benefits all not just us.

Notwithstanding that doubts persists about origin of Coronavirus. Bramah Challanye argues that Chinese cover up of the spread of the first deadly disease SARS, in 2002-2003 triggered in the world of this century's pandemic and now that Beijing opposes an independent inquiry leaves margin of doubt.

However WHO Emergencies Director Michael Ryan believes that killer virus jumped from animals to humans in a market of China late last year, possibly from a market in Wuhan selling the exotic animals for meat.

Mahatma Gandhi's ecological intelligence of making cult of materialism that will recoil on itself and have what we consume, consume us. This is staring us in the face says Gopal Krishan Gandhi. Greed, market created, market driven, market manipulated cares little for the hygiene. The Wuhan market is where it is.

Blaming it in isolation is absurd, for there is a Wuhan market in every city, town and thoroughfare. There is a Wuhan market in every one of us.

We may recall, the world has witnessed two world wars in the 20th century in its quest for the trade markets in the East. A poet then reminded the belligerent Germany:

*"Geya hai bhooh German Aasmani  
baap ko apne; Khuda Science ko samjaha  
hai, munkre-zat-e-khuda ho kar"*

(The Germany has forgotten the Heavenly father; And believes Science the God, in denial of the existence of Providence.)

Allama Dr. Mohd Iqbal's prophetic utterance hold good both for the West as also for the East.

*"Dyar-e-maghrab ke rehne walo;  
Khuda ki basti, Dukaan nahi hai"*  
(O, ye, the inhabitants of the West; God's abode is not a trader shop).

## For us and the world

Just as the head of the family, God's actions are directed towards the larger good of the humanity. This virus is one such, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

This is the underlying principle of the creation. By our acts both, that is, we and the world should benefit. We can understand this from an example of a head of a joint family. What occupies his mind mostly? That not only himself but the whole family should prosper. His all acts are directed that way.

Similarly, God is the head of the creation. It is His responsibility to see that the world runs as smoothly as possible. As we all have free will, which the Lord never withdraws from us, He has a very tough task. But being God, the omnipotent, He manages till it is time for dissolution of the creation. Fortunately, it is not that time yet. He has intervened because the world was moving in the wrong direction and at great speed. More persons were getting addicted to unlimited sense gratification. In the process, the climate was getting butchered. In spite of many young activists like Greta Thunberg, not many in the position of power were listening. God had to act to save the world from a certain disaster. This coronavirus — never mind how it started — is a medium to reset the world and this is happening quite effectively at this time. Fuel guzzlers are off the roads mostly as are airplanes from air, etc. Crude price is touching rock bottom and the climate has improved tremendously. Could anyone have imagined this scenario? We are breathing clean air in Delhi, probably the most polluted city in the world.

God somewhat like the head of large joint family wishes all of us to promote ourselves as well as contribute whatever we can for the betterment of the rest of the mankind. God desires that His devotees should disseminate His instructions among His devotees.



(The *Bhagavad Gita* 18.67-68) They are most dear to Him. I am citing the example of Goswami Tulsidas in this connection. The next example is of persons engaged in public welfare. God assures that doers of welfare activities do not end up badly. (6.40) Bill Gates is a great example for it.

The third example is of climate activists, who are mostly young, who wish to save the world for their future. They are clamouring for control on carbon emission and not cutting more trees to do farming. We could eat a little less meat in order not to grow so much grains. The fourth example is of a leader like Mahatma Gandhi, who left such a mark. The last example is of all those parents, who bring up children very nicely doing many sacrifices in the process. They benefit themselves and the rest of world by their efforts.

Generally, God insists on surrender to Him (18.62), because such persons are most likely to be useful to the creation. They will not sin and harm selves or the creation. This is not unfair because it is God's responsibility to man-

age the creation the best way possible. We are aware how those who are busy in lustily enjoying themselves are creating negative forces around them. They are using more than their share of the bounties of the world. Despot is worse. They cause damage to the creation by their sinful acts. And those parents who do not fulfil their parental duties are not great favourites of the Lord. When we become narrowly selfish, we hurt ourselves as well as the world around us.

