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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MAY 27, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



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PM takes stock of LAC stand-off

NSA, CDS, three military chiefs attend meeting to review situation post China's aggression

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the stand-off between India and China continues at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed the situation here with the top security brass, including National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and the three Services Chiefs.

The high-level meetings took place against the backdrop of the Chinese Army adopting an aggressive attitude at the LAC and bolstering substantially its troop strength besides intruding more than three kms into the Hot Springs area of Eastern Ladakh. It has also brought forward heavy vehicles like armoured personnel carriers while the Chinese helicopters have increased aerial surveillance along the LAC.

With the LAC now "hot" for nearly a month after the Chinese transgressions and four ongoing stand-offs, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh too took stock of the ongoing tension at the LAC earlier in the day with the defence top brass. The month-long flashpoints will also be on the top of the agenda of the two-day Army Commanders conference beginning here on Wednesday.

With China coming into the Hot Springs area and its soldiers pitching tents there besides deploying more than 5,000 troops at the four face-off

sites spread over a frontage of 20 to 30 km, the Prime Minister was also briefed about the steps taken by India to meet any challenge arising out of the sensitive situation at the border. The meeting between the Defence Minister and the CDS along with the three Chiefs lasted for more than an hour, sources said.

The issue of Indian and Chinese Armies coming to blows in two face-offs at Naku La, Sikkim and Pangong Tso, Ladakh as well as increased troops strength of China and the Army's operational readiness to face the situation will figure prominently during the Army Commanders meet. It comes at a time when at least six rounds of talks between the Brigadier-rank officers of Indian and Chinese Armies to resolve the confrontation have not yielded any positive results. Diplomatic efforts are also on to defuse the situation.

The Commanders' Conference is held twice a year and was postponed from its earlier scheduled dates in April due to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown. The second leg of the conclave will be held in the last week of June, officials said here on Tuesday.

The apex level leadership of Indian Army will brainstorm on current emerging security and administrative challenges and chart the future course for Indian Army. To ensure due diligence, decisions are taken through collegiate system comprising Army commanders and



senior officers.

During the first phase, which will be organised at South Block, various aspects pertaining to operational and administrative issues, including studies pertaining to logistics and human resources, will be discussed, they said.

As regards the LAC, even though the focus is on Eastern Ladakh due to ongoing face-offs, the Indian forces have also started reinforcing its positions in borders of Uttarakhand which face China besides some parts of Himachal Pradesh too as a precautionary measure, sources said.

On Ladakh, they said the Indian defence forces are fully geared to increase the troops strength besides heavy weaponry in case of any emergency. All the advanced landing grounds like Daulat Beg Oldie and others in Ladakh region are ready to accommodate extra workload of landings and take offs of heavy transport planes carrying soldiers and weapons,

they added.

Moreover, the Indian Army has enhanced vigil on the 250-km long strategic road in the Galwan valley where one of the stand-offs is now on. The Chinese Army is protesting against the construction of a bridge on this road running parallel to the LAC. The road provides vastly improved connectivity to the Indian forces for mobilisation, sources said, adding the road is well within the Indian region. The two armies had fought a battle in the Galwan valley during the 1962 war.

Meanwhile, the Defence Minister also reviewed the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the Shekatkar Committee report. The Lt General DB Shekatkar (Retired) committee had made a series of recommendations to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces.

Singh also held a telephonic conversation with his

HOT LAC

- China intruded the Hot Springs area and its soldiers pitching tents there
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- The month-long flashpoints will also be on the top of the agenda of the two-day Army Commanders conference beginning here on Wednesday

Australian counterpart Linda Reynolds during which they discussed areas of mutual cooperation in the global fight against the Covid pandemic. Singh also informed Reynolds on India's contribution to international efforts against the coronavirus pandemic.

"They also agreed that India-Australia Strategic Partnership provides a good basis for both countries to work together along with other countries in this regard to deal with the post Covid-19 related challenges," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Xi to PLA: Scale up battle preparedness

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday ordered the military to scale up the battle preparedness, visualising the worst-case scenarios and asked them to resolutely defend the country's sovereignty.

Xi made the remarks while attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and People's Armed Police Force during the current parliament session being held here.

Xi ordered the military to think about worst-case scenarios, scale up training and battle preparedness, promptly

and effectively deal with all sorts of complex situations and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, without mentioning any specific issues that posed a threat to the country.

His comments came in the backdrop of the continuing standoff between the militaries of India and China at the LAC. The US-China military frictions were also on the rise with the US navy stepping its patrols in the disputed South China Sea as well as the Taiwan Straits.

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India to stick to HCQ guns

Drug to be used under strict care despite WHO's safety concerns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the WHO suspended clinical trial of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) on Covid-19 patients citing safety concerns, India on Tuesday said it will continue using the drug as preventive care for its healthcare and frontline workers under strict medical supervision.

Dr Balram Bhargava, the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said the drug was recommended initially in March based on in-vitro studies which showed it had antiviral properties. "There have been observational studies and case control studies that have not shown many side-effects due to the use of HCQ."

"We thought it might be useful drug for prevention of Covid-19 and taking the biological plausibility, the in-vitro data, and taking the availability and safety of this drug, we recommended it as empiric use under strict medical supervision," Bhargava said at a presser here.

"During the weeks since it was recommended, we got some data (on HCQ) which showed there is no harm, but



benefit may be there," he said. "They were mainly observational studies in different cohorts done at AIIMS and case control study at ICMR and studies were also done at three Delhi public hospitals. We found that it may be working and there were no major side effects, except nausea, vomiting and some palpitations occasionally. We have clearly said it should be continued for prophylaxis," he said.

The ICMR DG said the Government's latest advisory regarding expanding the use of HCQ to frontline workers such as paramilitary and police personnel is based on "risk-benefit analysis".

"We should not deny this to our healthcare workers and frontline workers who are dealing with virus-hit patients. At the same time, we have also said they should follow medical recommendations like not eating in empty stomach and that PPE use must be continued. Our study on HCQ will be published soon," Bhargava said.

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Yogi draws flak for directing States to seek job offer nod

Trade unions plan nationwide stir, Opp raps UP CM

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The migrant issue took a political turn on Tuesday with Congress, Left, Samajwadi Party as well several trade unions and labour front organisations criticising Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for decreeing that States will have to take his Government's permission before employing workers from Uttar Pradesh.

Calling this is an "absurd" and unconstitutional "move which encroaches on the right to individual to earn his livelihood wherever he wants within the country, they said the CM's move was an attempt to divert attention from the plight of the migrant workers.



Except for the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), top labour union such as the INTUC, AITUC, CITU and other outfits are coordinating to launch a countrywide protest and move the court against the proposed decision.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi termed Yogi's remark as "unfortunate."

"I think it's unfortunate. I think people are first Indian and then they belong to their States. The decision on whether somebody goes to work from Uttar Pradesh to the rest of the

country is not the Chief Minister's. It is of the people of India and the people of Uttar Pradesh," Rahul said at a video Press conference.

"If a citizen of Uttar Pradesh wants to go and fulfil his dreams in Maharashtra or in Delhi or in Karnataka or anywhere else, he should have the right to do so," he said.

"It is very unfortunate that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh views India in such a way. These people are not his personal property. They are not the personal property of Uttar Pradesh. These people are Indian citizens and they have the right to decide what they want to do and they have the right to live the life they want to live," he added.

Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar in a series of tweets also attacked Yogi Adityanath saying UP was not the private property of his Government.

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Wary of migrants carrying Covid, Centre asks States to ramp up preparations

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

After it allowed millions of migrant workers to cross the borders to reach their native villages, Union Health Ministry has now woken up to the Covid-19 shadow looming over their home States — particularly big five — UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Anticipating huge surge in these regions, the Centre has asked the State Governments to mobilise all resources like setting up temporary health sub centres in the existing buildings, rope in volunteers from various streams and enhance incentives to ASHA and ANM workers to identify the symptomatic cases to check the spread of infections.

To keep up with the increasing demand, the Indian Council of Medical Research



A railway employee refills water bottles of migrants in a train at Jabalpur on Tuesday PTI

(ICMR) too has ramped up its testing facilities and capacities.

From a few thousands in the beginning, India is now testing up to 1.1 lakh samples in a day, according to Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR

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Maha leads but slows down by 1K cases, so does nation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra on Tuesday reported 2,091 fresh cases, nearly 1,000 less than two days ago and third day of back-to-back decline in the number, giving some respite to the highly strung health workers and officials as the total number of cases in India climbed to 1,50,762 and 4,344 deaths on Tuesday. The day saw as many 170 deaths and the number of fresh

cases stood at 5,812, far less than 7,000-plus spike in cases the country two days ago.

At this rate of increase, India is likely to overtake Turkey too, in a day or two if the current pace remains. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Gujarat have reported the highest number of cases in the last 24 hours on Tuesday.

Maharashtra reported 2,091 fresh cases and 97 deaths in the last 24 hours. The State continued to be on top in the

list of coronavirus cases in the country, taking the total number of cases in the State to 54,758 and deaths to 1,792. Mumbai city alone accounted for 39 deaths. The worst-hit Thane division, which includes Mumbai and surrounding satellite towns, has reported 41,886 cases and 1,226 deaths. Mumbai has reported 1,002 new cases taking the total number of cases in the city to 32,791 and 1,065 deaths.

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STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	54,758	1,792	16,954
Tamil Nadu	17,728	128	9,342
Gujarat	14,829	915	6,678
Delhi	14,465	288	6,954
Rajasthan	7,536	170	4,276
Madhya Pradesh	7,024	305	3,689
Uttar Pradesh	6,724	177	3,824
West Bengal	4,009	283	1,486
Andhra Pradesh	2,983	57	2,017
Bihar	2,968	14	800

Covid-19
 TOTAL CASES: 1,50,762
 DEATHS: 4,344
 RECOVERED: 64,272

Lockdown failed to yield results: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday slammed the Modi Government's decision to continue with the nationwide lockdown and the strategy of handling the coronavirus crisis. Rahul said the nationwide lockdown in India has failed as the coronavirus cases have spiked in this period.

"The lockdown in India has failed. Four stages of lockdown have not given the result that the Prime Minister expected," Rahul said at a live press conference through his Twitter account.

He also slammed the Modi Government's strategies of relaxing the lockdown and said, "India is the only country in world which is removing lockdown when the virus is exponentially rising."

"PM and his entire advisory staff claimed coronavirus cases will come down, but this



has not happened," said Rahul Gandhi. "I want to ask PM Modi, what is the strategy of the Government," Rahul said, adding, "They are thinking about curbing the disease, supporting migrants and supporting MSMEs."

"Now that the lockdown has failed, we need to know the Government's strategy on the next step. The Centre must divulge its Plan B," Rahul Gandhi said.

"Congress is running some States. We are giving direct cash to the poor to help them survive in this crisis. We are not getting the Central Government's support," he said.

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BJP slams Rahul for 'lies', says lockdown halted Covid spread

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Denouncing Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi for "double-faced politics" and "telling lies" over coronavirus situation, BJP on Tuesday claimed success in containing the pandemic in the country saying the Modi-Government has brought down the doubling rate of the Covid-19 positive cases and brought it to 12-13 days after March 25 lockdown when the two-fold rise was taking place in two to three days.

The BJP said its Government has provided much more economic package than the former Congress President is demanding from the Government.

Senior BJP leader and information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar accused Rahul of telling "lies" and not knowing "facts" on economic package granted by



the Centre to the poor following the country-wide lockdown on March 25. He said 80 crore people were receiving 25 kg wheat and five kg 'dal' for five months and 10 crore labourers receiving 10 kg grain and two kg 'dal' for free for five months.

He also maintained that 20 crore women have received ₹500 per month and already ₹1,500 deposited in the accounts.

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Traffic snarl in Delhi as Gzb seals border

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the Ghaziabad district administration sealing its border with the National Capital again on May 26 amid coronavirus spread, commuters were stuck in heavy traffic at the Ghaziabad border.

Hundreds of people were stuck in the traffic jam at the border even as the police deployed at the check-post stopped vehicles to check e-passes before allowing anyone to pass, which slowed down the vehicular movement.

Both sides of the district near Ghazipur mandi that connects Delhi with Ghaziabad on National Highway 24 witness long traffic jam.

"In Ghaziabad district, there is an increase in the number of coronavirus cases in the last few days. A large chunk of these cases are linked to those who travel between Delhi and Ghaziabad," the district



A police constable stops commuters to cross into Ghaziabad from Delhi on Tuesday PTI

administration in an order on Monday had said.

"The district administration has decided to seal the Delhi-Ghaziabad border until further orders on the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer," the order

read.

The administration said the people employed in essential services will be allowed. Doctors, paramedical staff, police, media personnel and bank employees will not need passes.

Provide free food, shelter to migrant workers, SC asks Centre, States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking cognizance of the "unfortunate and miserable" plight of the migrant labourers stranded across the country due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the Supreme Court Tuesday said they need "succour and help by the concerned governments" with regard to free food and shelter.

"The adequate transport arrangement, food and shelters are immediately to be provided by the Centre and State Governments free of costs," the top court said.

Referring to various media reports showing the "unfortunate and miserable conditions" of migrant labourers walking on foot and riding cycles from long distances, the top court issued notices to the Centre, States and Union Territories and sought their replies by May 28.

Continued on Page 2

SC refuses plea linking Aadhaar-social media a/c

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea challenging a Delhi High Court order in which it had declined to direct linking of social media accounts with Aadhaar, PAN or voter ID card for weeding out fake accounts.

A Bench headed by Justice L. Nagarwala, however granted liberty to lawyer and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay to implead himself as a party in the transfer petition moved by the Centre in the apex court.

The lawyer, who argued the case through video-conferencing, said that the Centre had earlier sought transfer of similar cases from some High Courts to the apex court.

"We see no reason to interfere with the impugned order of the High Court. The Special

The Delhi High Court had earlier declined to order linking of social media accounts with Aadhaar, PAN or voter ID card for weeding out fake accounts

Leave Petition is, accordingly, dismissed. However, liberty is granted to the petitioner (Upadhyay) to file impleadment application in Transfer Case...," said the bench which also comprised Justices Krishna Murari and S Ravindra Bhat. The Delhi High Court had earlier declined to order linking of social media accounts with Aadhaar, PAN or voter ID card for weeding out fake accounts, saying it would lead to data of genuine account holders, who are much more in number, going "unnecessarily" to foreign countries.

It had said that linking of accounts with social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp, with Aadhaar, PAN or any other identity document requires framing of policies or amendment in existing laws by the Central Government and this exercise cannot be done by the court.

Upadhyay, in the plea, has said that 20 per cent of the social media accounts were "fake, ghost or duplicate".

The plea said something has to be done as anyone can create a fake account on social media of any person, including the judges, and through that medium wrong or controversial information can be spread.

He had also alleged in his petition that fake social media accounts are used to propagate "fake and paid news" during elections.

Hisar hottest in Punjab at 48° C as heatwave intensifies

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

A severe heatwave swept Haryana, Punjab and their joint capital, Chandigarh, on Tuesday, with Hisar being the hottest place in the region at 48 degrees Celsius.

Hisar in Haryana recorded its hottest day of the current summer so far, with the maximum temperature settling five notches above normal limits, the Meteorological Department here said.

Blistering heat also swept Narnaul at 46 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal limits. Among other places in Haryana, Ambala sizzled at 44.2 degrees Celsius, up five notches, while Karnal sweltered under intense heat at 44 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal limits.

Sweltering heat also swept Patiala in Punjab which record-

According to the MeT department forecast, the heat wave conditions will continue to prevail for the next two days in Punjab and Haryana.

ed a high of 44.7 degrees Celsius, up four notches.

Amritsar and Ludhiana also recorded above normal maximums of 43.7 degrees Celsius and 44.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, also experienced a hot day at 43.1 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal limits.

According to the MeT department forecast, the heat wave conditions will continue to prevail for the next two days in Punjab and Haryana.

Majority of Indians skeptical about travelling in next 30 days: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Majority of Indians surveyed are skeptical about travelling in the next 30 days despite the government opening flight services as the number of coronavirus cases now averaging at around 7,000 per day in the country.

The Government on May 25 permitted the resumption of limited flight services by implementing a model in which the airport and the operating airlines will follow a set of precautions and observe social distancing norms.

However, only 21 per cent respondents said one or more members of their household will likely be taking a flight within the next 30 days, according to a survey by community social media platform LocalCircles.

The survey revealed that only 10 per cent said they have booked tickets and will travel soon while 11 per cent

The Government on May 25 permitted the resumption of limited flight services by implementing a model in which the airport and the operating airlines will follow a set of precautions and observe social distancing norms

said they have not made the bookings yet but will make it soon.

A maximum 76 per cent said they do not have any plans to travel currently, it added.

LocalCircles conducted the survey with over 16,000 respondents from over 212 districts across India, in which 71 per cent were men while 29 per cent were women, 49 per cent respondents were from tier I, 34 per cent from tier II and 17 per cent respondents were from tier III, IV and rural districts.

Meanwhile, the government had also announced recently on running 200 special trains from June 1, which will be in addition to 30 air-conditioned trains that are already running since mid-May.

About 88 per cent said they have no plans to travel while only 4 per cent said they have already booked tickets and will travel soon.

A small 6 per cent also said that they will be booking their tickets soon indicating that one or more members of only 10 per cent households will likely be taking a train in June, the survey pointed out.

Most of those who are travelling by flights are primarily the ones who were stranded due to sudden lockdown on March 25 or individuals on temporary assignment or studies in different cities and going back home or those wanting to visit aged or unwell family members or be with them, it added.

Wary of migrants carrying Covid...

From Page 1

The country is already battling with mounting number of Covid-19 cases being reported from dense urban clusters like Dharaivi in Mumbai, Pune, Surat and Ahmedabad, and a market in Chennai in Tamil Nadu, and parts of Delhi. However, now with exodus of workers from these areas to their home States, the Centre fears major surge in Covid-19 cases from these regions. For instance, with close to 3,000 cases now, more than half of which has been discovered in just last one week, Bihar is fast developing into the next troubled State. Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have already touched over 6,000 mark. Odisha has seen a major spurt this month with its cases going from 143 on May 1 to 1,517 till date. The Ministry has also advised these States to station Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) at quarantine centres. In a review meeting with the senior officials

from these States, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan, said temporary sub-health centres can be set up in existing buildings and additional frontline workers such as Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) teams can be utilised. The Ministry has also advised that the link with Ayushman Bharat — Health and Wellness Centres — needs to be established so that immediate health check-ups can be arranged and tele-medicine services can be rolled out from these centres. "To meet with the surge among incoming migrant workers, ASHAs and ANMs can be given additional incentives. Pay special attention to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, under-5-year children, elderly, those with comorbidity and also mobilise the Anganwadi workforce in the districts. The nutrition needs have to be checked among children under the age of five," said Sudan. She also stressed that immediate measures need to be taken to continue essential health programmes for TB, leprosy and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

Yogi draws...

From Page 1

"UP CM Yogi Adityanath's move to restrict hiring people of UP is unconstitutional & goes against the right to freedom of movement. Mr Yogi, please note that UP is not the private property of your Govt. The people of UP don't need your Govt's permission to work anywhere in India," Shivakumar tweeted.

Party spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary also slammed the Yogi Government for proposing such measures to tie the hands of the migrant workers. "This proposed move is 'absurd' and 'unconstitutional'." The workers are not going abroad that they need to inform the State Government. Within the country they can go anywhere and seek employment anywhere. What the Chief Minister is proposing is "absurd and 'unconstitutional,'" he said. A senior functionary at INTUC said a proposed

protest against Yogi has been deferred due to the death of senior trade unionist leader Rajendra Singh last week in Jharkhand.

RSS-backed Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) has, however, declined to be part of the protest.

"We are taking legal options to counter this. It will not be in the interest of labour work force who migrate for bread and butter," INTUC national secretary Rajiv Arora said. National secretary of CPI, D Raja termed the Yogi's statement as highly deplorable and sought his apology.

"As already Covid scare is prevailing in the country and worldwide, the new system of domestic visa for employment will create more chaos and harm the social fabric of the nation. We will protest tooth and nail until he withdraws his comment and apologise," Raja told *The Pioneer*.

The Patna-based Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) chairperson Pushpendra said that the Yogi's statement shows that he wants control labour.

King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow E-Tender Inviting Notice

Notice No.: 07/MS/TC/e-tender2020 Dated : 26/05/2020 Online e-bids are invited latest by 25-06-2020 under two e-bid system for Supply of Medical Gases (Oxygen, Nitrous Oxide, Nitrogen, CO2) in King George Medical University Lucknow. The details of the tender can be viewed at www.kgmu.org. Tender will be available on e-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/>. (Medical Superintendent)

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि., ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुमति "क" श्रेणी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल, ग्रेटर नोएडा के अन्तर्गत निम्न सामग्री/कार्य हेतु ई-निविदाई ई-पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर दो भागों में निविदा खोलने की दिनांक को 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसका प्रथम भाग उसी दिन क्रमशः 03.00/03.15/03.30/03.40 बजे (यदि अवकाश/अन्य कारण हो तो अगले कार्य दिवस में) खोला जायेगा। निविदाई निविदा शुल्क आरटीसी/एनईएफ/एनडीए/एनडीएस/बैंक गारंटी के माध्यम से (निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि प्रयुक्त-प्रयुक्त हस्ताक्षरित की जानी है) अधिशासी अभियंता, विद्युत 400 केंद्रीय उपकेंद्र खांब, ग्रेटर नोएडा के पत्र में पंजाब नेशनल बैंक की आई.सी.डी., तिलवा, दादरी (गीतम बुद्ध नगर), उपरोक्त शाखा में संचालित चार्ज बूक खाता संख्या 0109012100007056 (IFSC Code PUNB0466300) में जमा कराया जायेगा। के प्रथम भाग में आरटीसी/एनईएफ/एनडीए/एनडीएस द्वारा काम किये गये निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि की पे-इन-स्विप, यथा योज्य युद्धोपकरण संस्था की प्रति, निविदा प्रपत्र, पैनाकार्ड, जीएनएफ/एनईएफ/एनडीए/एनडीएस रिटर्न की स्वयं प्रमाणीत छायाप्रति, तकनीकी अनुभव यथा 'क' श्रेणी अद्यतन (विद्युत सुरक्षा उपकरण द्वारा प्रदत्त), ई-निविदाई, ई-निविदाई, बीमा सम्बन्धी प्रपत्र (जोकि अनिवार्य है) इत्यादि ई-पोर्टल पर स्कैंड प्रतियों (PDF format) तथा ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में दर्द एवं वाणिज्यक नियम व शर्त ई-पोर्टल पर अपलोड की जायेगी। निविदा की वेबसाइट खोलने की तिथि से 90 दिन होगी। 1. निविदा संख्या टी-40 / 2020-21 : विद्युत पारेषण खांब, बुलन्दशहर के अन्तर्गत 220 केंद्रीय उपकेंद्र, सिकन्दराबाद पर एएवीसी की सर्विसिंग, रिपेयरिंग एवं ओवरहॉलिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 2,000/- (रु दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु 590/- (रु ससित)। खुलने की दिनांक 22.06.2020, 2. निविदा संख्या टी-41/2020-21 : विद्युत 400 केंद्रीय उपकेंद्र, ग्रेटर नोएडा के अन्तर्गत विद्युत 400 केंद्रीय उपकेंद्र, ग्रेटर नोएडा पर 400/220 केंद्रीय रिचार्जार्ड में स्थापित क्यूबिकल/ऑपरेटिंग बॉक्स पर पेंटिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 2000/- (रु दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु 590/- (रु ससित)। खुलने की दिनांक

Xi to PLA: Scale up battle preparedness

From Page 1

Washington and Beijing are also engaged in a war of words over the origin of the coronavirus pandemic.

In his meeting with a PLA delegation on Tuesday, he stressed on achieving the targets and missions of strengthening the national defence and

armed forces for 2020, while maintaining effective epidemic control on a regular basis. He listened to speeches by the military deputies on fulfilling epidemic control tasks, strengthening training amid the epidemic, and accelerating capacity building on biosecurity defence, among others.

Xi has been stressing on the troops battle preparedness ever since he came to power in 2012 insisting on real time exercises to win wars

Maha leads...

From Page 1

Out of 97, 35 deaths took place in the last two days while remaining 62 had taken place between April 17 and May 23.

The second worst-hit area is Pune city where cases increased to 5,602 and death toll to 268. The number of cases and deaths in Pune division was 7,320 and 336, respectively. The Nashik division has 1,684 cases and reported 106 deaths.