In the end, I must mention many saints, who are praying for the welfare of the world. I consider myself most fortunate to be born in India and living here. And I try to fulfil all my duties including towards myself, my family, my joint family, devotees and others. This does not go unnoticed by the Master of the universe. He rewards me in many ways, especially by giving peace, bliss and security. The best part is God's regular communications to me guiding me in my eternal journey.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



# EU down but not out in global order

The strength and unity of the historic European Union (EU) may be history soon. With the Covid-19 pandemic, many of its member nations would find it difficult to be even in the union itself. It's not only the current crisis, but also a sustained economic downturn since the setback of 2009 that could finally push the survival of the EU to the brink.

The coronavirus pandemic has pitted the members of the EU against one another. For example, by early March, Germany, one of the few nations in Europe to manufacture medical masks, immediately cancelled plans to export these protective gears to fellow countries. This badly affected Italy which was then in the midst of Covid-19 attack. Then the worst was the fighting between two regions of Spain i.e. Barcelona and Madrid. The autonomous and nationalist Government of Catalonia wanted to close the border between the region and the rest of Spain. But it could not do as Madrid came armed with emergency authority.

By May, when the virus almost swept Spain and many parts of Europe, many EU nations like Germany, France, Austria and Italy reestablished their almost forgotten border checkpoints. Alas! At a time like this, since the Second World War, surely the EU as a unit is performing very poorly. Sadly, Brussels, the EU headquarters, is aimlessly looking for a strategy. It has not been successful in bringing its flocks together. It looks like as if the Union is on the verge of bankruptcy and collapse.

By mid-2019, some analysts rightly pointed out that falling production in very many Eurozone manufacturing units, surveys portraying increasing gloominess among some top business leaders, and lastly, an increasing contraction in world trade had a direct impact on the already tottering economic structure of the continent. Therefore, the perilous state of the Eurozone economy was very much clear even in the last year itself and many of its leaders such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President of France Emmanuel Macron knew about it.

At the moment, a quarantined and partly opening Europe is learning that all the major countries of Western Europe, except Germany, could hardly offer any realistic solution to Covid-19 and its immediate fallout. On other hand, the European leaders are nervous about the way US President Donald Trump is trying to change the course of action of the existing global order. Many strategic experts in



A view of the Biblioteca degli Alberi 'Trees Library' Park where red circles are painted on the grass to indicate where people can sit to avoid crowds and ensure social distancing to prevent the spread of coronavirus, in Milan, Italy, on Friday

AP

Europe strongly believe that Washington is all out to destroy the EU. In the beginning of the last year, Mike Pompeo, the Secretary of State's wooing of some of the East European nations was considered an attack on the Union's existence. In fact, it's a hard ideological battle for the EU to encounter in the coming days. This also sharpened an East-West division within the EU. This was preceded by Trump's 2017 Warsaw Speech, infused with nativist nationalism. Again in the year 2018, his strong measures to impose tariff on EU goods, and his tearing up of critical global agreements wherein the EU has serious stakes was the Iran Nuclear Deal, the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), etc. Further, his open encouragement to Brexiters and a warning to withdraw from Syria was once again a call to threaten the very identity of the EU. When John Bolton was Trump's National Security Adviser, his anti-EU narrative was on full display when Pompeo paid visit to Budapest,

Bratislava and Warsaw. After Trump's coming to power, America is giving warm welcome to the rightwing populist governments that the EU has put on notice for long for their democratic backsliding. Another significant aspect of Pompeo's visit to Eastern Europe was that these countries were formerly a part of the Iron Curtain. All these moves could be rightly calculated as insults thrown at old allies like that of the Union. Also such diplomatic overtures from the US could be read as a new power game that Washington wanted to unleash so as to mar the unifying efforts of the EU. Such policies would only exasperate the EU nations as this would only embolden the demagogues in Europe.