Tamil Nadu recorded 646 new cases, taking the total number of positive cases in the State to 17,728. Nine deaths have been reported in the State on Tuesday. With 510 new cases, Chennai continued to top list in the State, taking the total number of cases to 11,641. Of the 9 deaths, 7 occurred in Chennai. After Chennai, Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu are the other hotspots, reported 25 and 23 new cases respectively.

India to stick...

From Page 1

The ICMR had first recommended use of the anti-malarial drug in March and expanded its use last week. A large observational study published in *The Lancet* on patients in six continents concluded the drug could also have a harmful affect by way of

As per the data of the Ministry of Health and family welfare, India's recovery rate is steadily improving from 7.1 per cent in March to 41.6 per cent so far. The fatality rate has reduced from 3.3 per cent to 2.87 per cent so far.

Delhi reported 412 new cases in the last 24 hours, taking the city's total tally to 14,465. New cases in the national Capital were under 500 after one week, with the highest number of 660 recorded on May 22. It has reported 12 more deaths, taking the toll due to the viral infection in the city to 288. The average positivity rate over the past week has been 11.5 per cent, with the highest of 13.8 per cent recorded on Monday.

In the last 24 hours, 361 new cases have been reported in Gujarat; taking the total number cases to 14,829. Death toll rises to 915 after 27 deaths were reported in last 24 hours. Ahmedabad reported 251 new cases and 23 deaths, taking the total number of cases 10,841 and fatalities 745.

Uttar Pradesh has reported 229 new cases in the last 24

hours, taking the total number of cases to 6,724. The total deaths toll stands at 177.

With 193 new cases, the number of Covid-19 cases in West Bengal crossed the 4,000-mark on Tuesday. Kolkata has reported 58 cases in the last 24 hours while 24 cases reported from North 24 Paraganas. Howrah has reported 21 fresh cases. As many as 176 new cases were reported in Rajasthan, taking the total number of cases to 7,476. One death was reported in the past 24 hours taking the death toll to 168. Sirohi reported 27 new cases while Udaipur 24. Jaipur has reported 21 new cases in the last 24 hours.

With 165 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, Madhya Pradesh's coronavirus tally has crossed 7,024. Indore has reported 39 cases, Bhopal 32, Ujjain 26, Burhapur 15 and Gwalior 10.

With detection of 133 fresh cases, the total number of people infected from coronavirus have increased to 2,870 in Bihar so far. In Khagaria, 23 sample tested positive followed by Kishangarh with 17, Banka 15, Bhagalpur 14, Darbhanga

and Saharsa 12 each, Supaul 8 and Sheikhpura 7.

A total of 101 new cases have been reported in Karnataka, taking the total number of infections in the State to 2,283. With 44 deaths and 722 discharges, there are 1,514 active coronavirus cases. Out of the 101 new cases, 47 are returnees from neighbouring Maharashtra, 21 from Tamil Nadu, 13 from Jharkhand and one from Gujarat, while four have travelled from Qatar.

Andhra Pradesh has witnessed one more death and 97 fresh cases of coronavirus in a single day. More than half of the fresh cases are of returnees from the Gulf countries. While 44 cases are of persons who returned from Kuwait, three are of Abu Dhabi, UAE and two are of Qatar.

The State tally has gone up to 2,983 and there are 97 active cases. Kerala reported 67 new covid-19 cases, its biggest spike in a day, taking the total number of cases to 963. Seven deaths occurred so far.

Lockdown failed...

From Page 1

"Now it's becoming difficult to run the Government without support. Congress Governments are supporting farmers, migrants, we are giving cash, but our States are not getting support from the Centre," he said. He sought to distance himself from reports suggesting a rift within the ruling coalition in Maharashtra for its "poor handling" of pandemic in the state.

"I would like to make a differentiation here. We are supporting the Government in Maharashtra, but we are not the key decision maker in Maharashtra," he said in response to a question on the coronavirus crisis in the State. Congress is a partner in the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition in the state with NCP being the other constituent of the

Government. "We are decision makers in Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Puducherry. There is a difference between running the Government and supporting it," he added.

"I said very categorically that Maharashtra is an important State, Mumbai is the financial capital and there is a lot of attention, they have a difficult situation and lots of attention needs to be given to the state by the Centre," the former Congress chief said.

BJP slams Rahul...

From Page 1

The Minister reeled off more figures of aid to poor to say that the Modi-Government has provided many times more economic help to poor than ₹7,500 monthly sought by the Congress leader at his press conference during the day. The senior BJP Minister said Congress policy is "negative and the party is cut off from the people and the ground reality". The Minister said in the global pandemic situation nation should be speaking in one voice. The BJP leader said the Government has been successful in containing the pandemic in the country as it has many doubling brought down the doubling rate of pandemic growth. Javadekar said he wants to tell Rahul that when the lockdown was announced the

rate of positive cases were "doubling within two to three days" but now this is happening "in 12 to 13 days", he said adding "yeh, desh ki safalta hai". Javadekar claimed that USA, Brazil, Italy, Britain, France and even China suffered more damage than India did on account of the pandemic. "Therefore Indian lockdown was a 'success' and was being highly appreciated all over the world, he said. He said while world is praising steps taken by the Government, Congress is "habitually opposing them" and this reflects "double-standards" of the Congress, he said. Referring to Rahul's comments, the Union Minister asked why Congress leader was not taking steps to help them in the Congress-ruled States.

Provide free food, shelter to migrant ...

From Page 1

A Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MR Shah said, "This Court has also received several letters and representations from different sections of society highlighting the problem of migrant labourers. The crises of migrant labourers are even continuing today with large sections still stranded on roads, highways, railway stations and State borders."

It said, "We take suo motu cognizance of problems and miseries of migrant labourers who had been stranded in different parts of the country. The newspaper reports and the media reports have been continuously showing the unfor-

tunate and miserable conditions of migrant labourers walking on-foot and cycles from long distances."

The top court added that "in the present situation of lockdown in the entire country, this section of the society (migrant labourers) needs succour and help by the concerned Governments especially steps need to be taken by the Government of India, State Governments/ Union Territories in this difficult situation to extend helping hand to these migrant labourers."

It said the migrant labourers have also been complaining of not being provided food and water by the administration at places where they were stranded or in the way that is highways from which they preceded on-foot, cycles or other modes of transport.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

1] Date: 21.05.2020. E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: a) Tender No. EL/CON/412. b) Name of the work: Electrical estimate for providing new toilet and bathroom for the outhouse in Chittaranjan. c) Tender Value Rs.: Rs. ₹2,67,280/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty only). d) Cost of tender Document Rs.: Rs. ₹1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand only). e) Earnest Money Rs.: Rs. ₹5,300/- (Rupees Five Thousand Three Hundred only). f) Period of completion (In Months): 06 (Six) Months. g) Date of closing: 22.06.2020 at 11:00hrs. Note: Complete details can be seen in the Railways website: www.ireps.gov.in. and www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in.

2] Date: 22.05.2020. E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: a) Tender No.EL/CON/413. b) Name of the work: Electrical estimate for construction of logistic hub near T.O. gate for halting in and out transport vehicles connection with the workshop including electrical work. c) Tender Value Rs.: Rs. ₹4,27,817/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen only) d) Cost of tender Document Rs.: Rs. ₹1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand only). e) Earnest Money Rs.: Rs. ₹8,600/- (Rupees Eight Thousand Six Hundred only). f) Period of completion (In Months): 06 (Six) Months. g) Date of closing: 23.06.2020 at 11:00hrs. Note: Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. and www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in.

3] Date: 22.05.2020. E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: a) Tender No. EL/CON/414. b) Name of the work: Rewriting of D.V Boys, D.V Girls, English Medium School & Basanti Institute. c) Tender Value Rs.: Rs. ₹22,07,012/- (Rupees Twenty two lakhs seven thousand twelve only). d) Cost of tender Document Rs.: Rs. ₹300/- (Rupees Three Thousand only). e) Earnest Money Rs.: Rs. ₹44,100/- (Rupees Forty four thousand one hundred only). f) Period of completion (In Months): 06 (Six) Months. g) Date of closing: 24.06.2020 at 11:00 hrs. Note: Complete details can be seen in the Railways website: www.ireps.gov.in. and www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in.

4] Date: 22.05.2020. E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: a) Tender No. EL/CON/418. b) Name of the work: Rewriting of D.V Boys, D.V Girls, English Medium School & Basanti Institute. c) Tender Value Rs.: Rs. ₹22,07,012/- (Rupees Twenty two lakhs seven thousand twelve only). d) Cost of tender Document Rs.: Rs. ₹300/- (Rupees Three Thousand only). e) Earnest Money Rs.: Rs. ₹44,100/- (Rupees Forty four thousand one hundred only). f) Period of completion (In Months): 06 (Six) Months. g) Date of closing: 24.06.2020 at 11:00 hrs. Note: Complete details can be seen in the Railways website: www.ireps.gov.in. and www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (M)
Siddh - 027
Link us on: www.facebook.com/clwraillways

BHOPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

An Organization under the control of Urban Development & Housing Department Govt of Madhya Pradesh

NO 538/E.E-7/e-tender/BDA/2020 BHOPAL, Date 26/05/2020

Notice Inviting e-Tenders

On-line percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from Contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration & eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document.

S. No.	Portal Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amounts of Contract (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (excluding portal fees) (Rs.)	Period of Completion i/c rainy season
1.	2020 DTCP 90878	Construction & Renovation Work of various Colleges of 'District-Raisen' as enlisted in tender document and selected for the World Bank Grant Supported MPHEQIP under RUSA	10.10 Crores (Approx)	45,000/-	06 months
2.	2020 DTCP 90879	Construction & Renovation Work of various Colleges situated at District-Vidisha' as enlisted in tender document and selected for the World Bank Grant Supported MPHEQIP under RUSA	12.20 Crores (Approx)	45,000/-	06 months
3.	2020 DTCP 90880	Construction & Renovation Work of various Colleges situated at 'Berasia & Ashia' as enlisted in tender document and selected for the World Bank Grant Supported MPHEQIP under RUSA	6.44 Crores (Approx)	45,000/-	06 months

(1) The detailed NIT and all other details relating to the Bid Document can be viewed on the website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> (2). The Bid Document can be purchased & deposit after making on-line payment of portal fees and cost of Bid Document through Credit Card/Debit Card/Cash Card or Internet Banking system at aforesaid website from 30.05.2020 up to 08.06.2020 at 17:30 up to 31.05.2020. Other key dates may be seen in bid data sheet. (3) Amendments to the NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper. (4) Any relevant information can be obtained from office of the undersigned during the office working hours & days.

Nodal Officer (RUSA) & Executive Engineer
Division No 7
Bhopal Development Authority

2.7 L migrants sent home in 196 trains: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government sent 2,71,169 migrant workers to their hometowns in Special Shramik trains. Interacting digitally, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said Government is taking up all necessary steps to send migrants workers back to their hometowns.

"Delhi Government is also bearing the travel costs of the migrant workers," Manish Sisodia said.

According to Delhi government, 196 Special Shramik trains have carried 2,41,169 people (migrant workers) back to their hometowns till May 25.

"Out of these, 93 trains carried 1.25 lakh migrant workers to various districts of Bihar and 84 trains carried 96,000 migrant workers to Uttar Pradesh," Sisodia said.

On Tuesday, another 18 trains carried 30,000 migrants, for states (primarily Bihar and UP) across the country.

Talking about the strict procedure being followed by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in preparing lists of people fit enough to travel, Sisodia said, "People are being screened at their nearby schools. Their body temperature is being checked and lists are prepared of those people not showing any symptoms of COVID 19. Food and snacks are being provided to those who are travelling."

He also appealed to the people to have faith in the efforts of the Delhi



Government and highlighted how Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is keeping a keen eye

on the migrants' data and requesting other states to allow trains to carry those who want

to return to their hometowns. "As I have already said, everyone in Delhi will be treat-

ed as a citizen of Delhi. And we would take care of their food and shelter requirements. 2500 camps have been set up in schools all over Delhi to provide meals to 10 lakh people almost everyday (lunch and dinner). Almost 70 lakh people under PDS category have been provided ration. And 38 lakh under non PDS have been provided ration via e-tokens," he added.

Taking stock of the last night's fire that broke out at a JJ colony in Tughlakabad, Delhi which affected almost 500 families, the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi informed that Delhi Government will provide a monetary compensation of Rs 25,000 to each family affected by the incident. "We are making arrangements to provide monetary relief of Rs 25,000 to the affected families as soon as possible," he said.

Work up health infra, remove bottlenecks: LG to Health Dept

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal directed officials of the health department to review the capacity building of medical infrastructure and remove bottlenecks immediately.

Bajjal advised for monitoring of containment zones on dynamic basis for focused action. He instructed concerned authorities to strictly follow guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) regarding home quarantine and discharge policy etc.

L-G also advised to inform people regularly through IEC activities for confidence building. He also stressed on IEC and surveillance measures to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Lieutenant Governor that trend of last 10-15 days should be analysed for future management.

Bajjal held a meeting to review situation of Covid-19 in Delhi with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Health Minister, Commissioner of Police and other senior officers.

At the outset, Secretary (Health) presented situational analysis of Covid-19 in Delhi, where it was informed that up to 25th May there are total 14,053 confirmed cases in Delhi out of which 6771 patients were recovered/ discharged/migrated. It was further informed that Case Fatality Rate in Delhi is 1.96 per cent in comparison to the national average of 2.57 per cent.

Bajjal was also informed about status of lab reporting (As per ICMR portal). It was apprised that as on 25th May

total 34 Labs are functional for Covid-19 test, total cumulative test done till dates are 174469 and positivity rate as on 25th May is 8.06 per cent

About Covid-19 logistics it was informed that adequate supply of medical essentials has been ensured and more ventilators are being procured. Bajjal was also informed about the status of dedicated Covid-19 hospitals and availability of beds in Delhi.

At present 4462 beds, 429 ICU, 343 ventilators and 2632 oxygen supported beds are available in the Covid-19 hospitals, 19 covid care centres (CCC) are functional in Delhi with capacity of 5716.

Health department had ordered 30,000 PPE kits (50,000 PPE in stock), 3.5 lakh N95 masks, 28 ventilators and 435 oxygen concentrator.

Secretary (Health) informed about the recent steps taken by Health Department to contain Covid-19 which includes augmenting bed capacity by 25% in private hospitals with more than 50 beds, 20% bed capacity earmarked for Covid in these private hospitals, purchase of oxygen concentrators, contacting the Covid Positive patients on the same day of the result, daily health monitoring of the Home Isolated Covid Positive patients and augmenting the isolation beds in Covid Care Centre.

During the meeting it was decided to provide real time information about availability of Covid-19 beds in hospital in public domain.

Bajjal also urged people to use Arogya Setu Mobile App for prevention and contact tracing and keep themselves safe from Covid-19.

3,274 Shramik trains run till May 25: Rly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has operationalised 3,274 "Shramik Special" trains till May 25 across the country and ferried more than 44 lakh passengers to their home states through "Shramik Special" trains in 25 days.

The railways have distributed more than 74 lakh free meals and more than one Crore water bottles to travelling migrants.



Subsequent to the Ministry of Home Affairs order regarding movement of migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places by special trains, Indian Railways had decided to operate "Shramik Special" trains from 1st May.

It may be noted that trains running today are not facing any congestion. In addition to Shramik specials, Railways are running 15 pairs of trains connecting New Delhi and plans to start 200 more time tabled trains on 1st June.

Hospitals to face music for denying treatment to Covid patients

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The District Magistrate on Monday issued an order stating that if any private hospital denies treatment to a Covid-19 patient then they will have to pay penalty as per the Epidemic Act (1897) without any prior notice.

The decision was taken after the district administration received complaints that some private facilities are refusing to treat patients with symptoms of coronavirus and other critical services which are grave negligence in times of such an epidemic," the order said.

All non-governmental hospitals and medical facilities situated in Gurugram received an order issued to this effect by the district magistrate of Gurugram on Monday.

The order was issued by the District Magistrate Amit Khatri and the order clearly states that "Private hospitals/nursing homes in the district Gurugram shall not refuse any patient approaching them for treatment of coronavirus infection and other critical services.

If any private hospital/nursing home refuses treatment to any such patient,

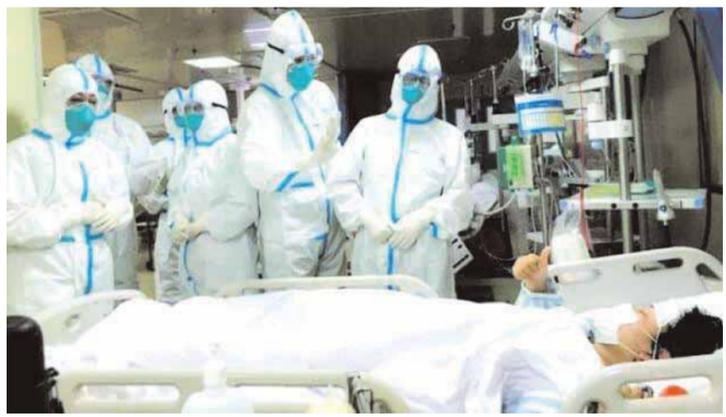
action will be initiated against them under the Epidemic Act (1897) without any prior notice" reads the order issued by district magistrate Amit Khatri.

The health officials said that in the absence of a written order for private hospitals, clinics and nursing homes, private hospitals and clinics were denying treatment to symptomatic patients.

"The order will hold them responsible in case they deny admission to any symptomatic patient requiring Covid-19 or any other critical healthcare treatment," an official said.

Meanwhile, the district administration has decided to upload the test results of the patients on Map Gurugram portal and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) website so that those who have submitted their samples for Covid-19 testing can access their reports online.

"All test reports will be uploaded on the portal and website, which can be accessed by entering the registered mobile number. It will be OTP-based restricting people from accessing any other patients report," a GMDA official said. Apart from this, the district



administration has changed rules again on allowing entry of people into the city, this time saying that those travelling to Gurugram from the airport or railway stations will not require movement passes.

The deputy commissioner issued an order stating passengers with a confirmed air or train e-ticket in their names will be allowed to travel from the airport or railway station to their home without a movement pass.

Besides this, As per latest reports, Gurugram has reported

317 COVID-19 cases including 33 new coronavirus

cases which includes 12 cops on Tuesday.

11 containment zones turns green

Capital still has 90 such active containment zones

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

As eleven Covid -19 containment zones have turned green in Delhi, the national Capital still has 90 'active' containment zones according to the Delhi Government. While 11 zones have been excluded of total Red Zones but corona cases have yet to start reducing. New cases are being reported

from new locations as on Tuesday 412 corona positive patients were identified during past 24 hours.

Delhi has lost 288 lives till date, due to corona virus however as per state health bulletin, 48 per cent of total corona patients have recovered. With the addition of new Covid -19 patients, Delhi is closer to 15000 mark. High percentage of recovery rate has warmed the cockles with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressing satisfaction.

The active cases reported in Delhi are 7223, only 2,092 cases are being treated at government and private hospitals.

591 cases are treated in Lok Nayak Hospital and 121 in Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, 522 in AIIMS (Delhi and Jhajjar) hospital while 23 patients are on the ventilator and 185 in ICU.

Around 3770 patients are in home isolation having mild symptoms. Delhi government has conducted 178579 cumulative testing of novel corona virus.

May 31 is approaching while cases and containment zones have increased in Delhi hence the Capital is in tight grip of the coronavirus spread.

Interestingly, with the efforts at community level and

by the health officials, civic agencies and state administration, densely populated regions have managed to control corona spread.

According to Delhi Government, Sangam Vihar and Deoli Extension in Saket, Khirki extension and Chirag Delhi's Jain Mohalla and the police colony in north district's Model Town police colony are few locations where people followed strict guidelines to curtail the spread. Health workers and government officials were constantly counseling patients and the people to adhere to the guidelines to stave off the deadly virus.

Staffer, 10 inmates of Rohini Prison recover from corona

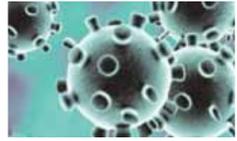
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Prison authorities on Tuesday said that one staff member and ten inmates of Rohini jail have recovered and tested negative for Covid-19.

Earlier, Head Warden of central jail number 10 in Rohini had tested positive for coronavirus on May 15.

"He was asymptomatic and had been kept in government quarantine facility in Sonapat. He has recovered and his test was conducted again in Sonapat which has come negative on Friday," said Sandeep Goel, the Director General, Prisons. "Doctors have recommended him seven day rest after which he will join his duties," he said.

"Kuldeep Singh Yadav was the first inmate to be detected positive on May 13. Nineteen inmates, who shared barrack with him, were also tested and



the results of 15 inmates came positive on May 15," said an official.

"One of those 15 inmates was shifted to LNJP hospital on May 19 due to some swelling in his feet. The rest 14 remained totally asymptomatic," the official said.

"The coronavirus test of the 14 inmates was again conducted on Monday Out of 14, 10 inmates recovered and have tested negative," said the official.

"Earlier, there were 16 inmates and four staff members tested positive. Out of them, 10 inmates and one staff member have been recovered," he added.

2 fire cases, no casualty; 1,000 jhuggis gutted

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In last 24 hours, two incidents of fire were reported in the National Capital. In first incident, over 1,000 shanties were gutted in fire, leaving hundreds of people homeless, after a massive fire broke out in the slums of South-East Delhi's Tughlakabad area late on Monday night.

According to Atul Garg, the Director, Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a total of 28 fire engines reached the spot as soon as a call regarding fire was received at around 12.50 am.

"All the occupants were rescued in time even as they were fast asleep. The fire was doused at around 3:40 am," said Garg.

Meanwhile, Rajendra Prasad Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South-East said that police

received information about a fire at around 1 am at slums in Tughlakabad.

"Police teams reached the spot immediately. It is being said that around 1,000-1,200 shanties had caught fire. Locals are saying most people came out of their shanties after a fire broke. The cooling process is underway and no casualty has been reported yet," said the DCP.

In another fire broke out in a shoe factory in northwest Delhi's Keshavpuram on Tuesday morning. Fire officials said that no casualty has been reported in the incident, the official said, adding that the cause behind the blaze is yet to be ascertained.

"A call about the fire was received at 8.34 am after which 23 fire tenders were rushed to the spot, said Garg.

Salesman held for killing wife

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 37-year-old salesman in national Capital for allegedly killing his wife. Police said that the accused killed his wife after he got frustrated with his marital life.

The accused has been identified as Sudhir, a resident of Anand Parbat. Police said that the accused has also lodged the false missing report of his wife.

According to Sanjay Bhatia, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district, on Saturday around 10 pm, Sudhir, his children and his relatives lodged the missing report

of his 33-year-old wife at Anand Parbat police station.

"During investigation, police got suspicious after analysing the call detail records of the complainant and his wife. He got interrogated where he confessed his crime. He said that he strangled his wife to death and dumped her body in Narela IFC jungle area," said the DCP.

"Thereafter, the body of the woman was recovered from Narela area in decomposed state. Interrogation revealed that the relation between the husband wife was not good and they used fight often over petty issues," said the DCP.

Heatwave grips Capital, mercury touches 46°C

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As heatwaves continued to persist, the national Capital on Tuesday recorded the maximum temperature at 46 degree Celsius, the highest for the month of May in 18 years. Delhi touched 46 degrees in May was in 2002.

According to Dr Rajender Jenamani, MeT scientist, Delhi (Palam) reported Country's, second highest Maximum temp with 47.6°C while Churu (Rajasthan) with 50°C, remains as the highest in the country.

"Heat wave at most places with severe heat wave prevailed over West Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, South Haryana, Delhi, south Uttar Pradesh, North Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha," said Dr Jenamani. "These conditions likely to continue till Wednesday, the 27 May and start receding from 28 May with major respite from 29 May."

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the heatwave condition will be at its peak on Tuesday over the plains of northwest India.

NIZAMUDDIN TABLIGHI CASE — 82 foreigners chargesheeted for attending Markaz event

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday submitted a status report and chargesheet before a city court about the investigation it has conducted so far into the event organised by the Tablighi Jamaat at its markaz (centre) in Delhi's Nizamuddin area in March.

In its chargesheet, the Delhi Police stated that 82 foreign nationals from 20 countries, who had attended Markaz at Nizamuddin had violated visa conditions by indulging in missionary activities illegally and violating Government guidelines, issued in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak in the country.

Police said that the foreign nationals violated government guidelines issued in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic and regulations regarding Epidemic Diseases Act, Disaster Management Act and prohibitory orders under section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure.

After being exposed to a large gathering in March amid the Covid-19 or coronavirus lockdown many members of Tablighi Jamaat from Markaz Hazrat Nizamuddin were taken out by the authorities and lodged in different quarantine centres in Delhi. Some of them were sent to the centres a few days later after being detained from various mosques.