Is it so that Germany can alone save the EU? It's not possible for Merkel alone at the moment. But, Germany has the Eurozone's biggest economy that accounts for more than a quarter of the bloc's output. It has the largest number of people and the most workers who indeed set the course of the

continent's economic engine. Many of the EU countries like France, Italy, Belgium, Slovakia, Sweden and the Netherlands, all of them count Germany as their top business partner.

EU's decline is no more a cock and bull story anymore. As the US is withdrawing from some of the key global summits and treaties, the last exit point maybe the World Trade Organization (WTO), the EU would find it equally difficult to bear the heat from China and Russia. Trump's theatrics are simply bunkum. Simply taking on China and on global institutions at a time Covid-19 is engulfed the world is highly deplorable. Yes, it is well-understood that these invectives towards China are all about winning the next term for the White House. But then derauling a liberal order which the US itself has been pioneering and guarding for almost more than seven decades is inconceivable. Why an America of the 21st century is trying to push itself to self-isolation? Why Washington is not partnering with Brussels to

set the stage for a multi-polar world order? America's grand confusion at global stage and current chaos, emanating from the Covid-19, is seriously impairing the stability of the liberal world order wherein the EU's stake is certainly too high.

Further, the trade war between America and China may also affect the EU as well. Trump's tariffs on a number of Chinese imports and on steel and aluminum from Europe have already disrupted the supply chains across Europe. This also has unsettled the plans of many top management houses who readily take early decisions in regard to their investments for new factory spaces and the number of workers to be hired around the year.

Needless to say that strutting the EU project to its members and to the world could invite serious challenges at this moment. Even then, it would be completely wrong to conclude that the EU may evanesce soon from the seat of global leadership. With the devastation of the Covid-19, mass migration, right-wing upsurge,

record low growth, Brexit, emergence of Russian subversion, anemic defence spending, and finally lack of unity among the members, one can easily point a finger at the grand signs of disarray. In the fight between the US and China, the role of the EU is definitely secondary and declining. If the world is not unipolar today, in a multi-polar world order with the strength and growing economic might of emerging nations like India and China, the EU has very little relevance to put forward.

Beyond all these negative narratives, Europe always remains relevant. Its transcontinental presence of soft power, military and economic might can hardly be matched by the US or China. To conclude, we can safely say that Europe is the "invisible superpower". The Covid-19 crisis may take longer and surely hamper in rechristening the EU. But it is a temporary phase. Europe had seen many such disasters in the past. And these advanced nations with their superior health, administration and

leadership would stage a comeback at the global stage. It's a misnomer to advocate that the EU can't act as a superpower. It's a fact that Europe is not a sovereign state like India or the US, but when it comes to any point of crisis, it always acts as a single entity. After Russian invasion of Ukraine, many international pundits opined that Moscow might turn towards the east i.e. China because of its economic might. But these experts were proved wrong. In mid-2015, China's trade accounts for only 14 per cent of Russia's trade whereas only three European countries combined i.e. Germany, the Netherlands and Italy accounted for more than 20 per cent of Russia's trade. Thus Kremlin looked again towards Europe, not Beijing. And the misconception that China has become more important in Russian power calculus was just brushed aside.

The Covid-19 poses a new threat to European unity. Many of the members of the EU are mulling over self-imposed protectionist policies in regard to

Covid-19 pandemic poses a new threat to European unity. Many of the members of the EU are mulling over self-imposed protectionist policies in regard to migration as their systems are already too overburdened



MAKHAN SAIKIA

migration as their systems are already too overburdened. This and the post-Covid Europe will definitely witness the rise of more nationalist narratives. But this is not a new trend. The EU is too resilient to handle such roadblocks in remaining united and strong. Despite such tremors, its core formal institutions such as single market, environmental and other public regulations, the common trade policy, agricultural policy, foreign aid, and common border control mechanisms have still stood untouched. What Dani Rodrik advocated should stay not only as an evergreen theme, but as a working spirit to both the European leaders and to its people at this moment of Covid-19 crisis: "From Europe came democratic values, social solidarity and for all its current problems, the most impressive feat of institutional engineering of the century, the European Union". Hope it does. Long live the European unity.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