According to police, these foreign nationals had entered India on tourist visa and had participated in the gathering at Markaz illegally.

Besides, violating the provisions of visa, these foreign nationals also led to a situation where a highly infectious disease Covid-19 infection spread and threatened the lives of the inmates and the general public at large.

The police also said that more than 900 foreign nationals who are accused in the case

belong to 34 different countries and charge sheets are being prepared country-wise, under sections of Foreigners Act, The Epidemic Diseases Act, Disaster Management Act and section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and 271 (Disobedience to quarantine rule) of the Indian Penal Code.

The punishment for various offences under penal provisions ranges from six months to eight years of imprisonment.

On March 31, Delhi Police's Crime Branch lodged an FIR against seven people, including Tablighi Jamaat



leader Maulana Saad Kandhalvi, on a complaint by Station House Officer Nizamuddin for holding a religious congregation here allegedly in violation of the lockdown orders and not maintaining social distancing to contain the spread of coron-

avirus. "After several attendees of the Tablighi Jamaat event succumbed to coronavirus, police added section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the FIR against the leader," said a police official.

2 constables sent to district lines for beating woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday sent two constables to district lines after a video of them thrashing a woman with a lathi surfaced online. Police said that Constables Sanjeev and Jaichand were posted at the Shastrji Park Police Station in northeast district.

A video of the incident also went viral on social media. In the video a woman identified as Munni Devi is being beaten up with stick by the policemen while her daughter Soni tried to shield her.

According to police, the incident which took place at 9 pm on Monday. "The constables were patrolling the area when they received information about some people raising unauthorised shanties on government land near Bihari building in northeast Delhi," said police.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

CRPF medical wing has 43% vacancy

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The medical wing of the CRPF, with a sanctioned strength of 3,083 personnel, has a vacancy of 43 per cent. This is when the sanctioned strength is already a little below just one per cent of the 3.25-lakh-strong CRPF.

The figure of one per cent medical/paramedical staff in the CRPF is already on the lower side in a Force which is continuously deployed across various theatres and there is a vacancy of 43 per cent of the medical and paramedical staff, officials said.

The details relating to the vacancy position in the medical ranks was shared by the Director (Medical) during a review meeting held by paramilitary Director General AP Maheshwari earlier this month.

The wing has been asked to hire doctors on contract basis for the next three months as the Force has recorded 369 Covid-19 positive cases which include two deaths and 226 recoveries.

The Director (Medical) Dr HL Raskaran refused to visit quarantine centres and Covid Care Centres of the CRPF citing health conditions, senior officials said.

During the meeting, the Director (Medical) presented the detailed status/pathogen and the increasing number of cases of Covid-19 in CRPF and status of Covid-19 Care Centre, Covid Care Health Centre available in and outside Delhi. Availability of PPEs, trained doctors, paramedical staff in these centres and arrangements made and available in the CRPF were also pre-



sent by him during the meeting.

While the DG directed to Raskaran to ensure periodical visits to quarantine centre where Covid-19 patients kept but the Director (Medical) expressed his inability to do so due to his age factor and other health conditions being in high risk category. However, Raskaran said during the meeting that all basic facilities have been made available to Covid-19 patients and all instructions issued to Medical Officers on ground, officials said quoting from the minutes of the meeting.

Raskaran also told the top CRPF brass during the meeting that necessity to converse with patients on telephone was not felt by him but he, Director (Medical), was always available for advice and guidance. He further said that speaking to patients, visiting them and making arrangements for food are in the purview of administrative authorities.

The CRPF DG directed the Director (Medical) to take the pandemic seriously and keep a close watch on Covid-19 cases and patients. The also directed that if there is need to acquire/hire additional land,

building or hotel, the same may be worked out by Inspector General (Northern Sector).

Maheshwari also expressed displeasure with Raskaran's contentions on the Covid infrastructure in the paramilitary as he had not even visited 31 Battalion campus here which had reported 139 positive cases out of which one Sub Inspector had succumbed to the coronavirus infection. Now, 134 from the 31 Battalion have recovered from the disease.

Last month, as many as 200 CRPF personnel including the DG himself had to be quarantined after a medical officer of the paramilitary facility here had tested positive for Covid-19.

There is a sanctioned strength of about 650 doctors including the veterinary doctors, Group A paramedics/matrons are required to be four in number followed by about 45 Group A non-gazetted paramedics, over 60 Group B paramedics, 450 other Group B paramedics like pharmacists and physiotherapists and veterinary personnel.

In the Group C paramedics category in the rank of Assistant Sub Inspector, about 640 personnel are required but there is vacancy in all the ranks.

Churu burns at 50°C, no relief in north, central India till Thurs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Churu in Rajasthan on Tuesday recorded 50 degrees Celsius, second highest in the last 10 years, followed by Palam in Delhi with 47.6 degree Celsius. The northwest and central parts of the country are reeling under severe heat wave conditions since May 23 this year while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday issued red warning for Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya from May 26 to 28 predicting very heavy rainfall in these two northeastern States.

According to the IMD, Churu had recorded 50.2 degree Celsius in 2016. Heat wave conditions will persist over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, and Vidarbha till May 28. Hot weather conditions will also prevail in isolated pockets over Punjab, Chhattisgarh, interior Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, interior Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, and Jharkhand for the next two to three days.

"Due to prevailing dry northwesterly winds over plains, northwest, central and adjoining parts of the eastern India are reeling under the severe heat wave conditions," the IMD said. Akola in Maharashtra recorded maximum temperature of 47.4 degree Celsius.

IMD director general Mrununjay Mohapatra said that red-colour coded warning has been issued to Assam and Meghalaya for the next three days.



Sathi Devi, head of the IMD's national weather forecasting centre, said there is a strong flow of south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal, bringing a lot of moisture to these two States

Sathi Devi, head of the IMD's national weather forecasting centre, said there is a strong flow of south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal, bringing a lot of moisture to these two States. This is aided by the orographic factors of these two states that will bring in very heavy rainfall, she added. Parts of Assam and neighbouring Meghalaya have been receiving extremely heavy rains since May 20 after super cyclone Amphan weakened. Cherrapunji has received 1,105 millimetres of rain in the last four days.

The IMD said rainfall is likely at most places, with heavy to very heavy rainfall expected at isolated places. A few isolated will also receive extremely heavy falls, it added. Meanwhile, advancement of

the monsoon which was hindered by super cyclonic storm Amphan will start from Wednesday, Devi said.

She added that the monsoon will start moving ahead in other parts of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago and Bay of Bengal from Wednesday.

The water level of the Brahmaputra river is rising gradually due to continuous rainfall in the state. As per State Disaster Management Authority, five districts have been affected till now - Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Darrang and Goalpara.

According to the IMD, the monsoon is likely to hit Kerala on June 5, four days after its normal onset date.

A low pressure area is also building up in the Arabian Sea from May 30, Mohapatra said. A low pressure area is the first stage of any cyclone. However, it is not necessary that every low pressure area intensifies into a cyclone.

The IMD has also cautioned fishermen along the coasts of Kerala, Karnataka not to venture out for deep sea fishing from May 30-June 4.

Locust swarm rubs salt into wound of corona-hit agri eco

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the country is struggling to get back on its feet amid the coronavirus lockdown, a locust infestation could cause further devastation to the agri-economy. After wreaking havoc in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, swarms of locusts have been spotted the eastern part of Maharashtra, in the Vidarbha region.

There are apprehensions that locusts may move towards the national Capital region (NCR) in the next few days if wind speeds and directions are favourable. Earlier in 1944, the northern sky in Delhi became completely black in the late afternoon due huge locust swarms. The locusts initially entered Rajasthan from Pakistan. From Rajasthan, locust swarms also entered Madhya Pradesh over the past few days.

IFS officer Parveen Kaswan on Tuesday tweeted pictures of these desert locusts that had invaded the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. "The swarms has the potential of eating everything & destroy the crops," he said in his tweet. The images posted by Kaswan can make anyone cringe as the swarm of desert locusts can be seen engulfing everything in their path, covering trees and fields.

Officials of the ministry of agriculture said that the swarm of desert locusts entered in Maharashtra from Amravati district. It then went to Wardha and now it is in Nagpur's Katol tehsil. The authorities have advised people to beat drums, thalis and use crackers to keep them away. Besides, the process of spraying chemicals on crops is underway.

BR Kadwa, Deputy Director of Agriculture Department, Rajasthan said that swarms of locusts are entering Rajasthan from adjoining areas in Pakistan every two-three days since a month. "As rabi crops has been harvested and kharif sowing

season is yet to be started in the state, that's why the reason of their fast movement," he said. According to officials, locusts have spotted in 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh that is close to the national capital region and there is possibility of invading in Delhi and NCR areas during the onset of monsoon. Farmers have been put high alert and deployed insecticide spraying devices through drones, SUVs and tractors.

A huge Locusts was spotted in Karauli in Rajasthan, following which an alert was issued for Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jaunpur and Auraiya and their adjoining districts like Hamirpur, Kannauj, Etawah and Kanpur Dehat.

Deputy Director Agriculture Kamal Katiyar said, "The swarm of locusts is moving and is small in size. We have got news that nearly 2.5 km to 3 km long swarm of locusts has entered the country. A team has come from Kota (Rajasthan) to tackle the locusts." The Mathura district administration has started early preparations in view of the growing locust threat and formed a task force. Mathura District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said 200 litres of chloropyrifos has been kept as reserve and its sellers in the area have been advised not to supply the chemical outside the district. The Jhansi administration has also directed the fire department to keep its vehicle ready with chemicals to tackle a sudden movement by locust swarms. Jaipur's residential area on Sunday also witnessed a huge swarms of locusts.

The locust warning system falling under the Agriculture Ministry has blamed Pakistan for this year's attack, saying it failed to conduct control operations successfully. "Ecological conditions are not favourable for locust breeding in summer. However, the incursion locusts across the border is still continuing. If Pakistan had taken proper control measures, the breeding of locusts could have been stopped, it said.

The Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the issues with its counterparts in Pakistan and offered pesticides and other chemicals to get rid of swarms of locusts.

SC issues notice to Centre, RBI on plea against interest on loans during moratorium

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Centre and the RBI to respond to a plea challenging levy of interest on loans during the moratorium period, which has now been extended by another three months till August 31 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan, hearing the matter through video-conferencing, issued notices to the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India asking them to file their replies within a week.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner informed the bench, also comprising Justices S K Kaul and M R Shah, that earlier the moratorium period was for three months till May 31 but now it has been extended by another three months.

The counsel argued that borrowers should not be penalised like this and banks should not add interest on the loan amount during the moratorium period.

"Counsel for the Reserve Bank of India prays for and is granted a week's time to file counter affidavit. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General, also obtain instructions in the meantime," the bench said in its order and posted the matter for hearing next week.

On March 27, RBI had issued a slew of measures to check financial impact of the nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19. It issued a circular giving liberty to all banks and



season is yet to be started in the state, that's why the reason of their fast movement," he said.

According to officials, locusts have spotted in 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh that is close to the national capital region and there is possibility of invading in Delhi and NCR areas during the onset of monsoon. Farmers have been put high alert and deployed insecticide spraying devices through drones, SUVs and tractors.

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The Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the issues with its counterparts in Pakistan and offered pesticides and other chemicals to get rid of swarms of locusts.

COVID-19 TREATMENT Glenmark all set to test combined efficacy of Favipiravir, Umifenovir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Tuesday announced a new randomised, open-label study to test the combined efficacy of two antiviral drugs Favipiravir and Umifenovir as a potential Covid-19 treatment strategy.

The two antiviral drugs have a different mechanism of action, and their combination may demonstrate improved treatment efficacy by effectively tackling high viral loads in patients during an early stage of the disease, said the pharma major in a statement.

Monika Tandon, Vice President and Head for Clinical Development Global Specialty and Branded Portfolio, said combining antiviral agents that have a good safety profile and act on different stages of viral life-cycle is an effective treatment approach to rapidly suppress initial high viral load and lead to an overall improvement in clinical parameters.

"We consider Glenmark's study will be pivotal in leading to the identification of highly

effective and safe treatments against COVID-19 in India," she said.

"Beyond its many potential patient treatment benefits, we also hope the combination therapy will reduce infection risk among medical professionals and healthcare workers by reducing the duration of virus shedding from treated patients."

A total of 158 hospitalised patients of moderate Covid-19 infection will be enrolled in the combination study and randomised in two groups.

Simultaneously, Glenmark is also conducting phase 3 clinical trials of Favipiravir as a COVID-19 monotherapy option with 150 patients, enrolled from nine leading government and private hospitals across the country.

The apex court had on May 15 observed that the March 29 notification, directing companies to make payment of full wages to workers even while not being in operation during the lockdown period, was an omnibus order and there was a larger question involved which needs to be answered.

CSIR-IIIM, RIL to develop new COVID diagnostic kit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IIIM, Jammu based laboratory of the CSIR has joined hands with Reliance Industries (RIL) to develop and scale-up a new Reverse Transcriptase-Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) based Covid-19 diagnostic kit.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between CSIR-IIIM, Jammu and RIL on Tuesday.

Covid-19 RT-LAMP test is a nucleic acid based test carried out from nasal/throat swab sample from patients.

"The test recipe has been developed and successfully demonstrated using synthetic templates. It is rapid (45-60 min), cost effective and accurate test.

It has been tested with a small number of patients samples and validating the kit on more number of patient samples



stands and other public places. The end detection of the test is a simple colored reaction, which is easily visible in UV light, and now is being modified such that it can be detected in regular light, the statement added.

After testing the accuracy of the kit, on a much larger number of patients, CSIR-IIIM and RIL will jointly approach the ICMR for approval.

With the formal launch of the RT-LAMP based diagnostic test, the Covid-19 testing will not only be more rapid, cheap, easy and accessible but also would go a long way quickly isolating the infected individuals and mitigating the spread of virus, said the statement.

Dr. Ram Vishwakarma, Director and Dr. Sumit Gandhi, Principal Scientist from CSIR-IIIM and Dr. Santanu Dasgupta, Senior Vice President, R&D and Dr. Manish Shukla, General Manager R&D from RIL side are monitoring this project, as per the statement.

'Treat with urgency' pleas against payment of full wages during lockdown: SC to Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Centre to "treat with urgency" the issue raised in the pleas challenging home ministry's March 29 notification asking private establishments to pay full wages to workers during the COVID-19 lockdown, saying lot of people are affected by it.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan, conducting hearing through video-conferencing, asked the Government to file its response on the petitions and posted the matter for hearing next week. Attorney General K K Venugopal told the bench, also comprising Justices S K Kaul and M R Shah, that the Centre has issued a new notification on May 17 which supersedes the March 29 Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order.

"Treat this with urgency. Lot of people are affected," the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was also appearing in the matter.

The apex court had on May 15 observed that the March 29 notification, directing companies to make payment of full wages to workers even while not being in operation during the lockdown period, was an omnibus order and there was a larger question involved which needs to be answered.

It said there may be small industries which are affected due to the lockdown and if they cannot earn, how are they going to pay wages to their workers. It had also observed that if Government does not help these small companies, then they might not be able to pay their workers.

The counsel appearing for one of the petitioners had argued that firms are going out of work as they do not have orders for production of goods and they are being prosecuted due to the government circular.

An association of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has said in its plea before the apex court that the MHA order was passed without due care and deliberation on the financial implications for employers.

The small industrial units have said that making full payments would lead to their closure, which, in turn, would cause permanent unemployment and adversely affect the economy.

The association has further contended that during this unprecedented situation, various Governments across the globe have taken measures for the benefit of workers/employees, but the Centre without taking any such step has put the entire burden on the employers/owners to pay full wages.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know to all that my client Savita Devi is going to purchase property No. 405, IN WARD NO. 4, KHASRA NO. 1151/3 MIN, VILLAGE MEHRAULI, NEW DELHI from Manoj Kumar and mortgaging the same with New Habitat Housing Finance & Development Limited. Savita Devi has lost original sale deed executed by Manoj Lal Sharma in favour of Savita Devi, duly registered with S.D. Delhi doc no. 2987, dt. 22.05.1995 and original GPA, ATS, Will dated 04.08.2006, executed by Mr. Vinod Kumar in favour of Mrs. Piyali Patra, Police complaint dt. 26.05.2020 was lodged with Delhi Police. It is informed that any deal with said sold deed by any person except my said client with said institution regarding said property shall be deemed as null and void. If any person found said deed or is having right in said property then he may contact and honour the same and apprise his claim to undersigned and within 7 days of this publication.

FOR ADR LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 765, Dwarika Court
Sector-10, Dwarika, New Delhi-75
M: 9899139118

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS ELECTRICAL COACHING WORKS

Sr. No. 1 Tender Notice No: EL 5/2/1/44/CHG/WA/10 dtd 26/05/2020. Name of Work: Modification, Testing, Commissioning of 5 Ton Capacity Hoist from Manually to Fully Electrical and Motorized Hoist at PCH Shop, BCT, Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 16,70,219/-, EMD: ₹ 33,400/-. Date & Time of Submission: Not later than 15.00 Hrs. of 26/06/2020. Date and Time of Opening: 26/06/2020 at 15.30 Hrs. Sr. No. 2 Tender Notice No: EL 5/2/1/62/CHG/WA/11 dtd 26/05/2020. Name of Work: Development, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Centralized Coach Monitoring System for LHB Type AC Coaches. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,87,62,500/-, EMD: ₹ 2,93,800/-. Date & Time of Submission: Not later than 15.00 Hrs. of 26/06/2020. Date and Time of Opening: 26/06/2020 at 15.30 Hrs. Note: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender documents, corrigendum and further details.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/193/Hiring-Truck/NDLS & NZM/19/MC-IV
2. Name of work	Hiring of Trucks (Carrying capacity-4.5T) at Coach Care Centre, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin for transportation of Railway material for two years.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 46,21,935.60/- (Excluding GST & ECC)
4. Earnest money in favour of Sr.DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 92,400/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid	Up to 25.06.2020 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 197-S/193/Hiring-Truck/NDLS & NZM/19/MC-IV Date: 23.05.2020 1177/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

Tender No.	197-S/11/F.Ex/19/DLI/MC-IV
Name of work	Annual Maintenance of Fire extinguisher DCP type & ABC types as per schedule of maintenance over Delhi division for two years.
Advertised Tender Value	₹46,73,494.36 (Excluding GST)
Earnest Money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	₹93,500.00 (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
Date & Time of submission of tender bid	Upto 24.06.2020 at 12:00 hrs.
Website Particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/11/F.Ex/19/DLI/MC-IV Dated : 23.05.2020 1178/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/235/Hiring-Truck/DLI/20/MC-IV
2. Name of work	Hiring of Truck (Carrying capacity-4.5T) at Coach Care Centre, Delhi for transportation of Railway material for two years.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 15,72,314.64/- (Excluding GST & ECC)
4. Earnest money in favour of Sr.DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 31,400/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid	Up to 23.06.2020 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/235/Hiring-Truck/DLI/20/MC-IV Date: 23.05.2020 1176/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

1. Name of work with location	Conservancy contract for removal of Solid Waste/rubbish/refuse/hedge cuttings etc. from the dustbins/ heaps or nominated sites of Railway Stations, Railway Colonies and other Railway premises at Sarojini Nagar, Lalpat Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, Sewa Nagar and Lodhi Road Colony, New Delhi with contractor's own labour & cleaning implements and use of his own truck/tempo or any other mechanized means for dumping the same into the Municipal Corporation dumping grounds everyday by 09:00 hrs, and keeping the area in and 3 meter around the dustbins clean and hygienic on a monthly payment basis.
2. Approximate estimate cost	Rs. 44,999/- Per Month or Rs. 16,19,964/- (Rs. Sixteen Lakh Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Four only) for three years & GST extra as applicable.
3. Cost of tender form	Rs. 2360/- (Rs. Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty only) to be deposited by online payment mode at www.ireps.gov.in
4. Address of the office website where the tender form can be purchased	www.ireps.gov.in
5. EMD to be deposited	Rs. 32,400/- (Rs. Thirty Two Thousand Four Hundred only) to be deposited by online payment mode at www.ireps.gov.in
6. Completion period of the work	Three (03) year from the date of award of work
Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	18.06.2020 up to 15:00 hrs. and opening 15:30 hrs. same day
8. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc.	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 31-Med-SAN-Garbage-SOJ-LPNR-2020-23. Dated 22.05.2020 1180/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Vijayan slams Goyal for 'derailing' Kerala safety

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala is all set to further tighten the lockdown laws to check the spread of coronavirus in the State in the backdrop of the increase in the number of persons testing positive, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, the Chief Minister lambasted the Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal for his efforts to derail the arrangements and upset the rhythm of the safety measures being followed by Kerala to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

"The Railways tried to send two trains from Mumbai to Kerala without getting the concurrence of the State Government. We in Kerala have devised strategies to receive people reaching the State by air, train and roads. That's why we insist that the State Government should be

kept in the loop before sending trains or aircraft or other means of transport. What the Union Railway Minister has done is not befitting the stature of a person occupying that position. He should not have tried to interfere with the administration of Kerala," said Vijayan in his first press briefing after his 75th birthday on May 23.

Vijayan said he has informed the Railway Minister and the Prime Minister about the faux pas committed by the Railways in sending the trains to Kerala without seeking the State's permission.

The Chief Minister, who se village is one of the hotspots of coronavirus warned the people in the State from taking tea or soft drinks from shops which have reopened after the lockdown. "The shops selling tea and soft drinks in the State are not cleaning the glassware properly after it is used by consumers. This is a sure recipe to

the spread of the covid-19 pandemic and this is being disclosed as a warning to the people," said Vijayan.

Vijayan said as on Tuesday 415 patients were under treatment in various hospitals for covid-19. "Today 67 persons were tested positive in the State.

Out of this 27 were from foreign countries while 33 were from other States in the country. Till date 963 persons have been tested positive for coronavirus in Kerala. We have put 1,04,336 persons under observation out of which 1,03,528 were under home/institutional quarantine.

On Tuesday, 186 persons have been admitted to various hospitals for coronavirus," said the Chief Minister.

He also disclosed that 56,000 samples have been tested in the State till date. There are 68 hotspots in the State as on Tuesday.

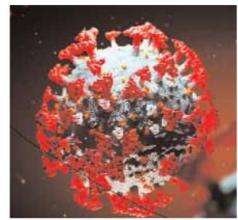
Tamil Nadu cases inching towards 18,000 mark

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The total number of persons tested positive for coronavirus in Tamil Nadu is inching towards the 18,000 mark while reports came at the time of going to Press on Tuesday evening. The medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday said that 17,728 persons have tested positive for coronavirus till Tuesday.

A total of 9,342 persons have been discharged from various hospitals following treatment and this has put the number of active coronavirus patients in the State at 8,256. It is almost sure that the State would see the number of positive cases crossing the 20,000 mark by this weekend itself.

On Tuesday, a total of 646 persons were tested positive for covid-19 in the State. Out of this, 509 were tested positive in Chennai. A total of 54 persons who reached the State from other places in the country and foreign countries are also included in this 646 positive



Nine persons were reported dead on Tuesday and this took the total number of fatalities in the State to 127. Till Tuesday, 4,12,357 persons have been tested for the pandemic while 9,677 accounted for Tuesday alone.

Chennai topped the table of districts with maximum number of coronavirus positive cases, 11,640. As there was no respite in the number of persons testing positive for the pandemic, Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy held an urgent video conference with his Cabinet colleagues and senior bureaucrats and medical professionals to take stock of the situation.

Sharad Pawar scotches rumour of threat to Uddhav-led MVA Govt

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar made it clear on Tuesday that there was no threat to the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government in Maharashtra thus ending speculation sparked by his meetings with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari on Monday, even as his party came to the defence of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over the latter's statement that his party was not a key decision maker in the State.

On a day when former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis charged that Rahul was shirking responsibility by distancing himself from the decision-making process of the Uddhav Thackeray Government, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut that the MVA dispensation was "stable" and the efforts by the Opposition to "destabilise" the

State Government had "boomeranged".

"Sharad Pawar and chief minister Uddhav Thackeray met on Monday night. The meeting lasted for half an hour. Some people are spreading rumours about the stability of our Government. These rumours are just sour grapes. Our Government is stable. There's no need to worry," Raut tweeted.

In another tweet, Raut said that the Opposition BJP was desperately trying to topple the MVA Government in the state. He said it was better that the Opposition remained in "quarantine" because its efforts to bring down the Uddhav Thackeray had boomeranged.

Pawar, who is considered the architect of the three-party government in the state, categorically stated that there was no threat to the MVA Government, that he was "committed to the alliance with the Shiv Sena and Congress and

that not much should be read into his meetings with Governor Koshiyari and Uddhav Thackeray on Monday.

Pawar said in his interaction with NDTV that his meeting with the Governor was a "courtesy call" and that he "did not discuss politics or Covid", while his meeting with Uddhav was "routine" in nature. He also took a potshot at Fadnavis by saying that the former Chief Minister was "getting impatient".

On his part, Fadnavis - at a news conference that he addressed through social media earlier in the day - charged that Rahul Gandhi through his statement that his party was not a decision maker in Maharashtra, was "shirking" his responsibility. "Given that the Coronavirus crisis is going out of control in Maharashtra, Rahul Gandhi shifting the blame on the Shiv Sena. The Congress cannot disown its responsibility and run away from the situation".

Maha: Migrants gather to take buses for reaching rly stations

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that caused anxious moments for the health and police officials in the metropolis, hundreds of labourers gather at Mumbai's Dharavi locality to take special buses to reach three railway terminuses to board "Sharmik Special" trains leaving for their native states, even Asia's largest slum recorded 38 new cases.

The police were in for a surprise as huge crowds of migrants gathering at Dharavi slum since morning to take buses heading for the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST), Dadar railway station, Mumbai Central and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to board "Sharmik Special" trains leaving for their native

states.

Given that Dharavi is a major Covid-19 hotspot in Mumbai, the presence of hundreds of migrant workers on roads sent the police and health officials into a tizzy.

Before long, huge posse of police personnel rushed to Dharavi and requested the crowds to form queues to board the buses heading to various railway terminuses in the metropolis. They had a trying time in managing the crowds that had gathered defying the social distancing norms.

Meanwhile, Dharavi recorded 38 more infected cases, taking the total number of positive cases in this densely populated slum to 1621. There have been 59 deaths in this slum so far.

Rlys, Maha pushing back infected workers in 41 trains: Bengal Govt

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is miffed at the Centre's decision to send 41 Shramik Special trains ferrying migrant workers from Maharashtra which being the most affected State in India accounts for about one third of the total corona cases in the country.

With the local infrastructure already bursting at its seams following large-scale devastation left behind by super cyclone Amphan, an alarmed State administration has expressed its displeasure at the Indian Railways indifferent approach towards the plight of the State, Government sources said.

The Government's displeasure was apparent from the

language of State Home Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay who on Tuesday said that "several lakhs of migrant workers returning from severely infected States will be a big issue and a big problem... it will be a big concern for the public health."

The State Government has held the Railways and Maharashtra Government jointly responsible for pushing back such large number of migrant workers from Maharashtra particularly the Dharavi region of Mumbai which accounts for about 1,500 cases.

Banerjee had earlier asked the Railways not send Bengal bound trains "as the district administrations are involved in relief and rehabilitation works, it will not be possible to receive

special trains for the next few days. It is therefore requested that no train should be sent to West Bengal till May 26."

State Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha too had written to Chairman of Railway board V K Yadav asking him not to send in the shramik specials as the state had been severely impacted by the super cyclone causing extensive damage to the infrastructure.

Already Bengal has received 6 trains from Maharashtra. "Given the current infrastructural situation the State is not in a position to receive more workers... It will lead to large-scale proliferation once the trains start rolling in," a senior official said adding "all the good effects of the two months lockdown will simply go down the drain."

J&K reports 91 fresh cases, total at 902

PNS ■ JAMMU

The total number of active cases in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir touched 902 as 91 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected on Tuesday while one more death was reported from Kashmir valley, taking the total death toll due to Covid-19 to 24.

Out of 91 fresh cases, 54 cases were reported from Jammu division while 37 cases were detected from Kashmir division.

Meanwhile, 24 patients were discharged from different hospitals taking the total tally of recovered cases to 833.

In Jammu division, Ramban district reported highest number of 29 cases while Jammu district reported 10 fresh cases. According to official sources, majority of cases had a travel history to different locations and were camping in quarantine centres. Four cases each were detected from Kathua and Poonch districts while Udhampur and Samba reported two fresh cases each on Tuesday. Only Doda and Kishtwar districts reported zero case on Tuesday.

Houses damaged as Pak violates ceasefire in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the Army commanders conference on Wednesday, the Line of Control in Poonch sector witnessed intense exchange of mortar shelling between the Armies of India and Pakistan in which at least three houses suffered extensive damages while livestock perished in Sandote village of Balakote sector in Poonch on Tuesday.

According to ground reports, the firing in the forward villages continued for over four hours in the area forcing the local residents to remain closeted inside their homes.

Several residential structures bore the brunt of heavy shelling in Sandote village, falling in the direct line of fire. According to local villagers in the area, three houses suffered maximum damages and three animals perished while over half a dozen animals sustained injuries in heavy exchange of cross LOC firing. Jammu based Defence PRO, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along LOC in Balakote sector of Poonch on Tuesday morning. He said, the Indian Army retaliated befittingly.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female namely Laxmi, W/o Raju, R/o Unknown, Age: Approx 38 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5', Built: Thin, Face: Round, was wearing Sky Blue colour Suit & Pink colour Salwar, was found at GB Pant, Hospital, Gate No. 3, in unconscious condition. She has been admitted in LNJP Hospital vide DD No. 68A, dated 14.05.2020, PS IPC Estate, and later referred to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, where she was declared dead during the treatment on 16.05.2020. In this regard a DD No. 62A, dated 16.05.2020, has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, New Delhi.

Her dead body has been preserved in Bara Hindu Rao Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hrs. 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. I.P. Estate, New Delhi DP/114/CD/2020 Ph.: 011-23370928, 23378474, 23323294

Adhir seeks more Army men for cyclone-hit WB

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Kolkata: With growing incidents of angry citizens spilling over to the streets — demanding restoration of basic infrastructure like power and water — six days after the severe cyclone Amphan hit and paralysed large parts of southern Bengal, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting for deployment of more Army personnel as the State Government had failed to rise up to the occasion.

Claiming that there was no "tangible" improvement of situation post Amphan devastation and the distribution of food and other measures were "awfully inadequate" the Behrampur MP requested the Prime Minister to deploy more Army personnel to deal with the situation.

He wrote "...there is no tangible improvement... of post Amphan devastation which has assumed catastrophic dimension. Distribution of food and relief to those affected areas are awfully inadequate."

State Opposition leader and veteran Congress man Abdul Mannan who too sat on dharna at places in Hooghly said that the "aids sent in by the State Government are too little and too inadequate... let alone the relief the Government has not been able to bring back power and clear the roads by removing trees."

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K'taka Covid tally spikes as domestic travellers to three States return

IAANS ■ BENGALURU

Returns from domestic travel to three Indian States led to a spike in Covid-19 cases in Karnataka with 101 new infections, raising the State's tally to 2,283, an official said on Tuesday.

"New cases reported from Monday 5 p.m. to Tuesday noon, 101," said a health official.

In the past 19 hours, 81 people who returned from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand tested positive for the virus.

On Tuesday, 46 per cent or 47 cases had an inter-state travel history to Maharashtra, India's COVID hotspot.

Similarly, 21 per cent or 21 cases had inter-state travel history to southern state Tamil Nadu, a bigger COVID sufferer than Karnataka.

Likewise, 13 returnees from Jharkhand have also tested positive.

Incidentally, four new cases also had inter-national travel history to Qatar.

Eighty four per cent of the new cases had travel history, dwarfing the number of people contracting the disease through contacts.

Unlike before, most positive cases in the state nowadays are people with a travel history to Maharashtra, India's COVID hotspot.

In the past 24 hours, only 12 contracted the virus from earlier positive cases, constituting just 12 per cent of the new cases.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001
Tel.: 0135-763675 (Ext. No. 211 & 126)
Websites: www.uktenders.gov.in Email id: egmupcl@yahoo.com
CIN: U40109UR2001SG025867

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR CLIENT MEMBERSHIP FOR PURCHASE OF POWER FROM POWER EXCHANGE(S) THROUGH TRADERS/UTILITIES (INDIAN ENERGY EXCHANGE AND POWER EXCHANGE OF INDIA LTD.)

Tender Specification No. 07/CE (COMM)/UPCL-07/2020-2021

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) invites e-tenders through www.uktenders.gov.in for Client membership of Power Exchanges (Indian Energy Exchange and Power Exchange of India Ltd.) from traders having valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC and Membership of both Power Exchanges to enable UPCL for purchase of power during deficit period for the period of 01st Jul-2020 to 31st Dec-2021

Sl No.	Venue	Superintending Engineer (Commercial), UPCL, Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001
1.	Last date and time for purchase of bid documents	08-06-2020 up to 17:00 Hrs.
2.	Last date and time of submission of tender document	09-06-2020 up to 13:00 Hrs.
3.	Date and time of opening of tender document	09-06-2020 at 15:00 Hrs.
4.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rs. Five Lac only) in the shape of Bank Guarantee/demand draft of any scheduled bank payable at Dehradun in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, UPCL, Dehradun.
5.	Cost of bid document	Rs. 29,500/- (25000.00 + 18% GST) - in the shape of DEMAND DRAFT of any scheduled bank payable at Dehradun in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, UPCL, Dehradun.

The tender (containing envelopes for EMD and Bid document) shall be accepted only if the cost of bid document i.e Rs. 29,500/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred only) is submitted in this office before submitting the tender. In case, above date happens to be a holiday, then the date of submission and opening of tenders will automatically get shifted to the next working day, but the scheduled time will remain the same. Tender specifications can be downloaded from www.uktenders.gov.in and official website of UPCL www.upcl.org. Tender received without Earnest Money and valid membership certificate of both the power exchanges shall be rejected. The representative (s) of bidder present at the time of opening of the bid should be fully authorized for any clarification at the time of opening, if required. UPCL reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or to accept any tender in full or part as may be considered advantageous to UPCL, without assigning any reason what so ever.

The tendering requirements for a bidder to bid for this tender are as follows:

- The request for downloading bid document shall be entertained only after receipt of demand draft from schedule bank of Rs. 29,500.00 (Rs. 25,000.00 plus (+) 18% GST) in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Dehradun, as cost of bid document.
- The Bidders shall submit Earnest Money in the form of Bank Guarantee issued by nationalized/ scheduled bank of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rs. Five Lac Only) in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Dehradun. The earnest money shall be valid for a period of not less than 45 days beyond the bid validity period (6 months and 45 days).
- The successful bidder may be required to furnish CPD within 30 days from the date of selection of successful Bidder for an amount of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rs. Ten Lac only).
- The Bidders shall submit the details of trading at least 2000 MU Energy in Power Exchange in past 3 years (i.e. FY 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20) and a performance certificate of the equivalent quantum form the utility for whom energy was traded to the effect that they have executed the agreement satisfactorily.
- The trader should also have membership of both power exchange(s) (Indian Energy Exchange/Power Exchange of India Limited). The Traders submitting the tender should also submit a valid License from CERC for Inter-state trading of electricity.
- Bidder shall provide audited annual accounts of last three financial years (i.e. FY 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19).
- The bidder shall keep the offer valid for six months from the date of opening of the bid (Part-I). The declaration certificate (Affidavit) in this regard shall be submitted by the bidder as per Annexure "A".

Note : All documents sought above are required to be submitted by the bidders necessarily, otherwise part-II of the bidder shall not be opened.

Telegraphic/ Telex/ faxed/ e- mailed bids shall not be accepted.

The tenders received after the date & time mentioned above shall not be considered. All other details and terms & conditions are available in tender document. For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact on mobile number 9068692501/8057917932.

Note: The consultancy/ JV firm depicted by UPCL as a consultant shall not be eligible for participating in the tender.

No. 2281/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Superintending Engineer (Commercial) UPCL, Dehradun
Date: 26.05.2020

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WESTERN RAILWAY
REPAIRING / REPLACEMENT AND VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

S. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. Cost of Work (₹)	EMD (₹)
1.	EL/Maint/4/1/WA/3 Dt. 26/05/2020	Mumbai Division Non Suburban Section: Repairing / Replacement of Defective Parts and Cleaning of Window AC, Split AC Units and Water Coolers of Various Makes & Capacities at Various Locations in Vaitarna to Surat Section for 2 Years.	18,82,345/-	37,700/-
2.	EL/Maint/4/1/WA/2 Dt. 26/05/2020	Mumbai Division Non Suburban Section: Repairing / Replacement of Defective Parts and Cleaning of Window AC, Split AC Units and Water Coolers of Various Makes & Capacities at Various Locations in Chhalthan - Paldhi Section for 2 Years.	7,23,954/-	14,500/-
3.	EL 81/750/WA/59 Dt. 25/05/2020	Mumbai Suburban Section: Electrical Work in Connection with (i) Proposed New FOBs at Marine Lines, Charni Road, Grant Road, Dadar, Khar Road, Vile Parle, Anandheri, Naigaon, Virar and (ii) Elevated Booking Offices, Renovation of Old Booking Offices at Charni Road, Dadar, Malad, Santacruz & Kandivali.	92,81,332/-	1,85,600/-
4.	EL/Maint/8/11/WA/4 Dt. 25/05/2020	Mumbai Division: Dismantling and Re-installation of Solar Panels with Accessories.	39,35,000/-	78,700/-

Sr. No. 1 & 2 : Date and Time of Submission & Opening of Tender: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 25/06/2020 and Opening at 15.30 hrs. on the Same day. Sr. No. 3 & 4 : Date and Time of Submission & Opening of Tender: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 26/06/2020 and Opening at 15.30 hrs. on the Same day. Note: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.

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WESTERN RAILWAY
REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CANTILEVER ASSEMBLIES

E-Tender Notice No. EL-TRD-W-118-19-20-16 Date 26/05/2020. Work and Location : Replacement of Existing Corroded/Rusted Cantilever Assemblies in Polluted Area in Virar - Surat Section on Mumbai Division. Advertised Value : ₹ 4,57,75,800/- EMD : ₹ 3,78,900/- Date & Time of Submission : 01/07/2020 15.00 hrs. Date and Time of Opening : 01/07/2020, 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non-refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 55 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown had been found dead at 6 a.m. SGM Hospital, Mangol Puri, Delhi. In this regard a vide has been registered with DD No: 26-B dated 02.05.2020 at P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, Age: about 55 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Identification Mark: A injury mark on left eye, Wearing: Light blue colour shirt and chocolate colour pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Mangol Puri, Delhi.

E-mail : ctc@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-27921168, 27922186

DP/176/OD/2020

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 32 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Whitesh, Built : Thin, Eyes : Black, Face : Round, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt and Necked was found in accidental condition near Pillor No.119, Near Pratap Nagar Metro Station, in the Area of PS Gulabi Bagh, Delhi on dated 05.03.2020. In this regard, DD No. 26/20 Dated 05.03.2020 has been lodged at PS Gulabi Bagh, Delhi. Kept at Subzi Mandi Mortuary.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S., Gulabi Bagh, Delhi Ph. : 011-23651692, 23651917

DP/229/N/20

WESTERN RAILWAY
PART SUPPLY OF MATERIAL INSTALLATION & VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

Tender No.: SG 216/254/WA dated 26/05/2020. Work and Location: Part Supply of Material, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Multi Section Digital Axle Counter on Flood Prone Areas at VALSAD Station of Mumbai Division, Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work : ₹ 1,94,11,582.22. EMD : ₹ 2,47,100/- Submission of Tender: Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 26/06/2020. Opening of Tender: At 15.30 Hrs. of 26/06/2020. Office Where E-Tender Open: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. The tender can be viewed at website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

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China at it, again

Unusual aggression in Ladakh, the worst since Doklam, shows our neighbour is bent on arm twisting us in a post-pandemic world



China is becoming as vindictive as the US in getting its way with the world or countries that are dependent on its still viable factory floors. And it has chosen to get aggressive with India at a time when the latter is struggling to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic that not only originated in the former but was manipulated to keep the world in the dark. So the latest face-offs between Indian and Chinese troops at Ladakh, the worst since Doklam, the constant stoking of Nepal's belligerence over a border road and our neighbour's decision to fly out its citizens from India, ostensibly to save them from the viral spread here, are certainly more than just niggling misbehaviour, they are arm twisting and coercive tactics to get India to bow down. And they clearly signal that the famed Wuhan spirit, the informal dialogue between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has all but evaporated. Clearly, the economic concerns of both nations and geopolitics had made them tolerate each other on optics. The reasons for China's impatience are not difficult to understand. Of course, there is the anger about India being a stumbling block in its imperialist Belt and Road Initiative, which is nothing but buying out smaller or weaker countries in the region by undertaking massive projects and sucking them into economic servitude as they fall into a debt trap and cannot repay loans. But recent triggers are many. First, there is the extreme discomfort over the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir that converted Ladakh into a Union Territory. Direct Central intervention in Ladakh meant that New Delhi could not only monitor development, infrastructure and road building here better but keep an eye on the sensitive Himalayan border that China has been challenging over decades with incursions and staring down at our men. China looks at India's recent connectivity efforts, particularly the Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) Road, with some suspicion, considering the easy access it could give to the Karakoram pass and enhance the supply and replenishment links to troops stationed here. A weakened Ladakh would give it the strategic advantage and hence keeping it hot would mean cessation of development and retaining the preparedness advantage of the Chinese forces. Second, there is the growing US-India strategic partnership, one which is strong-arming China's domination of the South China Sea and one which could see some US businesses shift bases here from China post-pandemic. It will, therefore, do everything to challenge a new and exclusionary power alignment in the region. Third, as China is on an acquisition spree of businesses and banks in COVID-hit economies of the world, India stalled it by amending its foreign direct investment (FDI) rules to mandate Government approval for all investments from "border" countries and prevent hostile takeovers. And four, India cancelled orders for Chinese test kits as they were faulty, switched to South Korea and other nations and is even supporting a global impartial probe into the Wuhan contagion that is expected to reveal ugly truths about official mismanagement. That China is hitting back at countries spearheading the growing narrative against it is evident from the way it is targeting Australia over barley tariffs. And now that COVID-19 has sent us into an economic tailspin, China has found our weak spot to up its stakes.

The Chinese troops this time have gone beyond the occasional skirmish, frequently pelting stones, amassing troops, building camps and injuring Indian soldiers. Be it the confrontations at three outposts in Ladakh or at Nakula Pass in Sikkim, our men in uniform have been outnumbered as they have been conducting recesses as part of normal patrols according to established protocol. But the Chinese have disregarded norms and assumed battle-ready manoeuvres. What is worrisome is that they are pushing into newer areas which are far away from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and hence not disputed like the Galwan river valley, the 'Finger' areas of Pangong Tso and Demchok in Ladakh and Nakula Pass. In fact, there has been no confusion over Galwan ever since the 1962 war but it looks like China is threatening to change the situation on the ground according to its claimed positions. Clearly, the eyeball to eyeball confrontationist attitude is meant to intimidate India and warn it that any change in global diplomacy and trade partnerships wouldn't save it should China reignite the 3,488 km boundary it shares with us. The Doklam standoff lasted 73 days, this one is sparking hotspots along the Himalayan border. It is obvious China wants to foreground contentious boundary issues now that it has been hemmed in on other frontiers and faces a dipping market in India. The Wuhan spirit has been contaminated and only diplomacy and hard bargaining over mutual needs can perhaps save the day.

Up in the sky

The first day of domestic flights showed that there is no drop in demand and a willing adherence to norms



Two months after India resumed domestic air travel, nobody had expected a resumption of efficiencies in a new world order. But what happened on Monday belied all expectations. Harrowing scenes of chaos and panic among the passengers were reported from airports across the country. Thousands of intending air travellers, desperately waiting as they were for a chance to return to their hometowns, were all armoured with masks, gloves and other protective equipment to risk a trip in the middle of a pandemic. But after paying through their noses for a cab ride to the airport, in the absence of a public transport system, they found that their flights had been cancelled as various State Governments changed receiving protocols at their airports to contain their respective disease spirals. If this wasn't enough, even those who were lucky enough to be airborne, were unaware of what lay ahead. For example, in Bengaluru, transit passengers, who were supposed to take another flight after a layover of a few hours, remained anxious amid reports that they would have to quarantine themselves for a week before they undertook their onward journey. There was no clarity if this rule applied to all arriving passengers or only those who would be checking out of the terminal. Clearly, all such goof-ups could have been avoided had a full-proof system been rehearsed in consultation with State Governments and the aviation majors. It is true that we needed to open up the skies or see the sector go bankrupt completely, throwing an entire workforce out of jobs. But a little bit of caution, perhaps a couple of days of dry run, would not have harmed anyone.

The Government's hasty decision came even as the country's red zones are on the ascendant and the busiest terminals are located in cities worst-hit by the pandemic. State Governments rightly assessed the need for careful regulation, swamped as they are with mushrooming cases and the tendency of Indians to be silent, asymptomatic carriers. So they limited flight operations and conceived of differing quarantine protocols. But there is good news. The Supreme Court has disallowed occupancy of middle seats as they would defeat the purpose of social distancing on-board for an average two-hour flight. And though Government has fixed fare brackets, this will undoubtedly push up costs. The fact that airlines flew 58,318 passengers to their destination on the first day is proof that demand has not dropped. People are willing to fly even in not-so-ideal conditions and internalise protocols of social engagement in a post-pandemic world. At least, the fear of flying again has been overcome. But there's need for tautness and caution, we cannot drop guard.

Respect the 'sword arm'

The grim reality is that our armed forces run the risk of giving in to societal and political passions without fulfilling their reciprocal duty to address the institution's own concerns



BHOPINDER SINGH

Reassurances of trust, confidence and power are naturally vested in the "sword arm" of the nation ie, the armed forces as part of a societal consciousness. This is especially true in a participative democracy like India, where the mandated "restraint" and "dignity" of the "uniform" is underpinned by its apolitical, external-facing, non-interfering and patriotic service, which is Constitutionally subordinate to the will of the people as manifested in a civilian Government. Odd aberrations and derelictions that are attributable to individuals or at worst a group of individuals aside, the "institution" retains its sheen as a shining and working example of the "idea of India."

The inherent composition of the armed forces seamlessly weaves soldiers and regimental denominations of India's myriad ethnicities and diversities. They could theoretically have an Infantry Brigade in the sweltering deserts of western India, which is represented by a Naga battalion (from the North-east), Madras battalion ("Thambis" from South) and a Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry battalion (soldiers almost equally divided from the Kashmir Valley and Jammu plains).

They operationally combine and defend India's sovereignty from any hostile intent from across the border. The culture, training and ethos of this institution are such that societal "divides," that sweep just across the iron-clad cantonments, usually have no echo, tolerance or acceptance within the barracks. Therefore, in every opinion poll after poll, the "Indian soldier" emerges as the most "revered" in the imagination of the citizenry.

But this idyll comes under threat whenever the fundamental coordinates of the armed forces stray from the course. When increasingly internally committed, it is being accused of political leanings. It even gets involved in matters beyond its traditional roles, rectitude and traditions. Such optics and the accompanying murmurs weaken its institutional steel, which has survived various dissonances and uprisings like the Dravidian movement, North-eastern insurgencies or even the Jammu and Kashmir imbroglio.



Metaphorically defying the worst instincts of our societal regressions, distortions and perceptions, a 26-year-old soldier, Sepoy Aurangzeb from the Kashmir Valley, was abducted and killed by Pakistan-supported terrorists. Poignantly, his father ensured that his brothers, too, would don the "uniform" of the Indian Army. Inadvertently, he slapped the wasted, misplaced and ignoble energies of conversations outside garrison towns.

Like all Government institutions, the armed forces, too, have their own concerns that primarily involve two realms. First, the annual budgetary allocation and second, the non-financial and incalculable realm of izzat (honour) that encapsulates the soul of soldiering. Despite the uber-muscular political posturing of the dispensation that naturally posits the "Indian soldier" in an emotive context, cold statistics of the annual budgetary allocation towards the defence forces tell a different story and lay bare power preferences.

It is true that salaries and pensions consume a sizeable component of the Budget. However, this is a matter of requirement in terms of boots-on-ground, given the fractured relationships across the border. Importantly, neither are the

salaries, pensions, work-life balance or other material wherewithal for the soldiers better than those of other Governmental colleagues (the dishonoured spirit of incomplete OROP as promised haunts till date). The point on modernisation need not be belaboured as it routinely faces delays or downsizing (take the example of Rafael) with brazen impunity.

Much was made of the structural changes like theatre commands, two-front capability and jointmanship among others. But so far, the only notional change has been the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). This is potentially a game-changer as it can bring the much-needed security gravitas to the policy tables, raise institutional concerns and address the reckless invocation and requisitioning of the armed forces in internal strife. In parallel, it could also sensitise the armed forces to governmental constraints and requirements.

So far, only the flow of unilateral governmental constraints and requirements (to the discomfiture of traditional moorings) is visible. The more critical flow of the reverse, ie addressing defence concerns, is either invisible or inaudible. The so-called "reforms" also

pertain to the domain of cost-cutting by way of experiments like a three-year short-commission or lateral intake from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPEF) for a seven-year tenure.