## PERSPECTIVE

# Gandhian model can eliminate Covid-induced poverty

Mainstream economics tends to overlook the Gandhian model because it may not generate the magical 8% GDP growth a year. However, it will certainly have the capacity and vision to empower India's poor



ATMAN SHAH



SUNIL MACWAN

The globe is facing an unprecedented health crisis at present and India is no exception. There is no denying the fact that recession and unemployment are beginning to hit nations across the globe. Besides, we are also facing the problems of fake news and communal hatred along with Covid-19.

The coronavirus crisis has raised serious questions about the appropriateness of the capitalist structure of society. There is a vigorous debate on the mortality rates due to the pandemic and starvation in developing and developed nations. It seems that Covid-19 will outpace hunger on the death toll but the debate itself shows the failure of the market-oriented economy in India. It is feared that in the current economic system a huge number of the poor will lose their lives to starvation due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

The ruthless capitalist market offers no free lunch. The state is also indifferent to people's plight, but we, as a society, can pressurise the Government to help the vulnerable sections of society. Chances are we may succeed. There are many who endorse the argument that "higher choices for consumption means higher welfare".

It might be true in some cases, but the vast majority of Indians do not benefit from economic growth; rather, they struggle to buy even the essential goods for survival. For example, some people are spending the lockdown in their farmhouses with plenty of food and facilities, while others are barely managing to get one square meal per day. Just imagine a situation in which people behave only in their self-interest, not thinking about others while making decisions during such a crisis. What will be the

outcome? Probably, you know the answer. The neoliberal ideology encourages such behaviour.

As a set of economic practices, neoliberalism represents an advanced form of capitalism with several indicators that privilege widespread economic activities over all other aspects of human life. The proponents of neoliberal economy hold that the highest human good can be achieved through liberal entrepreneurship aided by private property rights, free markets, and free trade. They also advocate that the state must serve to safeguard the interests of the market by creating and maintaining support systems such as infrastructures, legislating market-friendly laws, and practicing non-interference in markets.

Endorsed by most political establishments around the world, neoliberalism today

greatly influences not only international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, but also the way in which individual nations conceptualise and run their economies.

However, the pandemic unleashed on the world by the novel coronavirus has brought neoliberalism's triumphant march to a grinding halt. The sudden and indefinite shutdown of all economic activities at both the national and global levels has adversely affected many Third-World countries. India has suffered from the economic downturn, caused by the nationwide lockdown since March 24. Unfortunately, those hardest hit are the daily-wagers, the migrant labourers, owners of MSMEs and the small farmers. Abruptly deprived of their livelihood during the lockdown, they are staring in the face of a grave economic crisis.

To its credit, the Government has announced a 1.7 trillion-rupee financial package and urged the State Governments to provide the basic necessities to the poor during the lockdown, but our economic policy seems to have victimised the poor. India's neoliberal-capitalist model of economy has failed to uplift the poorest of the poor. The Covid-19 crisis has only exposed this sad reality.

People need entertainment through socialisation. We are not saying that people are happy at their homes, consuming essential goods and services only. But the corona pandemic has once again compelled the world to find a strong alternative to the neoliberal model of economy that offers better opportunities to the rich than the poor. In the Indian context, the Gandhian model of economy needs serious consideration as a better

alternative.

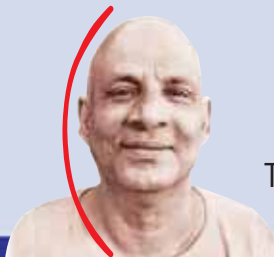
Mainstream economics tends to overlook the Gandhian model based on limiting the wants of the people because it hampers the GDP growth. This model primarily depends upon three ideas: Gram Swaraj, Decentralisation, and Sarvodaya. The concept of Gram Swaraj is associated with self-efficient villages that have the minimum facilities to live a decent life. The magnitude of migrant workers and students in the cities indicates the failure of necessary facilities in rural India. Decentralisation of political and economic power is needed to give Swaraj to villages. In India, the Centre must provide more rights to local governments, urban local bodies and panchayati raj institutions to develop their regions.