While this may statistically fill the shortages in the staff and even expose many in the civil and CAPF to the "military experience," it does not add specialisation, quality or seriousness in the officer as this intake comes with limited tenure. To use the armed forces as a "training school" may be a matter of pride for their unmatched standards to those who gain "limited" exposure but it adds limitedly to the institution itself.

The calling of soldiering in the Indian armed forces has had its own élan, righteousness and flavour. It survived the Nehruvian neglect and the subsequent political penchant for postured frugality, regional passions and social unrest as the cantonments brook no affliction.

Today, literally, the cantonment gates have been opened and the risk of societal and political passions infecting the able-bodied is a grim reality. Indeed, the slide in the institutional narrative ensued immediately after independence but the bare-all societal virus today threatens to infect the psycho-

logical character of this institution. Its "voiceless" nature is necessary but ironically, its undoing as the silent ramrod posture, irrespective of the challenges faced by it, is being taken for granted.

It clearly seems to be partaking and venturing into a lot of unmandated and undesirable directions that seek to milk its historical equity and professionalism. This without a sense of reciprocal duty to address the institution's own concerns. Any political appropriation or leaning of the "uniform" will nail its fate akin to the policing forces. The national and institutional leadership needs to visibly maintain its preferred "distance" and "concern" in the same enthusiasm as it invokes requisitions and explains governmental constraints.

The proverbial "glint in the bayonet" has been retained for decades as the necessary "spit and polish." Decorum and motivation have been ensured with no unnecessary drama or distractions. If the critically-required modernisation, parities and promised guarantees are not possible, then descending political shenanigans or creative misuse are even worse substitutes.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

SOUNDBITE

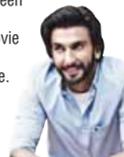
It becomes difficult for us to have a position without understanding the facts. The Government should make it clear to the people what is happening on the border.

Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi



I think I wouldn't have been able to cope with the pressures of being a movie star if she (Deepika) wouldn't have been there. I would have been lost.

Actor —Ranveer Singh



We need a more robust strategy for China. This requires better relations with the rest of democratic Asia, which is replacing the US as the centre of global power.

EU's top diplomat —Josep Borrell



A lot of sport is going to go ahead in front of closed doors. I think expectancy here is high because people want some kind of sport to go on.

Former cricketer —Phil Simmons



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Revive hockey

Sir — It is with great sadness that we heard the news about the demise of one of India's legendary hockey players, Balbir Singh Sr. A three-time gold winner and a reduction in reverse repo rate to 3.35 per cent should ease liquidity. But since the Central bank-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has conceded that the GDP growth in India in 2020-21 will remain in the negative territory, more support is needed from the Government. A huge stimulus package was already announced and now, repo rates have been cut. But when it comes to lending, there's a caveat on the borrower's ability to repay loans. Be it the "credit" guarantee on bad loans offered by the Government under the stimulus package or the earlier verbal assurance of the Finance Minister to the bankers that adequate measures would be taken to protect honest commercial decisions taken by them — all such promises may well remain more pious in nature than transactional.

The ICRA had estimated that bank credit growth may decelerate to 6.5-7 per cent in the current financial year, compared to 13.3 per cent in 2018-19. This will be the lowest in 58 years, mainly on account of lower working capital requirements by companies and risk aversion among lenders. Normally, deposit rates, too, should come down with a fall in repo rate but growth in savings deposits has been lagging behind credit growth for years now. A healthy level of savings had significantly driven the reforms of the 1990s. But today, both ability and incentives on savings have deserted the economy. The RBI fights a lonely crusade in the resurrection.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

RBI cannot do much

This refers to the editorial, "RBI move means little" (May 25). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is grappling with the economic fallout of the Corona pandemic. Its move to slash the repo rate by 40 basis points and a reduction in reverse repo rate to 3.35 per cent should ease liquidity. But since the Central bank-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has conceded that the GDP growth in India in 2020-21 will remain in the negative territory, more support is needed from the Government. A huge stimulus package was already announced and now, repo rates have been cut. But when it comes to lending, there's a caveat on the borrower's ability to repay loans. Be it the "credit" guarantee on bad loans offered by the Government under the stimulus package or the earlier verbal assurance of the Finance Minister to the bankers that adequate measures would be taken to protect honest commercial decisions taken by them — all such promises may well remain more pious in nature than transactional.

The onus is on banks

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "RBI move means little" (May 25). Undoubtedly, repo rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provide enough

buffer to the banks to start lending but they choose to be more aggressive in the market. We need to understand that even without these flurry of rate cuts, banks were already flush with funds as they were hardly lending during pre-COVID days.

Recent rate cuts have created space for the banks. Coupled with this, the ₹20 lakh crore package announced by the Government focusses mainly on providing easy credit to MSMEs. Among all these developments what is really missing

is the need to create demand for economic revival.

With companies undertaking lay-offs and salary cuts, it is a general tendency for the people to become over-conservative. The ball is now in the lender's court to revive the economy. With credit risk being covered under Government guarantee, banks cannot afford to be conservative any more.

Bal Govind
Noida

Pass on the benefits

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "RBI move means little" (May 25). Unless the banks start lending, the stimulus package or repo cuts mean little. The RBI must consider putting a cap on the funds placed by banks with traders and retailers under reverse repo. The Government must come up with a one-time immunity for bank employees from accountability for all loans sanctioned under guarantee.

Ritesh Agrawal
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Karachi crash lessons

The fact that the plane crashed into a row of houses raises the fundamental dangers of highrise buildings near the airport



ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA

There are two important factors in flying. Ponderable and imponderable. The man and machine interface constitutes the ponderable factor while the weather and unforeseen scenarios on the flight path are imponderable. If an aircraft crashes it would be categorised either as an avoidable or an unavoidable accident by the investigators. So, how does one categorise the Karachi air crash of May 22? Avoidable or unavoidable? To do so, one has to re-construct the Lahore-Karachi PIA flight 8303.

Manufactured and sold to China Southern Airlines in 2004, the Airbus-a320-214 was acquired by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in 2014. With a maximum take-off weight of 77 tonnes, the Lahore-Karachi flight certainly couldn't have had a full load as it was carrying just 100 people instead of the usual 140. Covering a distance of 1,050 kilometres approximately in 90 minutes certainly wouldn't be a big deal for an aircraft like this, particularly on a clear day.

Nevertheless, things obviously didn't go as planned and the plane crashed one kilometre from the Karachi runway. So what went wrong? Man or machine? Let's see the machine first. According to *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*, the Airbus-a320-214 is a time-tested sturdy craft, being the "first subsonic commercial aircraft to have composites for major primary structures and a centralised maintenance system." Also, being equipped to fly-by-wire (FBW), "The system incorporates flight envelope protection features to a degree that cannot be achieved with conventional mechanical control systems. Its computers will not allow the aircraft's structural and aerodynamic limitations to be exceeded by the pilot."

Though slightly technical, the above description would give the readers some idea pertaining to the failproof system of Airbus-a320 flying control, which is the main instrument in the hands of the pilot, for a safe landing. No doubt the flight data recorder (FDR) and the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) will be the most crucial instruments that will help decipher the last minutes of the aircraft leading up to the accident. Yet, certain things are clear. First, the aircraft was airworthy. Second, the pilot was competent to fly. Third, the craft, after take-off from Lahore, retracted its undercarriage without any glitch. Fourth, no emergency message (so far) appears to have been reported anywhere en route. Then what happened while descending?

Why did the pilot suddenly call out Mayday (international call for urgent assistance) at the last minute so near the ground? Why didn't the undercarriage of the aircraft open? Was the rate of descent and the speed of approach mismatched owing to a faulty gauge or faulty reading? Was there any catastrophic attack on the cockpit crew by someone? Was it hit by something like a US-made Stinger, shoulder-fired air-to-surface missile, the type of which the Afghan Taliban used against slow and low flying aircraft of the Soviets and then against the US Air Force?

The main cause for concern is the way the distressed craft could not be controlled during the last few minutes, at a low height and slow speed, while aligned with the landing instrument. It has been reported that three unusual things happened. The pilot of the crashed aircraft allegedly ignored three warnings from the Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) about the plane's speed and altitude before the landing and assured the ATC that he was satisfied and would "handle the situation." Later, the undercarriage didn't open and the engine malfunctioned.

The first point to ponder is why did the pilot ignore the ATC's three warnings on speed and altitude? Was he overconfident of his aircraft or his flying skills? Second, were the glitches reported later related? If the undercarriage is retracted on take-off from Lahore but doesn't open before touch-down at Karachi, it could be owing to lack of proper maintenance on the ground. If so, human error led to the mishap. However, if the engine malfunctions after a 90-minute flight, just before landing, again it raises the same question. Why now? Why not before, while on cruising height, or take off, or at a higher altitude, before its descent?

No doubt the Karachi crash probe result will take time to come out. No doubt the world will be keen to study and take note of the findings to avoid the recurrence of such air disasters in the future. But the stark reality is: A qualified pilot, flying an airworthy aircraft, on a hot but clear day, crashed on the outskirts of the landing strip, thereby killing 100 plus passengers and destroying several homes. Instead of the runway, the plane ran over the roofs of human dwellings. In a way, it was an avoidable landing. In another way, the aircraft behaviour at the last minute is puzzling. Only time will tell who is to blame for the crash, the man or the machine?

However, the fact that the plane crashed into a row of houses serves as a grim reminder-cum-warning to all as it raises the fundamental dangers of highrise buildings near the airport. India, too, has faced this problem, from time to time. India does have laws against such real estate development. But are laws being followed in letter and in spirit? Is it time to look afresh at our aviation and aviation-related development laws around airports? Now is as good a time as any.

(The writer is the author of *China in India*)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

CASES OF WIDESPREAD (CORONAVIRUS) INFECTION HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN 25-30 PER CENT OF THE WORKERS COMING FROM OTHER STATES.

—UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
YOGI ADITYANATH



FROM WHERE HAS THIS PERCENTAGE OF INFECTIONS AMONG THE RETURNING MIGRANT WORKERS COME? AND WHY ARE SUCH FEW TESTS BEING DONE THEN?

—CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY
PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

Rethink hospital SOPs

Once the lockdown ends, hospitals would have to work on a hybrid model to manage COVID and other diseases at the same time. And the time for operational planning is now



DEBANSHU ROY

Every once in a while we have a Black Swan event that changes our world forever. In December 2019, we all witnessed something of a similar magnitude, which at that time seemed to be just another disease outbreak. Since then, we have spent upwards of five months with the disease globally, experienced thousands of deaths and witnessed the collapse of economies due to extended lockdowns.

Now, governments around the world are keen on firing up the economic engines but they also understand the need to do that while respecting the limitations imposed by COVID-19. The rules of the game have to be rewritten, factoring in social distancing, hand hygiene, meeting and greeting etiquette and all other measures under the Reich, while we are still finding a cure.

While a lot of these changes will happen over the medium to long-term, some sectors need to reinvent their operations immediately and the one industry which is in the eye of the storm is the healthcare industry. Hospitals are both, a complex multi-stakeholder system catering to a plethora of different health conditions and the centerpiece of epidemic disease clinical response.

However, when all who need care rush to hospitals for treatment, the infection density in these buildings can alternatively amplify disease transmission if not managed properly. Currently, the focus of all healthcare activities has been Corona-management, not just because there is a spike in cases but also because patients suffering from other diseases are not visiting hospitals either due to the lockdown or due to the fear of contracting the virus.

Consequently, many clinicians are also reporting that patients who have missed follow-ups for chronic lifestyle diseases are coming with advanced symptoms due to discontinuity of care. But with the lockdown measures slowly being tapered down, we have to work towards thinking of managing all patients in all healthcare set-ups. Let us imagine a world where Corona and non-Corona patients are treated in the same hospital. We will use the process flow of a patient's journey within the hospital system to see how each element needs to be adapted to the virus. A patient enters the hospital system either through the Emergency Room (ER) or outpatient department (OPD). Going forward it will become extremely important to redesign ER operations. In the light of hospital-acquired infections (HAIs), the presence of a highly-contagious virus can severely expose all other patients coming with non-Corona emergencies. So, to prevent the ER from becoming a seeding point for the virus, it will be essential to separate ERs for Corona and non-Corona cases and triage and preferably establish a person's non-COVID status before allocating an ER.

Not only does this seem a daunting task, also consider the fact that all ER doctors will have to treat any symptomatic patient as a potential Corona patient and pre-emptively wear PPEs at all times. In the absence of extra room for separate ERs, frequent disinfection would be required for the shared set-up to prevent disease transmission.

Once the patient is stabilised, transport to the designated wards needs to be segregated as well. Separate lobbies, elevators and preferably separate wings of the hospital would require to be earmarked for COVID patients. Within the wards, to maintain adequate distancing between patients, the general wards that we now have, would see a reduction in the number of beds.

If the severity of symptoms increases, the patient would be transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), which is the most sensitive unit and needs utmost infection-control care. ICUs need to be separately allocated for COVID patients. Like in ERs,

“THERE IS AN INDUBITABLE INCREASE IN COSTS ANTICIPATED FOR HOSPITALS TO SIMPLY BE ABLE TO OPEN SHOP UNDER REGULATORY CONDITIONS FOR CORONA AND MANAGE BOTH COVID AND NON-COVID PATIENTS IN THE SAME FACILITY. THERE IS ALSO AN UNDENIABLE NEED TO MOVE TO A HIGHER COMMITMENT TO THE STANDARDS OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR THE VIRUS IN THE INDUSTRY AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE. THIS IS A MUCH-NEEDED TRANSITION FOR THE INDUSTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY HAIs, ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND OTHER ISSUES ARISING FROM POOR INFECTION CONTROL IN HOSPITAL SETTINGS”



other patients in the ICU already have multiple severe conditions they are struggling with and almost always have a cocktail of lifestyle diseases, all of which increase the chances of fatality if infected with the virus. Thus, not only will ICUs need to be separate, equipment like ventilators, in an ideal situation should not be transferable between COVID and non-COVID ICUs, given the high chances of infection portability.

For all these locations, OPDs, ERs, wards, elevators, ICUs, Operating Rooms (ORs) and so on, all the staff serving the COVID patients would require PPEs at all times. Additionally, all such environment that has come in contact with COVID workflows will have to be sanitised frequently. All such operations would have an impact on the cost of care.

Hospital visits will also get impacted. Visiting hours might be reduced or completely done away with and a move towards virtual visits might be encouraged. The role of the family member as an informal caregiver to help the patient with tasks like feeding, going to the washroom, brushing, walking and so on, will be completely lost and such tasks might require support from the nursing staff. This adds to the workload of the already thin staffing line due to the rostering of staff dedicated to COVID care.

The second entry point for patients into hospitals is the OPD. This is the trickiest part since confirmation of Corona status is post-testing. Thus, any patient with symptoms of influenza-like illness can be COVID or non-COVID. Additionally, many Corona-positive patients are asymptomatic at the time of testing and thus if they are attending the OPD for a separate health event, they might still be in a position to spread the disease.

Then there are hospital activities that are not patient-facing, yet need focus, like training of staff on Corona-specific management and ramping up supervision of adherence to protocol, since the fallout of non-compliance under these circumstances, is fatal. While there is no denying the importance of all these mea-

asures, the main concern for any manager at this point is how much these measures will affect the bottomline and what proportion of the same will be passed on to the patient?

Add to this the current drying up of revenues since the lockdown began on March 25. The OPD footfall has been reduced to a trickle. Consequently, barely any admissions have happened and hospitals, especially the smaller ones, are struggling to keep their doors open. One Ernst & Young-FICCI study reports a 70-80 per cent drop in footfall and about 50-70 per cent drop in revenue in late March.

Additionally, a large number of big hospital chains also relied on international patient traffic for their profits as medical tourists accounted for anywhere between 10-25 per cent of their total revenue. In a situation of complete uncertainty of when international travel will begin again, that revenue stream will remain in limbo.

There is an indubitable increase in costs anticipated for hospitals to simply be able to open shop under regulatory conditions for Corona and manage both COVID and non-COVID patients in the same facility. There is also an undeniable need to move to a higher commitment to the standards of infection prevention and control for the virus in the industry and the nation as a whole. This is a much-needed transition for the industry, which has been plagued by HAIs, anti-microbial resistance and other issues arising from poor infection control in hospital settings. While the global HAI is pegged at seven per cent for developed and 10 per cent for developing countries, for India different studies under different settings of ICUs, ERs, OPDs and so on have seen numbers touch anywhere between 20-30 per cent. These are completely avoidable hospital stays and potential causes for death, which can be mitigated by proper disinfection and sanitisation practices of facilities and devices.

For too long we have neglected these issues with a false sense of security and patchy actions and policies to cover small

breaches whenever they happened. The pandemic brings with it an opportunity to reflect upon these choices and use this as a time to rethink the way we manage hospitals wherein infection control should be a top priority for the ergonomics of such institutions. While the industry is on the brink of a shift in operations because of the pandemic, it needs time to readjust its bearings for the same.

As we wait for social mobility to resume after May 31, the clock is ticking for hospital managers to figure out how to keep their doctors from getting infected, treat their patients and ensure that profits are maintained. At the moment, patients have been denied services by smaller nursing homes under suspicion of COVID. There is a trickling crowd visiting hospitals. But once we ease the lockdown, social mobility will come back to near pre-COVID times. That is when the fear of hospitals bursting at the seams becomes real. Patients rushing to clinics, weighing their burden of other diseases with the chance of contracting Coronavirus. We do expect the virus to reach the ranks of other infectious diseases wherein the treatment can be managed at the ICUs at worst and prevented by vaccinations at best. But that time is yet to come and till then, hospitals would have to work on a hybrid model to manage COVID and other diseases at the same time.

There will be more deliberations and fine-tuning of industry practices. Some old practices will be jettisoned and new ones adopted for a new world. Till we reach that time, the healthcare industry will see some rapid, step ladder shifts in operations. The Government will have to hand-hold this transition so that the industry does not crumble under pressure while health access and equity is maintained and technology catalyses this change. How this happens is yet to be seen but the window of time available for planning is fast closing.

(The writer is a health economist and engagement manager for health projects at the International Innovation Corps, a University of Chicago programme in Delhi)

Divided Opp still failing in its duty

The bottomline is that while the BJP has chalked out its agenda, the Opposition is still stumbling about



KALYANI SHANKAR

Government in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Delhi, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in the last one year.

Even the main Opposition party, the Congress, has been ineffective in challenging the Modi Government because the grand old party itself is going through a leadership crisis. It is still groping in the dark for an effective political narrative and is facing an acute dearth of ideas. The Congress is in the process of rediscovering its identity and political relevance in the country.

There are various reasons for the Opposition's ineffectiveness right now. The first is that the people gave Modi a huge mandate in 2019, even bigger than the one in 2014, when he came to power, ending 30 years of coalition politics in the country. But that should not be an excuse because the Opposition managed to bring down



the Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1989 due to the Bofors imbroglio. In fact, Rajiv had come to power on a much more massive mandate — a whopping 415 seats out of 542 in 1984 while Modi's BJP got only 303 seats in 2019. But there were many Opposition stalwarts like Indrajit Gupta, Somnath Chatterjee, AB Vajpayee, LK Advani and a few others who were able to hold the House to ransom on the Bofors issue and brought down the Rajiv Government. So the number game doesn't apply to the present crisis in the Opposition. The issues and opportunities to hit the Modi Government were abundant in the last one year but

the attacks by the Opposition were weak. For instance, many controversial laws like the Citizenship Amendment Act and the repeal of Article 370 and so on were pushed through by the Government despite Opposition protests inside Parliament and out of it. To make things easier for the Government, the Coronavirus outbreak pushed all other important issues, including the plight of the Indian economy, to the background. For the last five months nothing other than the pandemic is being discussed in the nation. Unfortunately, without the Parliament, the Opposition has lost the opportunity to effectively highlight the plight of stranded migrant labourers in the country, though each party had raised the issue individually.

However, the most important factor weakening the Opposition is the lack of unity among the various par-

ties. They failed to unite even on important issues like the CAA though some parties took to the streets. A shrewd politician like Modi was able to use this division successfully to get the controversial laws passed even in the House of Elders where the Government is still in a minority. Despite all these setbacks, the Opposition is not able to sustain its efforts at unity. Nearly 22 Opposition parties attended the virtual meeting called by Congress president Sonia Gandhi last week. There were many such meetings in the past, too, but all efforts to unite the divided Opposition have failed so far because regional satraps have big egos and they are unwilling to set them aside.

Hence, the Opposition is divided and leaderless as the Congress, despite being the major national party, has not been able to take the lead. They are not able to agree on one leader with the

stature to lead the Opposition. Stalwarts like Deve Gowda, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Lalu Prasad have taken a back seat now and though many senior regional leaders are amenable to attending meetings called by Sonia, they are reluctant to accept Gandhi's leadership. Most importantly, the new generation of Opposition leaders has little or no connection with the people as the family fiefdom concept works only at the regional level. Plus, the Opposition does not have a single leader who can match the oratorical and persuasive skills of Modi, who continues to be popular because he has no opponent.

The bottomline is that while the Opposition is still stumbling about. It is high time it develops an effective strategy to challenge the Government. This is good for democracy.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

FOREIGN EYE

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR PRISONERS

The pandemic has seen inmates confined to their cells in the UK. Ministers must explain how such measures can be safely lifted as too much of solitude is bad. Ministers must also decide how vulnerable prisoners are to be protected and explain why the Government's early release scheme flopped.

(The Guardian editorial)

Around the Globe

At least 15,000 Rohingya refugees are under quarantine in Bangladesh's vast camps, as the number of confirmed coronavirus infections there rose to 29. Health experts have long warned that the virus could race through the cramped settlements, housing almost a million Rohingya who fled violence in Myanmar, and officials had restricted movement in the area in April.

Indonesia has ordered the deployment of hundreds of thousands of troops and police officers to enforce rules on wearing face masks and physical distancing, as the world's fourth-most populous nation prepares to reopen its economy after a coronavirus lockdown. Armed forces chief Air Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto said on Tuesday about 340,000 officers would be deployed in four provinces - Jakarta, West Java, West Sumatra and Gorontalo - to ensure the country's safe transition to the "new normal".

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's approval rating has dropped 20 points to -1 per cent after he refused to sack his chief aide, Dominic Cummings for allegedly breaking coronavirus lockdown rules, it was reported on Tuesday.

A UK Minister resigned on Tuesday over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's chief aide, Dominic Cummings' alleged breaking of coronavirus lockdown rules. Junior Minister Douglas Ross resigned as Under Secretary of State for Scotland, becoming the first government minister to quit over the row that has engulfed Downing Street over the past several days, reports the Metro newspaper.

A US biotechnology company began injecting a coronavirus vaccine candidate into people in Australia on Tuesday with hopes of releasing a proven vaccine this year. Novavax will inject 131 volunteers in the first phase of the trial testing the safety of the vaccine and looking for signs of its effectiveness, the company's research chief Dr. Gregory Glenn said. About a dozen experimental vaccines against the coronavirus are in early stages of testing or poised to start, mostly in China, the US and Europe. It's not clear that any will prove safe and effective. But many work in different ways, and are made with different technologies, increasing.

The Spanish government has declared 10 days of mourning starting Wednesday for the nearly 27,000 people who have died with the novel coronavirus in Spain, the longest official mourning period in the country's 4-decade-old democracy. Flags will be hoisted to half-staff in more than 14,000 public buildings across the nation and on Spanish naval vessels until June 5, under the declaration made Tuesday.

Two northern regions account for far more than half of Italy's latest confirmed cases of the new coronavirus. According to Health Ministry figures, Lombardy registered 159 new cases in the 24-hour period ending Tuesday evening, while neighboring Piedmont registered 86 cases. The only other region to have more than 50 cases in the day-to-day tally was Liguria, also in the north.

US DEATH TOLL AT 1 LAKH

AP ■ WASHINGTON/BANGKOK

Worldwide, the virus has infected more than 5.6 million people, killing about 350,000. Europe has had about 1,70,000 deaths and the US has crossed 1,00,000. Experts said the tally understates the true toll of the disaster.

Brazil and India struggle with surging coronavirus cases, a top health expert is warning that the world is still in the very middle of the outbreak, dampening hopes for a speedy global economic rebound and renewed international travel.

"Right now, we're not in the second wave. We're right in the middle of the first wave globally," said Dr Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's executive director.

"We're still very much in a phase where the disease is actually on the way up," Ryan said, pointing to South America, South Asia and other parts of the world.

The virus has taken hold in some of the country's poorest, most densely populated areas,

Covid-19 TRACKER

TOTAL CASES: 5,640,857

DEATHS: 3,49,672

RECOVERED: 2,406,838

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	1,713,654	1,00,064
Brazil	3,77,711	23,606
Russia	3,62,342	3,807
Spain	2,83,339	27,117
UK	2,65,227	37,048
Italy	2,30,555	32,955
France	1,82,942	28,432
Germany	1,81,094	8,449



underscoring the challenges authorities face in trying to contain a virus for which no vaccine or cure has yet to be developed.

In Brazil, where President Jair Bolsonaro has raged against state and local leaders enforcing stay-at-home measures, WHO warned that before reopening the economy, authorities must have enough testing in place to control the spread of the virus.

Brazil has 3,75,000 coronavirus infections — second only to the 1.6 million cases in the US — and has counted over 23,000 deaths, but many fear Brazil's true toll is much higher.

Ryan said Brazil's "intense"

transmission rates means it should keep some stay-at-home measures in place, regardless of the damage to the economy.

"You must continue to do everything you can," he said.

But Sao Paulo Gov. João Doria has ruled out a full lockdown in Brazil's largest state economy and plans to start loosening restrictions on June 1.

In Europe, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that the postponed military parade marking the 75th anniversary of the allied victory in the World War II will take place on June 24. Victory Day has become the most important holiday in Russia, marked every year on May 9

with a show of armed might in Red Square.

Putin said the country has passed the peak of the outbreak.

Russia reported a record one-day spike on Tuesday of 174 deaths, bringing the country's confirmed death toll to over 3,800. Russia's coronavirus caseload surpassed 3,60,000 — the third-highest in the world — with almost 9,000 new infections registered.

The country's comparatively low mortality rate has raised questions among experts. Russian officials vehemently deny manipulating any figures and attribute the low numbers to the effectiveness of

the country's lockdowns.

The question of who can travel where and when remains a dilemma in many places.

Spain's Foreign Minister said that European Union members should collectively agree to open borders and determine which non-EU countries are safe for travel.

"We have to start working with our European partners to retake the freedom of movement in European territories," Arancha González Laya told Cadena SER radio.

Spain is eager to welcome tourists to shore up an industry that accounts for 12% of the country's GDP.

Aiming to entice travelers,

WHO warns that first wave of pandemic not over, dampens hopes

Greek authorities will introduce cheaper tickets for sea travel from the mainland to Greek islands on June 1.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia struck a deal to open their borders for 48 hours of travel without quarantines among their citizens starting Wednesday.

South Korea began requiring people to wear masks on public transit and in taxis. The country is tracing dozens of infections linked to nightclubs and other venues as it prepares for 2.4 million students to return to school on Wednesday.

South Korea's Health Ministry said beginning in June, "high-risk" businesses such as bars, nightclubs, gyms, karaoke rooms and concert halls will be required to use QR

codes to register customers so they can be found more easily when infections occur. Privacy watchdog group Jinbo Net called the move excessive.

"That's exactly how we step into a surveillance state," it said.

Meanwhile, seven public media outlets from the US, Europe, Canada, Japan and Australia said they will work to beat back "the proliferation, particularly on social networks, of fake news" about Covid-19.

The broadcasters include France Médias Monde, Deutsche Welle, the BBC, World Service, NHK World, CBC Radio-Canada, ABC Australia and the US Agency for Global Media, whose networks include Voice of America and Radio Free Asia.

Chinese lawmakers propose foreign states immunities law to counter Covid lawsuit in US

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese lawmakers have proposed formulating a foreign states immunities law, following litigations filed against the Asian powerhouse in the US and other countries seeking compensation over the coronavirus outbreak.

The move will protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens as well as foreign investors, said Ma Yide, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) and a law researcher at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences.

It will also counteract malicious litigations raised in countries like the US towards China over the Covid-19 response, Ma told reporters on Tuesday on the sidelines of the annual parliament session.

A lawsuit was filed by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt against the Chinese government, the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), and other Chinese officials and institutions in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

It alleges that during the critical weeks of the initial outbreak of the coronavirus, the Chinese authorities deceived the public, suppressed crucial information, arrested

whistle-blowers, denied human-to-human transmission in the face of mounting evidence, destroyed critical medical research, allowed millions of people to be exposed to the virus, and even hoarded personal protective equipment (PPE), causing a global pandemic that was unnecessary and preventable.

Observers say the Missouri lawsuit could pose a problem to China in view of the US courts' claim of universal jurisdiction.

Asked for his reaction to the lawsuits whether Beijing is concerned that China's assets overseas could be seized, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday said, "Some people are clamouring for so-called accountability and compensation from a victim of Covid-19."

They are fabricating so-called evidence for frivolous lawsuits. These people are trampling on international rule of law and betraying human conscience"

Ma said the lack of such a law has emerged as a prominent issue in the current epidemic as some countries, led by the United States, tried to shift the blame for their own governments' incompetence on Covid-19 response.

Some groups and individuals in some countries even

cited the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of the United States to bring litigations to the Chinese Government and relevant departments, he added.

"This has trampled on the internationally recognised principle of sovereign immunity, and is also a show of hegemony and power politics," Ma said, stressing the necessity and urgency for China to formulate a foreign states immunities law.

China follows the principle of absolute immunity of foreign states and their property, thus Chinese litigants are unable to sue foreign Governments from domestic courts, while Chinese Governments have often been sued in foreign courts, he added.

Ma suggested adopting a limited immunities principle, which is more commonly found in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Union countries. From a long-term perspective, adopting a limited immunities principle will show a responsible manner of the Chinese Government to foreign investors, ensure stable expectations for the protection of their investments, and facilitate China's new round of opening-up and the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, he said.

AROUND THE WORLD IN PICTURES



Corona heightens health risks of record-breaking hot summer in northern hemisphere: UN

AFP ■ GENEVA

The UN's weather agency warned Tuesday that Covid-19 would amplify the risks of what was expected to be a record-breaking hot summer in the northern hemisphere.

The World Meteorological Organization urged governments to make plans to keep people safe during heatwaves without spreading the novel coronavirus.

This year is expected to be "another record-breaking heat season in the northern hemisphere", WMO spokeswoman Clare Nullis Kapp told a virtual briefing in Geneva.

"We're currently experiencing one of the hottest years on record.

"Covid-19 amplifies the health risks of hot weather for many people, and it complicates the task of managing it"

The United Nations agency teamed up Tuesday with non-governmental organisations to call for stronger preparations to keep people safe in hot weather while keeping a lid on the

pandemic.

The information series, which covers topics such as ventilation, vulnerable populations and personal protection equipment, is being issued "to alert decision-makers to try to help them manage the duel challenge of heat and Covid," said Nullis Kapp.

In some places, what would typically be good advice during a heatwave — such as heading for air-conditioned indoor public spaces — runs counter to public health guidance due to the coronavirus crisis.

India is currently experiencing a widespread heatwave, with temperatures reaching 47.5 degrees Celsius (117.5 Fahrenheit) in the city of Churu in Rajasthan.

"India is experiencing a heatwave, and this is at the same time as it is relaxing the lockdown measures," said Nullis Kapp.

"Heatwaves are becoming more frequent and more intense because of climate change. This is putting an increasing stress on human health and human health systems," she added.

China's missing 'Bat Woman' appears on state TV; says Covid 'tip of iceberg'

PTI ■ BEIJING

A leading Chinese virologist whose mysterious disappearance sparked speculation about the deadly novel coronavirus emanating from a biolab in Wuhan, was for the first time interviewed on China's state television where she warned that such viruses are just the "tip of the iceberg" and expressed regret over science being "politicised".

Shi Zhengli, known as the "Bat Woman" for her passionate research about bats and the

viruses associated with them, had early this month refuted "rumours" of her defection to the West on her Chinese social media WeChat account. She also posted nine photos of her recent life.

On Tuesday, Shi was interviewed on state-run television CGTN in which she made a direct reference to US President Donald Trump's allegations that the COVID-19 originated from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) where she is a lead researcher on bats.

Shi explained that she and

a group of researchers obtained samples of coronavirus on December 30 last year and performed high-throughput sequencing of the samples and the isolation of pathogens.

"And then in a very short time, we identified that this was a new type of coronavirus in these samples. We obtained its whole genome sequence. It showed that the pathogen's sequence was not the same as the already existing viruses. So we named it a novel coronavirus," she said, adding that it was submitted to the World

Health Organisation (WHO) on January 12.

The researchers carried out animal infection experiments for pathogen identification. "We completed an animal infection experiment with transgenic mice on February 6. Then we completed the animal infection experiment with rhesus monkeys on February 9. Both the animal infection experiments showed that the coronavirus isolated by us was a cause of the unexplained pneumonia," she said.

In the English translation

of the text of her interview published by state-run channel, there was no reference to her mysterious absence and her tweets denying rumours of her defection.

In an apparent reference to allegations that the virus has emanated from the lab, she said, "I think that science has been politicised. It's very regrettable. I believe scientists from around the world don't want to see this. As I mentioned before, the researches on infectious diseases must be open and transparent."

She said she will continue with her research as there are many types of bats and other wild animals in nature (which could potentially be the carriers of many viruses).

"The viruses that we have discovered are actually just the tip of the iceberg. If we want to protect humans from the outbreak of new infectious diseases, we must take the initiative to learn about these unknown viruses carried by wild animals and give early warnings," she said.

China is resisting mount-

ing pressure from the US and the leaders of many countries for an inquiry into the origin of the virus, which was initially stated to have emerged from a wet market in Wuhan selling live animals located close to WIV. Besides Trump, who stepped up demand for an investigation into the origin of the virus and whether it escaped from Wuhan Institute of Virology, Britain, Australia and German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for more transparency from Beijing on Covid-19 origins.

US military says Russia deployed fighter jets to Libya

AP ■ CAIRO

The US military on Tuesday accused Russia of deploying fighter jets to conflict-stricken Libya to support Russian mercenaries aiding east-based forces in their offensive on the capital, Tripoli.

In a strongly worded statement, the US Africa Command said the Russian military aircraft arrived in Libya recently from an airbase in Russia via Syria, where they were repainted to hide their Russian origin. AFRICOM did not say how many aircraft were transferred or when exactly they arrived in Libya.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow. "For too long, Russia has denied the full extent of its involvement in the ongoing Libyan conflict. Well, there is no denying it now. We watched as Russia flew fourth generation jet fighters to Libya — every step of the way," said US Army Gen. Stephen Townsend, commander, US Africa Command.

Beijing to crackdown on maps not displaying Taiwan, disputed areas as part of China

PTI ■ BEIJING

The Chinese capital Beijing will launch campaigns to address the issue of "problematic" maps that don't portray China's territory "correctly", including its claims over Taiwan and the South China Sea, and rectify the mistakes, the state media reported on Tuesday.

Thirteen Beijing municipal departments, including the Beijing cyberspace administration, will launch the 2020 annual campaigns inspecting problematic maps, demanding that map compilation companies, map publishers and map users as well as online map service providers self-examine and rectify, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Planning and Natural Resources said on Tuesday.

Relevant departments will

investigate maps that incorrectly portray China's territory, endanger national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, or harm the nation's security and interests. If the circumstances are serious, relevant people will face criminal punishment, state-run Global Times reported.

"Problematic" maps refer to those that do not portray China's territory correctly, covering the inclusion of the island of Taiwan, the national boundary lines on Taiwan Island, clear delineation of the Diaoyu Island and islands in the South China Sea and nine-dash line.

China views Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam claim parts of it.

Increased military budget is in line with challenges: China

PTI ■ BEIJING

The Chinese military has defended its increased budget of USD 179 billion for this year, saying it is in line with the challenges faced by the country. China's defence budget this year will be around 1.27 trillion yuan (USD 179 billion) against last year's 177.61 billion, up by 6.6 per cent, according to a draft submitted to the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC) on Friday.

China has been facing new risks and challenges in its national defence in recent times, Defence Spokesman Wu Qian told the meeting, mainly referring to Taiwan where the government headed by President Tsai Ing-wen had last week challenged Beijing's assertions that it is a part of China. By scale and allocation,

the defence expenditure is based on China's economic development situation and national defence requirements, he told delegates at the Parliament session here, state-run Global Times reported.

From a domestic point of view, there have been multidimensional and complicated security risks, as there are more serious anti-secession missions, with the ruling Democratic Progressive Party authorities in Taiwan relying on foreign forces, he said China's homeland security and overseas interests are also facing some real threats, Wu said.

China must have a clear mind when it comes to national defence and be prepared for danger in peacetime, he said.

Af Govt releases hundreds of Taliban prisoners

AP ■ KABUL

The Afghan Government released hundreds of Taliban prisoners on Tuesday, its single largest prisoner release since the US and the Taliban signed a peace deal earlier this year that spells out an exchange of detainees between the warring sides.

The Government announced it would release 900 Taliban prisoners as a three-day cease-fire with the insurgents draws to an end. The Taliban had called for the truce during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr that marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

There were expectations that the prisoner release could lead to new reductions in violence, and Taliban officials were considering an extension of the cease-fire, a senior Taliban figure confirmed to The Associated Press.

Body of Asia Bibi's brother-in-law found with throat slit in his farm

Sheikhupura (Pakistan): Younus, the brother-in-law of Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian woman who spent years in jail before her acquittal, was killed in Sheikhupura city of Punjab province in Pakistan on Monday.

According to the FIR, Younus had gone to his farms on May 24 and did not return home at night. His body with throat slit was traced in the farm the following morning.

In 2011, Salman Taseer, influential governor of Punjab was assassinated after he made headlines by appealing for the pardon of Asia Bibi, who had been sentenced to death for allegedly insulting Prophet Muhammad. A month after Taseer was killed, Religious Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, a Christian who spoke out against the laws, was shot dead in Islamabad, underlining threat faced by critics of the law.

GLOBE TROTTER

HELICOPTER CRASH-LANDS IN RUSSIA, KILLS 4
Moscow: A Russian military helicopter crash-landed on an airfield in the far eastern region of Chukotka, killing four people, the military said. The crash involving a Mi-8 helicopter may have been caused by a technical malfunction, the Defence Ministry said.

COSTA RICA TO LEGALISE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE
San Jose: Costa Rica is expected to become the latest country to legalise same-sex marriage when a ruling from its supreme court goes into effect ending the country's ban.

445 PEOPLE DIED FROM AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES SMOKE
Canberra: Smoke from Australia's devastating 2019-20 bushfires killed at least 445 people, health experts revealed. Fay Johnston, a public health expert from the Menzies Institute for Medical Research at the University of Tasmania, told the bushfire royal commission on Tuesday that her team estimated that 445 people died.

COVID RECESSION

Crisil: India's GDP likely to contract 5% in FY21

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to suffer from its fourth recession in the last 69 years, as the country's GDP is likely to contract by 5 per cent in FY21, credit rating agency Crisil said in a report on Tuesday. The report comes days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) predicted that India's GDP growth for the financial year 2020-21 may remain in the negative territory.

Earlier, on April 28, it had slashed growth prediction to 1.8 per cent from 3.5 per cent. "Things have only gone downhill since," a Crisil Research report said. "While we expect non-agricultural GDP to contract 6 per cent, agriculture could cushion the blow by growing at 2.5 per cent."

The rating agency pointed out that in the past 69 years, India has seen a recession only thrice. As per available data, these recessions occurred in fiscal years 1958, 1966 and 1980.

"The reason was the same each time - a monsoon shock that hit agriculture, then a sizeable part of the economy," the report said.

"The recession staring at us today is different. For one, agriculture could soften the blow this time by growing near its trend rate, assuming a normal monsoon. Two, the pandemic-induced lockdowns

have affected most non-agriculture sectors. And three, the global disruption has upended whatever opportunities India had on the exports front."

Besides, the report predicted that first quarter will suffer a staggering 25 per cent contraction.

"About 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in real terms could be permanently lost," the report said.

"So going back to the growth rates seen before the pandemic is unlikely in the next three fiscals."

Laying down the factors for the downward revision GDP outlook, Crisil said that latest studies by the Public Health Foundation of India and the World Health Organisation suggest the pandemic spread could peak by mid-July, implying that even if the nationwide lockdown is lifted after May 31, states with high and rising COVID-19 cases could continue with restrictions, which will be a drag on the economy.

It, however, said that on the positive side the India Meteorological Department expects the southwest monsoon this year to be 96-104 per cent of the long-period average, which augurs well for agriculture and crude oil prices are expected to average \$30 per barrel in fiscal 2021, cushioning the economy.

Talking of the economic package recently announced by the Centre, it said that the package has some short-term measures to cushion the economy, but sets its sights majorly on reforms, most of which will have payoffs only over the medium term.

"We estimate the fiscal cost of this package at 1.2 per cent of GDP, which is lower than what we had assumed in our earlier estimate (when we forecast a growth in GDP)," it said.

It said that successive lockdowns have a non-linear and multiplicative effect on the economy and a two-month lockdown will be more than twice as debilitating as a one-month imposition, as buffers keep eroding. Partial relaxations continue to be a hindrance to supply chains, transportation and logistics, it said, adding that unless the entire supply chain is unlocked, the impact of improved economic activity will be subdued.

"Therefore, despite the stringency of lockdown easing a tad in the third and the fourth phases, their negative impact on GDP is expected to massively outweigh the benefits from mild fiscal support and low crude oil prices, especially in the April-June quarter. Consequently, we expect the current quarter's GDP to shrink 25 per cent year-on-year," it said.

Indices reverse gains on sharp rise in Covid cases

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty failed to cling on to day's highs and settled in the red on Tuesday as investors remained unsure about economic recovery amid mounting Covid-19 cases in the country.

Shedding over 574 points from the day's high, the BSE Sensex settled 63.29 points or 0.21 per cent lower at 30,609.30.

Similarly, NSE Nifty ended 10.20 points or 0.11 per cent down at 9,029.05.

Bharti Airtel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, plunging around 6 per cent, followed by TCS, Bajaj Finance, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Hero MotoCorp.

On the other hand, Titan, Ultratech Cement, IndusInd Bank, Nestle India and ITC were among the gainers.

Sectorally, BSE telecom, teck, IT, healthcare and energy indices fell up to 4.64 per cent, while metals, consumer durables, utilities, power and auto index ended with gains.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap outperformed benchmarks, rallying up to 1.21 per cent. Sentiment in the Indian market remained volatile despite global markets trading positive.

"After opening up by more than 1 per cent, benchmark indices pared gains to close flat, with a negative bias. However,



₹ recovers 29p to 75.66 on growth optimism, weak \$

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated by 29 paise to close at 75.66 against the US dollar on Tuesday tracking weakness in the American currency as easing of Covid-19 lockdown measures fuelled growth optimism.

Forex traders said weakness in the US dollar against major world currencies overseas and easing of lockdown restrictions across the world boosted investor sentiment and supported the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened higher at 75.69 and moved in a range of 75.62 to 75.74 in day trade. The rupee finally ended at 75.66, registering a rise of 29 paise over its previous close. On Friday, rupee had settled at 75.95 against the US dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.44 per cent down at 99.42.

Global shares up as recovery hopes overshadow virus worries

Tokyo: Global shares rose on Tuesday as hopes for economic recovery overshadowed worries over the coronavirus pandemic. Investors are shifting their focus to how various nations are adapting to getting back to business, while striving to keep new Covid-19 cases in check.

France's CAC 40 was up 1% to 4,585 as the government was due to unveil support measures for the auto industry. Germany's DAX gained 0.6% to 11,458 and the FTSE 100 in Britain, which was closed for trading on Monday, rose 1.2% to 6,063.

US shares were set for gains after a long weekend, with the future for the Dow industrials adding 1.9% and the future for the S&P 500 rising 1.8%.

Traders are awaiting US consumer confidence data for May and home sales for April, indicators that might give further clues into the severity of the downturn brought on by the pandemic.

"As is the financial market's wont these days... Even the

slimmest of positive news on the Covid-19 front triggers a bullish immune response and another wave of the peak-virus trade," said analyst Jeffrey Halley of trading platform Oanda.

Comments from China's central bank governor on support for its slowing economy also lifted sentiment.

Yi Gang, in an interview on the bank's website, promised to push down borrowing costs for entrepreneurs and "support development of the real economy."

Mumbai: The de-materialised trading of Reliance Industries Ltd - Rights Entitlement (RIL-RE) continued to draw strong demand on day four on Tuesday with an average premium of more than 7 per cent over the intrinsic value.

While oil-to-telecom behemoth RILs ₹53,125 crore mega rights issue opened for subscription by shareholders last week, it became the first issue where eligible shareholders got the rights entitlements (REs) in demat, which could be traded on stock exchanges.

RIL-REs on an average commanded a premium of ₹12.07 on Tuesday, over 7 per cent premium over the intrinsic value, according to stock exchange data.

At a time when marquee companies like Bharti Airtel and Kotak Mahindra Bank are selling their equity stakes at 5-6 per cent discount to their market price, RILs RE continues to command a premium over its intrinsic value.

The volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of RIL-REs stood at ₹183.75 on Tuesday.

FSDC meet tomorrow, to discuss impact of Covid on economy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called the meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on Thursday, which among other things will discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the financial sector and the economy.

This will be the first meeting of the FSDC, which comprises RBI Governor and other financial sector regulators, after the outbreak of the coronavirus. The FSDC meeting, to be chaired by the finance minister, will held via video conferencing, sources said.

The meeting will take place in the backdrop of India staring at the risk of contraction in growth during the fiscal due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Besides the RBI Governor, the members of the FSDC include chairmen of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Name of work with its location	1. Repair and fencing of Boundary wall of SSE/CTRD Store at Ajmeri gate side, New Delhi under Sr.DEN/Works. 2. Face Lifting of Delhi Area stations with Vinyl painting on exteriors and interiors under Sr.DEN/Works. 3. Annual operation and maintenance of sand filter, disinfection system and valve operation at HNZM water complex in the section of SSE/W/ HNZM under DEN/W-2/DLLI. (For two years) 4. Construction of additional 6.10 m wide FOBs at East & West FOBs at Delhi Main station under Sr. DEN/Works. 5. Extension of 3rd FOB from PF 4/5 to PF 8/9 with additional landing in circulating area at Hazarat Nizamuddin under Sr.DEN/Works/DLI.
Approx. Cost of work	(1) Rs. 3006082/- (2) Rs. 22113932/- (3) Rs. 14832164/- (4) Rs. 33345607/- (5) Rs. 22471113/-
Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated: 31.08.2016) (1) Rs. 60100/- (2) Rs. 260600/- (3) Rs. 224200/- (4) Rs. 316700/- (5) Rs. 262400/-
Cost of tender	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated: 31.08.2016) (1) Rs. 3540/- (2) Rs. 5900/- (3) Rs. 5900/- (4) Rs. 11800/- (5) Rs. 11800/-
Date and time for Submission of tender and opening of tender	Up to 15.00 hrs on 26.06.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 26.06.2020
Website particulars notice board location	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-1,2,3, 4&5-2020-21/Works
Dated : 26.05.2020

Serving Customers With A Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found in unconscious condition at Panchkuan Road, Railway Colony, Nehru Bazar, Pahar Ganj, Delhi and admitted in LHM Hospital, Delhi vide MLC No. 1439/2020, dated 19.05.2020. Where he declared bought dead. In this regard a DD No. 31A Dated 19.05.2020 has been Registered at P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi. The Dead body had been preserved in Mortuary of LHM Hospital, Delhi for 72 Hrs for identification. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown **Age:** About 40 Yrs, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Hair and Beard:** Black, **Wearing:** Grey colour Lower and Bare footed.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23524746, 23520787, 8750012525, 8750042525

DP/119/CD/2020

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS)

Corrigendum-6

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) GLOBAL in order to develop Technical specifications for development and manufacture of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Hybrid Distributed Power Rolling Stock (DPRS) with regenerative braking system, EOI (IROAF/CME(G)/FUEL CELL POWERED) invited on 03.01.2020.

The date of submission of EOI in the prescribed Format is extended from 27.05.2020 to 12.06.2020

Please visit website of IROAF <https://iroaf.indianrailways.gov.in/> → IROAF Tenders → Expression of Interest.

Contact person:
Chief Mechanical Engineer/BD,
Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF),
Government of India, Ministry of Railways
4th Floor, Railway Office Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002
Telephone no.:-011-23379107, Fax no.:-011-23379083
Email: cmebdiroaf@gmail.com

1187/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Bharti Telecom sells 2.75% stake in Airtel for ₹8,433 crore to institutional investors

New Delhi: Promoter firm Bharti Telecom has sold 2.75 per cent stake in Airtel to institutional investors in the secondary market, raising over ₹8,433 crore, the company said on Tuesday.

The sale proceeds will be fully utilised to repay debt at Bharti Telecom and will make the promoter holding firm a 'debt free company', it said.