Sarvodaya means "upliftment of all". Gandhiji coined this term from Ruskin's famous book "Unto This Last". This

ideal is based on the following three principles: the good of an individual dwells in the good of all (First law of Sarvodaya), no inequalities in remuneration between physical and mental work (Second law of Sarvodaya), and the life of a farmer (creative production) is worth living (Third law of Sarvodaya). We may not agree with all the ideas propounded by Gandhiji and it may not generate the magical 7-8 per cent growth rate a year, but they certainly have the capacity and vision to empower India's poor, especially those in the BPL category. It can also engender a more sustainable and equitable economic growth and promote peace and non-violence in society.

(Atman Shah is lecturer, Department of Economics, and Sunil Macwan is lecturer Department of English; both at St Xavier's College, Ahmedabad)





THERE IS SOMETHING GOOD IN  
ALL SEEMING FAILURES. YOU  
ARE NOT TO SEE THAT NOW.  
TIME WILL REVEAL IT. BE PATIENT  
— SWAMI SIVANANDA



## YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



### ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you will be filled with enthusiasm. Your overall health remains good. You may plan to step out for a long drive to experience some change. It is also possible that you contact people from different places. Relax and have fun. On the career front, with some ease in the lockdown, you will get the opportunity to kick start your career. Students need to prepare well in advance and stay in tune with their curriculum. You have the skills, intelligence but need the correct guidance to improve upon yourself and prepare for a brighter future. Research related work is on the cards. You will have the ability to influence your near and dear ones. Relationships may suffer if you don't pay attention to your verbal communication.

**Lucky number 19**  
**Lucky colour Golden**  
**Lucky day Sunday**



### LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week your health is good. You have realised that in the past you were too busy for spiritual practices. Now you may make the time for things that feed your soul. You have faith in yourself and the Almighty. Some religious practices carried out in a virtual group with different sets of people will enhance your personality. On the career front, this is a transition period. You are looking for a change. Be open to new ideas. This way, you can make smooth transition. Your confusion, which had become a part of your routine, will come to an end now. You will find yourself on the right track. Things are turning towards positivity. You are likely to worry or lose sleep over delays in personal affairs. This is not the best time to begin a new relationship.

**Lucky number 15**  
**Lucky colour Sky Blue**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



### SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This is a great time to consider what you are doing and what you should do to improve your health. It could be more exercise or more rest. Think it through and you can do better with moderate changes in what you are doing currently. You are in a mood for enjoyment and celebrations. As the week progresses, you will go into solitude in search of spiritual awakening. On the work front, some baseless fear has taken over you and is making you restless. Worrying about your job is not going to help the situation. Focus on what you can control, and leave your anxiety behind. Your intention is right and you show care to your near and dear ones. On the other hand, people in your life are contributing to your anger and aggression. Stay positive and calm.

**Lucky number 20**  
**Lucky colour Pink**  
**Lucky day Monday**



### TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week your health needs your attention. Those suffering from BP, heart and diabetes, are advised to get yourself checked. A strict diet is a must. You need to maintain a positive attitude that is required for a balanced life. Forget about all the tensions. Professionally, this will be a busy week for you. You may find it immensely challenging. You should be aware of your limitations and resources to be more proactive and successful in your work. On the personal front, you may find yourself in a network of old and new friends. You are likely to contact new people, adding new friends to your network. Getting nostalgic while talking to childhood friends is indicated. Those in a relationship, your old flame may come back to you and enrich your life.

**Lucky number 30**  
**Lucky colour Yellow**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you feel restricted, indecisive and confused. You have recently come through a very difficult time. Be careful that you don't repeat the same mistakes which contributed to the problem that you just solved. Those of you looking for work or partnership, you may be looking in the wrong place. This week your professional matters need your attention. Having a good knowledge of your area of interest is most desirable. But being able to express this knowledge is equally important. Unless you have a command over your area of expertise, you cannot brew new ideas. On the personal front, others may feel envy for you. You are sharp with your mental abilities. Written communication needs attention, be gentle and soft in your approach and expression.