Bharti Group and Singtel will continue to hold a majority stake in Bharti Airtel at 56.23 per cent after the transaction, the company added.

The shares were sold at ₹558 apiece and banking sources said the list of institutional buyers included Blackrock, Norges Bank, Axis MF, HDFC MF, Birla MF, SBI MF, Segantini, and Marshall Wace.

The shares of Bharti Airtel closed at ₹559.15 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday, about 5.7 per cent lower than the previous close.

Announcing the closure of secondary block placement of Airtel shares, Bharti Telecom said the issue was over-subscribed multiple times with healthy mix of all categories of investors, long only and hedge fund investors across geographies in India, Asia, Europe and the US.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION BEED

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.BEED/01 OF 2020-21

E-Tenders for (02) Works in B-1 form is invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Beed (Phone No. 02442-222474) from the registered Contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Govt. of Maharashtra for the improvement roads/repair of buildings/construction of new buildings in Tal. Beed/Georai/Wadwani Dist. Beed.

The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website. www.mahapwd.com. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DGIPR/2020/2021/130
Public Works Division Beed

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम

निविदा सूचना

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम के कार्यरत अधिकारियों/कर्मचारियों के लिए मेडिकलेम पोर्सिसी वर्क 2020-21 राशि एक लाख रुपये प्रति कर्मचारी (मय परिवार जन) ली जाती है इस हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जिसकी सूचना <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है। UBN No. RTC2021SLOB00006

राज संवाद / सी / 20 / 355 विद्यापन संख्या 02/2020-21

Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation

Head Office : Parivahan marg, H.O. Jaipur

NIT to provide an electronic platform for conducting forward E-Auction for sale of serviceable and unserviceable material etc.

Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC), Jaipur invite bids from eligible bidders to provide an electronic platform for conducting forward E-Auction for sale of serviceable and unserviceable material, obsolete, new spare parts and scrap of ferrous & non-ferrous metal, scrap tyres & tubes, scrap bus body with assembly & without assembly used oil & chemicals, electrical wire, machinery condom office equipment and other scrap material of RSRTC lying at CWS Ajmer, Jodhpur, Jaipur & DWS Udaipur through E-Auction. Details of this tender notification and eligibility criteria can be seen in the NIT exhibited on website <http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc> and <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> also on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> from 30.05.2020 onward. UBN No. RTC2021WLOB00003

Raj.Samwad/C20/360 Adv. No. 04/2020-21 Financial Advisor

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD

(A Government of India Undertaking)

OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE

Name of Work : Design, Engineering, Supply, Transportation, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 110 KV EHT power supply arrangement from KPTCL receiving/Grid substation at Kumta (near Kumta Railway Station) to KRCL's Transmission Sub-Station at Kumta along with bay arrangement and underground transmission line equipped with switch gears, EHT/HT/LT power/control cabling etc. at Kumta in the state of Karnataka. **Tender Notice No:** KR/CO/EL/KT/T/4/2020 Date:27/05/2020. **Completion Period :** Four Months. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 9,99,92,515/-, Excluding GST. **EMD :** 6,49,970/- **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender :** 17/06/2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender :** On 17.06.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. **Submission of Tender Documents :** Through IREPS. Manual tender documents shall not be accepted.

हरियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL, KARNAL	MTC. OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN POWER HOUSE COLONY AT 220/132 KV S/STN. HVPNL, KARNAL. (TYPE-I - 20, TYPE II-35, TYPE-III - 21, TYPE- B - 1 AND TYPE-C - 2 QTRS)	21.05.2020 02.06.2020	7.45 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
2	HVPNL, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF DRAIN IN TYPE- III QUARTERS (I/III TO 23/III, 13/III TO 23/III & QTR. 31/III TO 25/III) AT 220/132KV S/STN. POWER HOUSE COLONY, KARNAL	21.05.2020 02.06.2020	1.69 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
3	HVPNL, KARNAL	REPAIR OF ROAD OF APPROACHING ROAD AND INTERNAL YARD ROAD AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, MADHUBAN	21.05.2020 02.06.2020	8.19 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
4	HVPNL, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF OUTER BOUNDARY WALL OF POWER HOUSE COLONY AT 220/132KV S/STN. POWER HOUSE COLONY, HVPNL, KARNAL. (TYPE- B - 1 AND TYPE-C - 2 QTRS)	21.05.2020 02.06.2020	4.93 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
5	HVPNL, KARNAL	REPAIR OF ALL TYPES OF CHAJJAS OF QUARTERS AT 220/132KV S/STN., POWER HOUSE COLONY, HVPNL, KARNAL	21.05.2020 04.06.2020	8.25 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
6	HVPNL, FARIDABAD	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF RESIDENTIAL COLONY AT 220KV S/STN. AS HVPNL, FARIDABAD	CLOSING DATE 05.06.2020	19.56 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
7	HVPNL, KARNAL	AUGMENTATION FROM 100 MVA 220/132 KV TO 160MVA 220/132KV T/F AT 220 KV S/STN. KAITHAL. (SURFACE DRESSING, SUPPLY AND SPREADING OF GRAVEL) (CIVIL WORKS).	CLOSING DATE 08.06.2020	Rs 3520 for General, Rs. 1760 for Registered Society	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
8	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE RADAUR	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF MC PARKS SITUATED NEAR GUGGA MAADI RADAUR AND ON MAIN SK ROAD RADAUR	26.05.2020 03.06.2020	EMD =30000/15000	https://www.etenders.hry.nic.in	secymcraur@gmail.com
9	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	RENOVATION/CONSTRUCTION (CIVIL WORK, PLUMBING WORK AND ELECTRICAL WORK) AND OPEN KITCHEN AT TERRACE, BALANCE WORK IN CARTERPURI CHAUPAL VILLAGE CARTERPURI AT ZONE-II WARD NO.2, GURUGRAM. + 6 OTHER WORKS	21.05.2020 02.06.2020	1.70 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	MCG.ee2@mcg.gov.in
10	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BAHADURGARH	CONST. OF IPB STREET VIBHA, JANKI AND KAVITA WALI GALI IN WARD NO. 11 BAHADURGARH + 10 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 11.06.2020	2.14 CRORE	ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN	9350496582 NAVEENDHANKHAR@GMAIL.COM
11	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	CLEARANCE TO SILT FROM DRAIN/NALA AND REPAIR OF NALA'S IN VARIOUS PLACES ONWARDS IN MC BHIWANI AREA.	CLOSING DATE 01.06.2020	13490/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9810880504 me.mchhiwani@gmail.com
12	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	CONST OF TWO ROOM SET AND OTHER WORKS IN NANDISHALA IN MC BHIWANI.	CLOSING DATE 08.06.2020	10160/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9810880504 me.mchhiwani@gmail.com
13	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JIND	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JIND DO HEREBY INVITES TENDER FOR CAPTURING OF MONKEY + 1 OTHER WORK	20.05.2020 31.05.2020	1045.00 Lacs	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-246358 mcjind2013@gmail.com
14	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE TAURU	CONST OF TOILET IN HARIDAN CHOUPAL BUILDING NEAR H/O KARAN SINGH IN WARD NO 15 MC TAURU + 7 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 06.06.2020	1.48 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	SECRETARY
15	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SOHNA	REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION OF EXISTING DUMPSITE BEHIND OF NIRANKARI COLLAGE AT SOHNA	23.05.2020 04.06.2020	4.84 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/	9466676699
16	HARYANA SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD	HYBRID VEGETABLE SEEDS (TOMATO, ONION, OKRA, CHILLY, CAPSICUM, CAULIFLOWER, CORIANDER, MUSKMELON AND BABYCORN) ON CONSIGNMENT BASIS	23.05.2020 09.06.2020	EMD 1 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/	9896076876 cmphsdcl@gmail.com
17	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, PANCHKULA	PROVIDING SOUND SYSTEM FOR GYM OF HPHC SECTOR 6, PANCHKULA	26.05.2020 01.06.2020	13.35 LACS	www.hphc.org.in	dbpanchkula@yahoo.com
18	H.F.D.C. YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF SHISHAM AND EUCALYPTUS SAWN TIMBER FOR MANUFACTURING OF FURNITURE UNDER HFDC, YAMUNA NAGAR SAW MILL JAGADHRI OR PREMISES PROVIDED BY HFDC YAMUNA NAGAR	23.05.2020 29.05.2020	2 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	General Manager
19	MARKET COMMITTEE, FARIDABAD.	DAILY CLEANING, SWEEPING WITHIN THE NEW GRAIN/FRUIT & VEGETABLE MARKET, DABUA, FARIDABAD. ALL THE TOILETS, CLEARING SEWERAGE LINE AND STAFF QUARTER AREA WITHIN NGM/NVM, DABUA FARIDABAD ARE TO BE CLEANED DAILY DUMP THE GARBAGE/MUD AND DUST DAILY OUTSIDE THE CITY/PREScribed AREA BY MCF BY HIS OWN TRACTOR TROLLEY. + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 01.06.2020	EMD 2 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Secy.-cum E.O.
20	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE SADHAURA	PROVIDING THE VARIOUS STAFF OF OUTSOURCING POLICY PART - I IN MC SADHAURA	26.05.2020 13.06.2020	50000/-	ulbharyana.gov.in	secy.mcsadhaura@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 81024

Build your future

Civil engineering offers a promising career. DR ARUN VIKAS SINGH tells you how students can make it a lucrative option, considering the constant advancements in the field

Civil engineering is one of the oldest disciplines in the field of engineering and has extended itself across many technical specialities over the years. It is a well-known and professional engineering discipline that ventures with sectors like planning, designing, constructing, developing and maintaining the physical and natural environment. With the ever-changing evolution of humankind, the development of infrastructure also keeps progressing. Subsequently, the civil engineering course also involves training students in improving the existing infrastructure and protecting the public and environmental health. According to a research report by Global Market Insights, Inc, the Civil Engineering Market size is expected to grow up to \$11.72 trillion by 2025.

Over the course of years, the study of civil engineering has undergone a major transition. The advancing techniques for large scale construction have led to the production of spectacular skyscrapers, dams and bridges all over the globe. Conventional methods of building in bricks and masonry had reached the limits of feasibility in the 18th century itself. This makes it essential for educational institutions to keep upgrading their syllabus in order to train their students to keep up with the changes and make themselves ready for the progression that the future holds.

The four-year degree course of Civil Engineering equips students with tackling problems that the society faces and provides efficient engineering solutions in the various sub-disciplines.

Considering the constant advancements in the field, let us delve into the understanding of what are the steps that students should follow in order to be a successful Civil engineer and its scope:

BECOMING A CIVIL ENGINEER:

Civil engineering is a branch of engineering that can be pursued post-secondary school and students who have a science background are eligible for the same. It also requires a strong base of physics and mathematics for the same. The degree covers a wide range of scientific topics like mechanics, hydraulics, materials science, the statistical analysis which enables students to be updated with the latest developments. Continuous



advancement in the field can open up even more lucrative opportunities. After earning their professional license, students have the option of returning to school for a master's degree in engineering management or a master of business administration. A graduate degree qualifies engineers to serve as architectural or engineering managers.

HONING PERSONAL SKILLS:

In today's highly competitive, global world, civil engineering students who possess the proper training, education, and experience often find multiple career opportunities and options for themselves. However, there are a few essential skills that students need to have a solid grasp of, apart from the theoretical knowledge that the college imparts.

These skills include mathematical training, technical knowledge, leadership skills, problem-solving, organisational skills and decision making. Honing these skills not just helps one ace at engineering studies but also gains the upper hand in building a promising career.

Qualified civil engineers can find jobs in various sectors, particularly in the construction sector, on buildings and large structures of all kinds, transport and communications infrastructure. They can now tap the private sectors and the international market as well

JOB PROSPECTS:

Qualified civil engineers can find jobs in various sectors, particularly in the construction sector, on buildings and large structures of all kinds, transport and communications infrastructure. Traditionally, civil engineering was looked upon as a field that was approached only by students wanting to get a job in the public sector or the ones having a family background relevant to the field of construction. However, with the broadened scope of opportunities and progress that the industry has made, students can now tap the private sector as well as the international market. A few job positions that can be tapped by civil engineering students after the studies are Construction Manager, Geotechnical engineer, Environmental engineer, public health engineer and urban planning engineer.

SPECIALISED FIELDS:

Students wanting to study further after their graduation can opt for specialisation as well. The various specialisations that the students

can choose from after a BE or Btech degree in civil engineering could be either a Master's programme or a certified diploma course in the below-mentioned fields:

- Civil Structural design
- Building Technology & Construction Management
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Coastal Engineering
- Construction Engineering
- Earthquake Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Water Resources Engineering

Considering the above-mentioned prospects and career scope, one thing that can be concluded is that the civil engineering sector is advancing at a phenomenal rate and is no longer traditional.

With the progressive innovations in technology and infrastructure, colleges need to upgrade their course as we enter this new transition of development through the face of civil engineering.

The writer is Principal, T.John Institute of Technology, Bangalore

QUOTE OF THE DAY

No education can be of true advantage to young women but that which trains them up in humble industry, in great plainness of living, in exact modesty of dress.

— William Law

Education during COVID-19

The whole world, including India, is passing through unprecedented difficult times due to the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic. As all universities, colleges and schools are closed due to national lock down, the teaching — learning processes and research activities have been badly disrupted.

Recently, the Delhi Government announced that it would conduct online classes for Class XII students, but school teachers say that it is impractical since most of the students do not have access to the required digital facilities.

Teachers working in elite schools in cities and big towns may proudly state that they conduct classes online and help the students make use of the lock down period in a useful manner.

What about teachers working in Government Schools, ZP High Schools, Panchayat Schools in rural areas? Neither teachers nor students have access to the required digital facilities.

However, in the education domain, now, we have three main opportunities:

- Our students belong to Gen Z
- Numerous web resources and
- Enthusiastic teachers.

Gen Z learners are true digital natives. They are born in digital era and are familiar with computers, multimedia content and internet based activities from an early age. As they live in online environment and speak the language of technology; they need to be taught differently.

Now, it is the right time to introduce learning and developer learner autonomy.

The COVID-19 lockdown has enabled teachers to become creative. They can now create e-material such as YouTube videos and PPTs and share the links with the students and engage them during the lockdown period.



Prof. D. Narayana Rao
Pro Vice Chancellor,
SRM University — AP

In a country where access to the internet and high speed connectivity is still a problem and the digital divide is an issue, it is important to address these challenges. Those who are involved in education planning and administration should give a serious thought to reducing the digital divide in the country.

The need is to establish digital and online education wing in higher education. We need to create a mechanism, engaging the students during the lockdown period, in an effective, educative and constructive way so that they do not lose the focus.

The students going to American Universities for pursuing higher education and in addition they prefer American Education because of the job opportunities available in the US. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, several MNCs are pulling out their operations from China and they may prefer India.

Simultaneously, the Government is planning the development of necessary infrastructure and creating conducive environment for the ease of doing business.

Post COVID-19 could be a game changer for education sector in the country, if we use the technology effectively and make use of the opportunities.

Engaging young minds virtually

With education taking the online route, preschools are trying best to maintain the essence of learning by introducing co-curricular activities virtually for the young ones, says PREETI KWATRA

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has created immediate and unprecedented challenges in the field of education. As of March 31, 185 countries around the globe have implemented the closure of preschools, schools and universities. Nearly 1.5 billion children and youth have been impacted by the crisis. In India, schools were among the first of many organisations which started shutting down as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus.

The young minds i.e. kids under five years of age have been also part of this new world which we are living in of uncertainty with this coronavirus. The concept of education changed even for preschools overnight and in these times of crisis, digital learning has emerged as an indispensable resource for education even for the kids of this tender age.

Digital technology has made the teachers go beyond their creativity for remote learning opportunities for kids to create intriguing (virtual) experiences. Virtual classes have made kids meet and interact with their teachers and



friends which adds lot of enthusiasm in them. Curriculum shift has new goals and anticipation behind. However, there are lot of motor development and skill development activities which can no more be the way how it use to be earlier in classrooms. Teachers are no longer physically available there to guide them hands teaching scissor skills. Parents are also sailing in the same boat and working from home with children at the same time. Hence,

the progress of every student will look different.

Where we see the world changing for kids and parents; the major drift is for teachers. Long working hours everyday, keeping the students active, focused, motivated, engaged, and connected in what has been the major focus to achieve the curriculum goals set across. None of this is achievable without the hardworking parents who are working along with their kids to

ensure that even in this crisis, the kids development should not suffer.

School are not only dealing with the academics but they are also supporting the students in other important aspects as well. such as yoga, arts & craft and drawing lessons are being imparted to them.

Virtual Curriculum shift has made the teachers work at digital pace with keep up of all the latest trends in virtual teaching skills across platforms to ensure the best practices are in place even if its virtual.

At last, virtual learning is going to reset the concept of education entirely, based on preparing for exams only. Now the schools have adopted the new culture and in enabling personalised lesson charts which makes learning more interactive, fun and engaging. Schools have started focusing on co-curricular activities precisely. It makes the students more self-motivated to finish their work and stick to their routines. Undoubtedly, there is a discipline in student's work without any peer distraction.

The writer is Founder and Director, Petals India's Preschool Club

For a lively experience

Online learning has several flavours but the major two are live and recorded classes. PARTHA HALDER tells you why the latter proves to be more beneficial for students

Ever since the lockdown was announced on account of COVID-19 pandemic, it took a toll on students as educational institutions had to shut down. But the disappointment was short lived as institutions migrated to online teaching. Students were back to learning mode but in a virtual classroom. Online teaching has several flavours but the two major ones are Live classes & Recorded classes. Which of the two is more effective for learning? Not just that there are several other questions like 'does it depend a learner's profile'; 'does it depend on the subjects that are being taught'. So firstly, let us try and figure out the fundamental difference between the two modes of teaching.

Live online classes: It is an Instructor Led Learning Model wherein a teacher has the control of a class; they drive the learning objective and they even set the pace of learning. This learning model allows two-way communication wherein the learning is synchronous, in other words a student can watch/listen to a teacher, interact with them and even ask questions.

The learning environment consists of teacher & peer group. Since it's a live class, teacher can see the students and can assess them at every moment while they are teaching. Depending upon a student's goal, progress and level, teachers can adjust/modify their lec-



ture and the difficulty level of sample questions or numerical problems. While teaching,

■ a teacher can give questions to students

■ a teacher can ask students if they are facing difficulty in understanding

■ a student can ask doubts in real time, like they do in an offline class, this is the most critical aspect of learning. Students learn the most when their classmate asks a question or a doubt.

Pre-recorded classes: It is a Self Paced Learning Model wherein the learner has the control viz 'when to study'; 'how much to study'; 'pace of study'. This learning model allows one-way communication wherein learning is asynchronous. A student can only watch/listen to a teacher in a record-

ed video session, so it is passive. There is no difference in lecture content or level of teaching as per learner's ability or appetite. All types of students are served the same content i.e. common for all. Hence learning as per student's ability gets suppressed. There is no provision for students to ask questions in real time. So the essence of real learning is lost.

It is ideal for adult learners who are matured & self driven. But in the K-12 segment, students are of lower age group, especially those preparing for competitive exams, they need a lot of intervention by teacher. So, a two-way synchronous communication is the way forward.

The writer is Center Head and HOD — Chemistry Department at FIITJEE Punjabi Bagh

Diploma in medical cosmetology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Institute of Laser and Aesthetic Medicine (ILAMED) is offering a unique online international Diploma programme in Medical Cosmetology through live sessions on Zoom from May 27-May 31, 2020 to their physician trainees.

The courses will cover a wide range of subjects like chemical peels, microneedling, botulinum toxin, fillers, body contouring, PRP, mesotherapy, laser & light Rx. There will also be live demonstration by

experts during the session.

The programmes are ideal for those looking for a fresh start in their career as well as for physicians or cosmetologists looking to expand their practices.

"We are extremely happy to announce our international online diploma in medical cosmetology programme on multiple requests from colleagues in the medical fraternity. This course will offer great opportunities for expanding a medical practice, and stands alone as a highly sought technical speciality by clinics and hospi-

tals alike. With the increasing demand for trained practitioners, we are proud to be one of the pioneering institutes in providing the required knowledge & practical training in this area by conducting these course all across the country," says Dr Ajay Rana, Founder and Director of ILAMED.

Anyone who wants to register for the course can book their place by making a call or WhatsApp at +91 7838606869/9650500965 or email: courses@ilamed.org. For more information, please visit www.ilamed.org.

Online session on self-introspection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The JD Institute of Fashion Technology has been hosting 'JD Talks', a series of online interactive sessions, in a nationwide campaign to address the challenges thrown up by the COVID-19 pandemic. The series of talks were addressed by various industry experts like Anju Modi, Rita Gangwani, Rina Dhaka, Farah Khan Ali, Jamal

Shaikh, Nandini Bhalla, and Ronjoy Gogoi, among others.

A recent session was organised to discuss self-isolation and social distancing and their impact on mental health. Experts talked about the different aspects of quarantine and the importance of embracing uncertainty and focusing on things that enhance students' abilities. Followed the session, experts helped the stu-

dents to create a routine that prioritises mental wellbeing. They also advised students on how to deal with the quarantine period and bring stability, comfort, and happiness in their lives.

Commenting on the initiative, Akshra Dalal, Director, JD Institute of Fashion Technology, said: "I am extremely happy that our initiative brings a sense of togetherness and self-introspection in our students

and audiences. In this adverse situation, we look at the brighter side and accept this as an opportunity to explore our creative talents. As a design institution, we always believed in exploring the creative and meaningful side of our lives. JD Talks was one-of-a-kind campaign to help people deal with mental stress and strengthen their abilities under the guidance of experts."

Updated admission process

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Shiv Nadar University on May 20, 2020 announced modifications to its admission process for the undergraduate programmes, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The university is among the first few educational institutions in the country to conduct remotely proctored admission test (SNU-SAT & APT) using an AI mechanism that is secure and ensures anti-

cheating surveillance.

The university is also accepting existing SAT scores for admission purpose. Students with a score of 80 per cent and above in their JEE Mains 2020, will be exempt from taking SNU-SAT & APT and can apply directly for admission in programmes under engineering or natural sciences. All changes made to the policy, are available at http://snuadmissions.com/admission_info_2020.php?alerts.

Test pace quartet will shine for 'at least two more years'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's highly successful pace quartet will be on top of its game in Tests for "at least two more years" even as coaches and selectors collectively zero in on the next batch of potent match-winners, feels national bowling coach Bharat Arun.

Ishant Sharma (297 wickets from 97 Tests), Mohammed Shami (180 wickets from 49 Tests), Umesh Yadav (144 wickets from 46 Tests) and Jasprit Bumrah (68 wickets from 14 Tests) were exceptional in home and away Test matches during 2018 and 2019 seasons.

The next nine Tests (four vs Australia Down Under and five against England) could well be the last hurrah for this quartet as a pace unit in red-ball cricket with only Bumrah (26 years) being in the early days of his career.

"The present attack has done exceptionally well and I don't see any problem in them continuing as a group for at least two more years. If they remain fit and strong, they can well continue after that as a group but yes certainly two years at least," Arun said.

Arun, who has overseen the golden era of Indian fast bowling, believes that a lot of exciting fast bowlers are coming through the ranks and coaches, along with selectors, should be identifying the next batch in earnest.

"Yes, an exciting crop of fast bowlers is coming through and it will require a joint effort of the



Indian bowling coach Bharat Arun watches Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami bowl during nets session. BCCI/Instagram

selectors and coaches to identify the next batch so that there is a healthy bench strength," Arun, himself a former India medium pacer, said.

The need to identify the bench strength is necessary to have a solid rotational policy which increases

longevity of speed merchants. "...Also we can use fast bowlers as per rotation policy depending on their respective workloads. This is required as you want your prime fast bowlers to be ready for the best occasions."

That is precisely the reason

why Arun wants that when the camp is held after the lockdown, even the domestic and India A performers should get a chance to train with all the contracted fast bowlers.

"I would like all the contracted fast bowlers to be in the camp,

also some of the promising bowlers (fast and spin) who have done well in domestic cricket as well as for India A to be included in the camp," he said.

The camp will also be an opportunity for the players to try and inculcate the habit of not using saliva on the cricket ball, which would require some conditioning.

"Use of saliva is a very difficult habit to get over. We will make a conscious effort to get over this habit during our practice sessions," he said.

As given in ICC guidelines, Arun also feels that for white ball cricket, a minimum six to eight weeks will be required for fast bowlers and more time for Test match fitness.

"Getting ready for Test matches means more number of overs under their belt, whereas it will be a little quicker for T20 games. You need to go through a process and it will take 6 to 8 weeks," he said.

Coming back from a forced lay-off without a chance to do full fledged skill-based training for three months could lead to injuries but Arun feels that work ethic of this current group is such that it won't be a cause of concern.

"Honestly, I won't say I am worried about anything as bowlers have worked really hard to get stronger and that augurs extremely well for our boys.

"Skillwise we just need to sharpen ourselves, the biggest challenge is how quickly you can get the bowlers match ready," he concluded.

Saliva ban may make cricket 'boring': Starc

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Cricket runs the risk of becoming "pretty boring" if balance is not struck between bat and ball in the wake of the coronavirus-linked ban on using saliva to shine the ball, Australia's premier pacer Mitchell Starc warned on Tuesday.

This will also discourage aspiring youngsters to take up fast bowling in future, he reckoned.

"We don't want to lose that or make it less even, so there needs to be something in place to keep that ball swinging," Starc told reporters during an online press conference.

"Otherwise people aren't going to be watching it and kids aren't going to want to be bowlers. In Australia in the last couple of years we've had some pretty flat wickets, and if that ball's going straight it's a pretty boring contest," he added.

Starc feels bowlers should be allowed to shine the ball in other ways for the time being.

"It's an unusual time for the world and if they're going to remove saliva shining for a portion of

time they need to think of something else for that portion of time as well," he said.

One of the leading wicket takers with the pink ball, Starc said he is looking forward to playing a day-night Test in the home series against India.

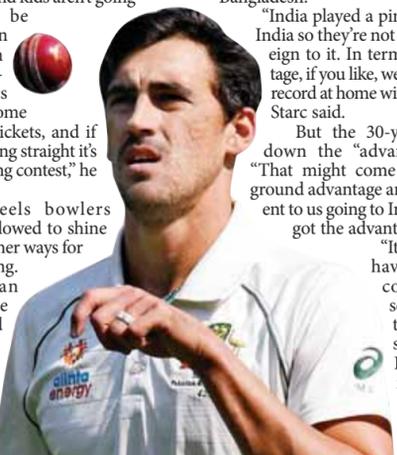
"I think absolutely a pink-ball Test in the series against India is a great thing. The fans love it, I think it creates a different aspect to the contest, bat and ball are closer together in that contest," Starc said.

While Australia featured in the first ever day-night Test against New Zealand back in 2015 and have played seven games since then, India played their only pink ball match last November against Bangladesh.

"India played a pink-ball game in India so they're not completely foreign to it. In terms of an advantage, if you like, we do have a good record at home with the pink ball," Starc said.

But the 30-year-old played down the "advantage", saying, "That might come into a home-ground advantage and it's no different to us going to India and they've got the advantage there."

"It'd be great to have a pink-ball contest in that series and from the little bits I've seen and heard, India are very much open to that as well so that's fantastic," he added.



Recommended extra review because of local umpires inexperience: Kumble

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ICC Cricket Committee chairman Anil Kumble says the inexperience of local umpires, who are expected to officiate in Test matches once action resumes post the Covid-19 pandemic, is the reason behind recommending an extra review, which according to him will give a level playing field to both the teams.

Reasoning the ICC Cricket Committee's recommendations, the former India captain said the suggestion to use of local umpires was made because of travel restrictions around the world in the wake of the pandemic.

"I think the need of hour was to start cricket. We also felt that because of travel restrictions, there could be

quarantine measures. You don't have too many elite umpires in the panel. So, we felt that for cricket to kickstart, its best to use local umpires," Kumble said on *Star Sports* show *Cricket Connected*.

"Most countries don't have the experience, the local umpires don't have the experience of a Test Match or being part of a Test match. The reason that we started neutral umpiring 20 years ago was because there was the perception of a bias.

"The recommendation for an extra review for both teams is not to root that out but we felt that there could be potential inexperience being in a Test match situation, which is why the advantage of the additional review would probably benefit both the teams," he added.



England pacer James Anderson, who has started training again, is enjoying being back on the cricket field. Anderson posted a video of himself on Instagram in which he can be seen running in and then delivering the ball at the Old Trafford. "I've missed this place! Slowly easing through the gears but enjoying being back," Anderson wrote



Lee picks Smith over Virat for now

MELBOURNE: Former fast-bowling star Brett Lee has picked Steve Smith over Virat Kohli as the world's best batsman at the moment because of the Australian's incredible turnaround after the ball-tampering scandal.

Since his return after infamous ball-tampering scandal in the Cape Town Test in 2018, Smith amassed runs and regained his status as one of the modern greats of the game.

"At the moment, I would pick Smith over Kohli because of what he has been through and what he has to overcome," Lee said during an *Instagram Live* session with former Zimbabwe cricketer Pommie Mbangwa.

"Steve Smith has been through a lot in the last couple of years, he has seen a rise with the way he played in the last 12 months, he is so fit, sometimes you are like just relax mate," he added.

"I might go with Kohli tomorrow as it depends on the mood. They are two great players and hard to split."

Considering the former captain's numbers, Lee compared Smith with the legendary Don Bradman. "I think Smith can be as good as Don Bradman, there have been talks of him becoming just like Bradman looking at the number."

Lee reasoned that he chose Smith over Kohli as he has come back strongly.

"Look, it is so hard to pick, there are so many qualities in both that I enjoy, from the bowling of point I am trying to look are there any flaws in both batsmen, both of these batsmen are genuine," he said.

"Kohli is technically sound, he hits through the V, he used to nick off earlier in his career, but it is hard to do that now, he is a great leader of his side, I think he would love to win the IPL." PTI

Windies Test cricketers resume training

PTI ■ KINGSTON

Gearing up for a proposed tour of England in July, some members of the West Indies Test team, led by skipper Jason Holder, have returned to training in small groups following a coronavirus-forced hiatus.

Away from nets for a long period due to the lockdown, the players including Kraigg Brathwaite, Shai Hope, Kemar Roach, Shane Dowrich, Shamarh Brooks and Raymon Reifer trained at the Kensington Oval behind closed doors on Monday.

"The initiative to get back to training has been given local Government approval, with strict protocols of social distancing, observing the guidelines as set out by the authorities and CWI's Medical Advisory Committee and was conducted behind closed doors,"



the country's cricket board said in a release.

The players trained under the watchful eyes of West Indies assistant coach Roddy Estwick, as well as other coaches from the Barbados Cricket Association.

"It's great news that the players are now able to begin their cricket training, having been restricted to fitness and conditioning work at home for the past few weeks, as we

People will have high expectations when sport resumes: Simmons

KINGSTON: Starved of Live sporting action for weeks owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, fans will have high expectations when sport resumes behind closed doors, feels West Indies head coach Phil Simmons. "I think a lot of sport, for a while, is going to go ahead in front closed doors, and I think the expectancy here is high because I think people want some kind of sport to go on," England-based Simmons said.

"Sport is a part of life

in England and even in the Premiership, there's a lot of talk about if it's going to start back soon or not. But people are looking forward to sport coming back because the one thing that you're missing here on the TV everyday is (Live sport). "There's a lot of old games being shown and people are enjoying that, but they're looking forward to Live sport; so there's a lot of hope it happens, but that depends on how things are put together." PTI

begin to prepare for defending the Wisden Trophy," said Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies.

CWI is holding regular discussions with the England

and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) regarding the tour comprising three Tests and remains "increasingly confident" about it going ahead as planned.

Milan confirm Ibra's calf injury

MILAN: Zlatan Ibrahimovic has picked up a calf injury and not ruptured his Achilles tendon as feared, AC Milan confirmed on Tuesday.

"Ibrahimovic has sustained an injury to his right soleus muscle during yesterday's (Monday) training session," the Serie A team said in a statement.

"The Achilles tendon is perfectly intact. The player will undergo a scan in 10 days time."

Milan did not say for how long the 38-year-old would be out of action, although Italian media reports say he could be facing four weeks on the sidelines, as Serie A eyes a potential restart next month.

OUT FOR 'FORESEEABLE FUTURE'
LEIPZIG: RB Leipzig forward Yussuf Poulsen could be out for the rest of the season after the Bundesliga club said on Tuesday he had damaged ligaments in his right ankle.

Leipzig said an MRI scan on Monday showed the



Zlatan Ibrahimovic in practice session

Denmark international "suffered ligament damage to his right ankle in yesterday's (Sunday) win at Mainz and will be out for the foreseeable future."

In his absence, Czech Republic striker Patrik Schick, on loan from Roma, is set to partner Timo Werner up front against Hertha Berlin on Wednesday. AFP

Sports activities resume in JLN & National stadium

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Tuesday started activities in two out of its five stadiums in the national capital after the central Government green lighted resumption of outdoor sports in a phased manner.

According to a SAI statement, sporting activities have resumed at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium from Tuesday afternoon in slots of one hour which needs to be pre-booked online.

However, activities in Indira Gandhi Stadium and Karni Singh Shooting Range are expected to start in a week's time as logistics are being worked out.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Complex will remain shut as use of swimming pools continue to remain barred in the



People respect social distancing guidelines as they wait to enter National Stadium. PTI

fourth edition of the coronavirus-forced nationwide lockdown which ends on May 31.

While archery, table tennis, badminton and lawn tennis have started in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium initially, activities at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium will depend on available facilities.

"Initially, sporting activities are being started in those

disciplines where no contact is required among players and minimal sharing of equipment is needed," the SAI said.

"In keeping with the guidelines of the government on social distancing and hygiene, it has been decided a maximum of only 50 per cent of sports facilities in various stadia will be made operational to ensure social distancing.

Cherries' Ramsdale tests virus +ve

AFP ■ LONDON

Bournemouth goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale described finding out he had tested positive for coronavirus as "scary and worrying", despite displaying no symptoms.

The England under-21 international was one of two positive cases from the second round of testing carried out by Premier League clubs

as they gear up for a return to action next month.

"It's definitely a shock — I've not been in contact with anybody and I've now got it," Ramsdale told *The Sun*.

"I'm showing no symptoms so the fact that a healthy young person could potentially have it is definitely scary and worrying."

Ramsdale tested negative in the first

round of testing and believes he must have contracted the virus while shopping.

"This last week, I've done the usual things like going to the supermarket and going to the petrol station to fill my car.

"Once you've contracted the virus, it shows in your blood.

"That was obviously not the case (after the first test) and it's been the three days between the two

tests when I've contracted the virus.

"I've been just as careful as before on lockdown and it seems to be a shopping trip where I've caught it."

A total of eight cases of coronavirus among players and staff have been detected from 1,744 tests in the Premier League.

Results from a third round of testing will be revealed on Wednesday.

COVID19 - PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS (PCETs)						
COVID19 Special No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of run
00309	Howrah	08:15	New Delhi	07:00	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat	Upto 30.05.2020
00310	New Delhi	16:45	Howrah	16:30	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat	Upto 01.06.2020
00311	Sealdah	07:40	New Delhi	10:00	Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 31.05.2020
00312	New Delhi	16:45	Sealdah	19:30	Tue, Fri, Sun	Upto 02.06.2020
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Daily	Upto 03.06.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00403	New Delhi	22:30	Jammu Tawi	08:15	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00404	Jammu Tawi	18:10	New Delhi	04:40	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00433	New Delhi	15:35	Dehradun	23:55	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00434	Dehradun	10:25	New Delhi	19:15	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00453	Ambala Cantt.	04:00	Kalka	05:50	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00454	Kalka	20:00	Ambala Cantt.	21:50	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:30	Daily	Upto 03.06.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:40	Howrah	07:30	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:40	Thursday	Upto 28.05.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:00	KSR Bengaluru	10:20	Saturday	Upto 30.05.2020
00646	Chennai Central	18:00	New Delhi	05:00	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00647	New Delhi	18:00	Chennai Central	05:00	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00761	Renigunta	08:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	17:20	Mon, Wed	Upto 31.05.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Renigunta	16:15	Wed, Fri	Upto 02.06.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:30	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Upto 29.05.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:20	Monday	Upto 01.06.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Ludhiana	03:00	Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun	Upto 30.05.2020
00902	Ludhiana	23:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat	Upto 01.06.2020
00911	Mumbai Central	19:45	Firozpur Cantt.	02:30	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 31.05.2020
00912	Firozpur Cantt.	08:00	Mumbai Central	15:10	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 02.06.2020

The parties interested to book their Parcel in these trains may contact the concerned Divisional Officer/ Parcel Supervisor. Division wise contact numbers of concerned Officers/ Supervisors are available on Northern Railway's website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in>About us > Covid Corner > Covid_19 Parcel Trains section.

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

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

Security Helpline No. 182

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TWO SESSIONS

China focuses on quality development

China's decision not to set a GDP growth target this year does not mean it has attached less importance to economic growth, but instead shows the authorities are paying greater attention to high-quality development, economists said after Premier Li Keqiang delivered the Government Work Report to the opening of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress on May 22.

In the report, Li said China will not set a GDP growth target for this year and will take a number of forceful financial measures to shore up the economy, which has been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, and other leaders attended the meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

"We have not set a specific target for economic growth this year," Li said. "This is

because our country will face some factors that are difficult to predict in its development due to the great uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the world economic and trade environment."

Sun Guojun, a senior official at the State Council Research Office who participated in the drafting of the Government Work Report, said, "Without a target, it does not mean that economic growth is unimportant or the government will allow the economy to slide out of the proper range."

The premier said the nation will focus on "ensuring stability on the six fronts and security in the six areas" this year.

By implementing those policies, "we will be able to keep the fundamentals of the economy stable", Li said.

Zhang Ming, an economist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of World Economics and Politics, said that while no specific target for GDP growth has

According to the Government Work Report, China will deepen the opening-up:

- It will significantly shorten its negative list for foreign investment.
- It has stressed the joint implementation of the China-US phase-one economic and trade agreement.
- It will focus on high-quality joint building of the Belt and Road, and carry out mutually beneficial cooperation.
- It will resolutely safeguard the multilateral trading regime and actively participate in reform of the World Trade Organization.
- It will further stabilize foreign trade and actively leverage the role of foreign capital.
- It will establish new pilot free trade zones (FTZs) and integrated bonded areas in the country's central and western regions.

been set, the focus on the "six fronts" and "six areas" showed the top authorities have the worst-case scenario in mind as they work for the best results.

The country plans to create more than 9 million new urban jobs, ensure that the surveyed urban unemployment rate is no more than 6 percent and maintain consumer inflation at around 3.5 percent, according to the Government Work Report.

"Those indicator targets all concern the concrete aspects of the

economy that have a direct bearing on the feelings of the public," said Liu Zhiqin, a researcher with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China.

"With the authorities concentrating on achieving concrete tasks instead of setting an overall GDP growth target this year, they can avoid irrational pursuit of GDP growth and shift the nation's attention to pursuit of high-quality and coordinated development."

To ensure those tasks are achieved, the premier said the country will pursue a prudent monetary policy in a more flexible and appropriate way.

Based on the measures and tasks set out in the Government Work Report, Liu from Renmin University of China estimated that China's year-on-year GDP growth may be over 6 percent in the second half of the year and around 3 percent for the whole year.

(Edited from China Daily)



It's not the first time that China has set no specific target for economic growth, government work reports for 2000, 2001 and 2002 also did not mention the GDP growth target.

China's policy of "ensuring stability on the six fronts" refers to employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and market expectations.

The policy of "security in the six areas" means safeguarding employment, people's livelihoods, the development of market entities, food and energy security, the stable operation of industrial and supply chains, and the smooth functioning of society.

FIGHT COVID-19

China's COVID-19 vaccine trial shows promising results

COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good. This will be China's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

Chinese President Xi Jinping made the announcement during a speech at a virtual event opening the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly.

China's COVID-19 vaccine trial, the first such vaccine to reach phase 1 clinical trial, has been found to be safe, well-tolerated, and able to generate an immune response against SARS-CoV-2 in humans, according to a study published online on May 22 by the medical journal *The Lancet*.

The vaccine, classified as "recombinant adenovirus type-5 vectored" (Ad5-nCoV), acts as a natural infection and is especially good at teaching the immune system how to fight the virus.

The open-label trial in 108 healthy adults demonstrates promising results after 28 days and the final results will be evaluated in six months, *The Lancet* said in a press statement.

phase 2 trial of the Ad5-nCoV vaccine has been initiated in the central Chinese city of Wuhan to determine whether the results can be replicated, and if there are any adverse events up to six months after vaccination, in 500 healthy adults—250 volunteers given a middle dose, 125 given a low dose, and 125 given a placebo as a control, according to *The Lancet*.

The creation of an effective vaccine is seen as the long-term solution to controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, there are more than 100 candidate COVID-19 vaccines in development worldwide, according to *The Lancet*.

(Edited from CGTN, Xinhua, China Daily)

Five COVID-19 vaccines are in the first two phase of clinical trials in China

China has adopted five technological approaches to develop COVID-19 vaccines, including inactivated vaccines, recombinant protein vaccines, adenovirus vector vaccines, nucleic acid vaccines and vaccines using attenuated influenza viruses as vectors.

The country now has five vaccines, one vector and four inactivated, that have entered the first two phases of clinical trials. Vaccine recipients in phase II trials have reported no major adverse effects, and these vaccines are set to complete their phase II trials in July.

Stressing safety and efficacy as priorities

Safety and efficacy are two priorities of a vaccine. Clinical trials of a vaccine usually undergo three phases.

The first phase usually enrolls dozens of volunteers to test the safety of the vaccine and the human body's tolerance to different doses. The second phase will expand the subjects to hundreds of volunteers to further verify its efficacy and safety. The third phase may involve thousands or even tens of thousands of people and last for an epidemic cycle to finally determine its effectiveness and provide a scientific basis for the approval for clinical use.

Further trials are needed to tell whether the immune response it elicits effectively protects against SARS-CoV-2 infection, said the medical journal.

"These results represent an important milestone. The trial demonstrates that a single dose of the new adenovirus type 5 vectored COVID-19 (Ad5-nCoV) vaccine produces virus-specific antibodies and T cells in 14 days, making it a potential candidate for further investigation," said Professor Wei Chen from the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology in Beijing, China, who is responsible for the study.

"However, these results should be interpreted cautiously. The challenges in the development of a COVID-19 vaccine are unprecedented, and the ability to trigger these immune responses does not necessarily indicate that the vaccine will protect humans from COVID-19. This result shows a promising vision for the development of COVID-19 vaccines, but we are still a long way from this vaccine being available to all," said Chen.

The authors note that the main limitations of the trial are its small sample size, relatively short duration, and lack of randomized control group, which limits the ability to pick up rarer adverse reactions to the vaccine or provide robust evidence for its ability to generate an immune reaction. Further research will be needed before this trial vaccine becomes available to all.

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled

China is not savior but willing to be friend in need: FM

China is not a savior, but is willing to be a friend in need and a sincere partner for mutual help in times of difficulties, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on May 24.

Wang made the remarks while answering a question about China's assistance to other countries hit by COVID-19 at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual national legislative session.

Wang said China in the last few months launched the largest global humanitarian operation in the history of the people's republic, implementing the vision of a community

with a shared future for humanity.

Wang said China stands ready to continue providing assistance to countries in need to the best of its ability, and strengthen international cooperation on epidemic control.

To date,

- China has shipped medical supplies to nearly 150 countries and four international organizations to meet their immediate needs.
- China has held video conferences with experts from over 170 countries

to share its proven methods and protocols for diagnosis, treatment and epidemic control.

- China has sent 26 expert teams to 24 countries to provide timely information and guidance.
- Factories in China have operated at full capacity to make high quality medical supplies that are badly needed around the world.
- A total of 56.8 billion face masks and 250 million protective suits, among other provisions, have been exported from China to other countries.



Upper: At the opening of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress on May 22, a minute's silence was observed to mourn the martyrs and patriots who died in the nation's fight against the novel coronavirus. (Xinhua)



Middle: Deputies, wearing masks, attended the opening of third session of the 13th National People's Congress. (Xinhua)



Lower: Zhu Youyong, a deputy of the 13th National People's Congress from Yunnan Province and also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, talks about poverty alleviation when receiving a media interview. (Lei Tongsu)

National security legislation a long overdue move

The draft decision of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, to enact a law to fix a national security loophole in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a long overdue move.

Safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, together with ensuring the SAR's long-term prosperity and stability, is the very intention and philosophy of "one country, two systems". It is the SAR's constitutional responsibility, rather than an option at its discretion, to safeguard national security and territorial integrity by enacting a national security law according to Article 23 of the Basic Law.

Yet more than 20 years after Hong Kong returned to China, the SAR has failed to fulfill its constitutional obligation due to the obstruction of the opposition camp in the region. The opposition has without fail leveraged external anti-China forces in thwarting the SAR government's attempts to fulfill this obligation.

Because of this unwarranted delay in enacting a national security law, Hong Kong remains a weak link in national security today. Without a law to bring them to book, the separatists have relentlessly advanced without scruple their agenda with the ultimate objective of turning Hong

Kong into an independent entity.

Supported by the external anti-China forces who have their own geopolitical interests to pursue in helping its local proxies to separate Hong Kong from the motherland, the opposition camp—particularly the separatists—has been ratcheting up its action, from paralyzing the city's commercial hubs during the illegal "Occupy Central" campaign in 2014, non-stop rioting and vandalism since the second half of 2019, to this year's maneuvers to paralyze the SAR's legislature, disrupt the operations of the SAR government and sabotage the local economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The central government can no longer sit on its hands, leaving national security and Hong Kong's prosperity at the mercy of these political zealots and their foreign patrons. That would be a breach of its constitutional duty, which it has never relieved itself of, though it has authorized the SAR government to enact a local version of the national security law.

The enactment of a national security law by the NPC, which is applicable to the HKSAR, will in no way affect the faithful and complete implementation of "one country, two systems". Safeguarding national security and territorial integrity is part of the

original purpose of this political framework; and the nation's Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law uphold the central authorities' power and duty to do this job.

Moreover, legislation against acts endangering national security is a common practice in the world. The United States, for example, has such laws including the USA Patriot Act.

The proposed legislation only targets acts endangering national security such as treason, secession, sedition, subversion, or theft of State secrets. The law-abiding residents in Hong Kong would have no problem maintaining their way of life. Only traitorous souls and external anti-China forces fret over its enactment.

(China Daily)



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Proactive fiscal policy to lift growth

China will adopt a more proactive fiscal policy by expanding central government budget deficit and increasing fund transfers to local governments to boost investment and maintain stable economic growth, according to the 2020 Government Work Report.

The central government has planned a fiscal budget deficit of about 3.76 trillion yuan (\$530 billion) this year, an increase of 1 trillion yuan from last year. The deficit-to-GDP ratio is projected at more than 3.6 percent, compared with 2.8 percent last year.

In addition, China will issue 1 trillion yuan of special central government bonds to mitigate the COVID-19 epidemic effect. The proceeds of the

special treasury notes and the increased fiscal deficit will all be transferred to local governments, Premier Li Keqiang said on May 22 while delivering the Government Work Report during the opening of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress, the country's top legislature.

The central government will also increase funds transferred to local governments by 12.8 percent to support infrastructure investment and counter economic fallout, Finance Minister Liu Kun told reporters after the opening of the NPC session on May 22.

It will be the highest growth rate till date in the transfer of payments to local governments and is aimed at safeguarding

employment and people's livelihoods, as fiscal income is projected to decrease this year due to the COVID-19 epidemic, said Liu.

Meanwhile, the government has also raised the quota for local government special bonds to 3.75 trillion yuan to boost investment and shore up economic growth.

China's fiscal stimulus package could reach a total of 8.5 trillion yuan if the expanded central government budget deficit, the issuance of the special treasury notes and the local government special bonds are included, said Luo Zhiheng, former chief macroeconomic researcher at the Evergrande Research Institute.

(Edited from China Daily)

TOURISM

White paper published on smart tourism development

A white paper on the development mode of "Yunnan at Your Fingertips" was jointly published on May 18 by the Institute of Chinese Culture and Tourism Big Data of the Beijing International Studies University, Yunnan Provincial Research Center on Smart Tourism and Tencent Institute on Cultural Tourism.

The white paper focuses on the digitalization of holistic tourism in an era when China is accelerating the development of new infrastructure. According to the white paper, the "Yunnan at Your Fingertips", a smart tourism project, is a digital technology-driven development mode.

Since it was launched two years ago, the "Yunnan at Your Fingertips" has

displayed Yunnan's image in developing holistic tourism, by online real-time interactions and pooling in information from multi sources. Based on what Yunnan has done, many provinces in China as well as other countries are implementing or have implemented relevant projects.

As of 2019, the "Go-Yunnan" app, a tourist-oriented product of the "Yunnan at Your Fingertips" has been downloaded for 5 million times, providing services for more than 100 million tourists. According to the white paper, as China is accelerating the construction of new infrastructure, "Yunnan at Your Fingertips" project promises greater future.

(Wang Huan)