**Lucky number 17**  
**Lucky colour Mint Green**  
**Lucky day Sunday**



### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, a push and pull type of energy may make you negative. This might not be unfamiliar to you as you have often faced such mood swings. Get yourself examined, as the energy of the week is not very positive. Take advice from a healthcare professional. If something is wrong, don't hesitate to take a second opinion and go for the treatment before it is too late. On the career front, ensure you have updated all your financial documents and kept an account of your income and the expenditure. A little carelessness may be upsetting. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. There may be some unfairness at play at your workplace. Make sure that your behaviour is impeccable. Expect the best to happen in the relationship.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour Indigo**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



### GEMINI May 21-June 20

The week is filled with fear and doubts and could leave you confused. You may feel tired and inactive. This is the time to refresh and seek advice from the expert. You are constantly under a self-imposed dilemma which has shaped into a baseless fear. Stay positive, life will soon become exciting. On the career front, new opportunities will make you creative this week. You will have the drive to advance your career. This is the time to write out what you aspire for and would like to accomplish. It is a positive time to put ideas into practices. Success is likely. Relationships may suffer. Things may not work out as you would hope in a love relationship. Be honest with yourself first, and then with your beloved.

**Lucky number 18**  
**Lucky colour Purple**  
**Lucky day Monday**



### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, a lot of movement is indicated. You may get busy in the nitty-gritty of life. You have to make some decisions too. By the end of the week, there will be a significant shift in your schedule as you take out more time for yourself. Some exercises, yoga practices and solitude are required. On the career front, a sudden change in the circumstances may surprise you. Some unexpected job opportunities is on the cards. You might be offered a dream project. This will make you feel positive. You have all the reasons to feel proud and contented. In terms of personal affairs, you are in a mood to confront your near and dear one. Be careful as your anger and aggression might go out of limit. There is no need to be hyper, to show your resentments.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour Black**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



### AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you need to change your routine and try new things for health. Start with the basics. Ensure you are getting enough sleep, exercise, and eating healthy food. You don't have to undergo any uncomfortable, and difficult regime to feel better. Small, positive steps are most likely the kind of change that you can live with and experience the results. For a good life, a disciplined lifestyle is key. Professionally, this week is marked for tough and intellectual activities, and you have to get involved in it if needed. Those who are dancers, actors and performing artists may get very busy this week. Haste, anger and aggression should be avoided to get the best results. In the matters of heart, you may feel that your partner does not understand you.

**Lucky number 18**  
**Lucky colour Peach**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



### CANCER June 21-July 22

You feel good and may pamper yourself this week. You will experience pleasantries, sumptuous food, and entertainment activities. To rejuvenate yourself, do some basic grooming at home. Professionally, it is a great week. Your emotional level is creative and focused. News of promotion or appraisal is on the cards. Self-confidence will keep your morale high. This week you are in a position of power, and authority and can handle any situation with your intelligence. Your dreams are big and can create a world of your own. On the relationship front, you are living in illusions and imaginary world. Ensure you have a decent and motivating friend circle. You are expecting too much out of life and relations. Don't keep high expectations.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour Red**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week many issues will bother you and it may be a little difficult to retain your peace of mind. In the beginning, you will feel restricted mentally, physically and financially. As the week progresses you will start building. Keep a positive outlook. For perfect health, take good care of yourself. It's never too late to do the right thing. You will earn good money this week. Professionally, You are careful in your approach and you make sure that everything is planned and executed well for overall success. You will not leave a job half done. You must complete all assigned tasks and projects to a certain standard. On the personal front, you will find yourself in a position where you can exert your power more productively.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour Green**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week there could be some turning points in your health. Sometimes things just happen and you are, by no means, alone in that experience. If needed, reach out for support. Resisting change can be bad for your health. Do whatever it takes to keep your stress level under control. Remember that meditation and yoga is the best treatment for the mind. On the career front, if you are signing any deal this week, then read the document carefully. Bond with a colleague may become stressful. In such a case, go ahead with diplomatic approach else you find it difficult to achieve the set targets. Stay away from conflicts. In love, your spouse may turn little arrogant and demand something out of your reach. This could upset your routine life.

**Lucky number 22**  
**Lucky colour White**  
**Lucky day Friday**

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Be live to collective obligation

Pursuing *Dhyana*, we have already seen how mind becomes free from all thought imprints, thus becoming free from all limitations and pre-conditioning thereto. Full landscape of mind then becomes accessible, offering its wholesome powers. Also, it makes one look at options in hand with an open mind, whereby one could see things in the right perspective due. You could then make right choices in life. It is important to note here that mind is just an instrument, which can't move on its own. It has to have its defining principles to perceive any subject matter in perspective, which, in turn, makes us take initiatives or react and respond to external stimuli. The paradox, however, is that a purified mind is free from any thought impression. What then would drive the mind?

Well, *Dhyana* process doesn't end up by attaining its optimal level. You then need to explore the realities of life afresh. In the process you first turn your attention to the laws of nature that holds the key to our life cycle. Following which, you explore the living world around with all its diversity and complexities. Since pursuing *Dhyana*, one's level of intelligence gets sharpened enough to smartly

engage with those around with ease and comfort.

What would one realise exploring the realities of life? Well, pursuing *Dhyana*, you eventually strike at the root of our existence — the eternal element of consciousness, equally available to all. You then realise that all live existences have a common root. So, there remains unity underlying all diverse existences. It implies that the world is a unified organism, where no individual existence has a reality independent of the whole. Water flowing down a snow bound mountain creates ground for live existence all through its run till it meets the sea. Water evaporates, turns into cloud and then rains back to recharge our water resources. This way, life keeps running in succession. Trees and plants regulate our weather cycle. The animals and other species too keep discharging their assigned role towards sustained run of the life cycle. And, it is the collective effort of all that keeps life cycle going on.

The above concept has been beautifully explained in *Kathopanishada* and *Bhagavad Gita* through the simile of an inverted *Asvata* (Banyan) tree. The root is directed towards unseen domain in the



higher realms of the cosmos. It implies that life mechanism is rooted to an incomprehensible eternal primal source, but for which no existence is possible. The trunk of that huge tree, with all its branches, twigs, and leaves, turned downward in perceptible domain represent the living world. Leaves dry up periodically making way for emergence of fresh leaves. Similarly, life cycle keeps running in succession. If ever you pluck the leaves, break a twig or branch of the tree, they will become lifeless. They remain live so long as they are a part of the main tree.

Even modern science carries similar perception, as would the observation of an acclaimed Australian physicist, Paul Davies mean: "For a naïve realist, the world is a collection of objects. For a quantum physicist, it is an inseparable web of vibrating energy patterns, where no single component has a reality independent of the entirety, included in the entirety is the observer." If you look at the energy principles of creation, you may realise that all existences with name and form have come into being through play and interplay of energies sourced to the nature. Even a human being with solid body frame, when seen at the sub-

atomic level is nothing but a web of energy patterns. Here, I wish to add another scientifically established fact: Energy particles having a common source are in immediate and intimate connect with each other no matter how distant they are. And since the energies manifesting into the living world are all sourced to a 'Singularity', as both the Vedic and Scientific perception stand, all existences are interconnected at the energy level. The obvious implication is that if there is some disturbance at one end of the world, its resonance will be felt far and wide. No wonder, the coronavirus that erupted in Wuhan in China, has been mocking at the financial and scientific might of the so called modern world of today, with no end immediately in sight. The present pandemic has shown its repeat pattern after 100 years to remind us once again, that we need to remain conscious about our collective obligations even while pursuing our individualistic aspirational urges.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025  
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273  
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com