OPINION 6

NO SILVER IN

THIS PLAYBOOK

SENSEX SOARS

996 PTS

DORTMUND IN BUNDESLIGA

*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 147 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

AJAY DEVGN

the pioneer

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY MAY 28, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

Nepal defers new map Act call China hints at talks

Lack of consensus forces Oli Govt to delay Parliament debate to include Indian territories in their map

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

 N_{sion} in Parliament to amend the Constitution for updating the country's map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura under its territory as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has decided to seek national consensus on the issue amid a border dispute with India, parliamentary sources said on Wednesday.

The Constitution amendment proposal was to be tabled in Parliament on Tuesday but it could not be done after Oli said that he wanted to hold an all-party meeting to discuss the matter. Amid rising tensions, Oli is seeking other parties' views on the issue and called the all-party meeting to forge



national consensus before moving the Constitution amendment proposal forward, the sources said.

The ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) commands a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, but it needs support from other parties to get the Constitution

amendment proposal through the Lower House, as it falls short of around 10 seats.

Ganesh Shah, the ruling Nepal NCP's standing committee member, said that the Government has decided to hold the discussion on Constitution amendment for the time being as per the



request of the main Opposition Nepali Congress (NC) and Samajwadi Janata Party (SJP), a key Madhesi party. The NC sought some time as the matter should be discussed in its Central Committee Meeting, before being brought to Parliament for discussion. The SIP has demanded that their

New Delhi: Two global health

experts on Wednesday said

novel coronavirus infection is

here to stay for more than a

year and called for aggressive

testing to prevent its spread.
While US health expert
Professor Ashish Jha exuded

long-standing issues relating to the re-demarcation of the provinces and citizenship should also be incorporated amending the Constitution amendment.

The Government had regposal in Parliament on May 22 after releasing the new political map of Nepal depicting Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limipiyadhura as its territories on May 18. istered the amendment pro-

Reacting to Nepal's move, India on Wednesday bluntly asked it not to resort to any "artificial enlargement" of its territorial claim after the neighbouring country came up with a new political map showing Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani as its territory.

Continued on Page 2

which had so far been

able to contain Covid

COVID IS HERE TO STAY TILL

2021, AGGRESSIVE TESTING

NEEDED: HEALTH EXPERTS

15,257

7,261

6,991

Professor Johan Giesecke from

Sweden said India should adopt

a 'soft' lockdown as a severe one

will ruin its economy. In an

interaction with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the experts

talked extensively about the

Covid-19 pandemic as part of

the series being aired on

Congress social media channels.

Detailed report on P4

7,264

7,549

4,562

3,927

3,991

2,065

RECOVERED

Maha shows fall but spike in other | Alarming spurt in TN, Delhi, Bengal & States **States hikes corona number by 7K**

Maharashtra may be show-ing signs of stabilising in the range of 2,000-2,200 new cases in a day, but the situation is fast taking a turn for the worse elsewhere in the country. On Wednesday, India saw the biggest single day spike of 7,270 new cases and 187 deaths, due to alarming spurt in Tamil Nadu, Delhi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and States which had so far been able to contain the fury of the coronavirus.

Maharashtra reported 2,190 new cases and 105 death, which is on the very high side but far better than the 3,000plus number it reported five days ago. The State has a total 56,948 cases and 1,897 deaths.

Covid casualties higher

than what Delhi Govt's

bulletin reflected, sav

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

officials of 10 hospitals

The coronavirus death toll in Delhi climbed to 303,

while 792 fresh cases of Covid-

19 were reported on Wednesday, the highest single-

day spike here, taking the total

number of cases in the city to

The previous highest spike

over 15,000, authorities said.

in fresh cases — 660 — was

recorded on May 22. This is

the first time in Delhi that over

700 Covid-19 cases have been

In a bulletin issued on Wednesday, the Delhi Health

Department said the death toll

from coronavirus infection has

risen to 303 and the total num-

ber of cases mounted to 15,257.

hospitals treating Covid-19

However, officials of the 10

reported in a day.

Delhi sees 792 cases,

highest spike in a day



The death figure of 105 is highest single day count so far. Engaged in a fierce battle

coronavirus, Maharashtra is also witnessing a bitter political war between the ruling alliance and the BJP. On Wednesday, the Ministers belonging to the three constituents of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) — Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress —

ripped into the Opposition BJP, demanding to know if it was a friend or foe of Maharashtra and picking holes in the statistics provided by for-mer Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis about the Central assistance to the State.

Addressing a joint news conference at the Shiv Sena's south Mumbai office, Water Resources Minister Javant Patil Congress Minister Balarsaheb Thorat and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat came down heavily on Fadnavis for trying

confidence that a vaccine for the highly infectious disease will be to "malign" the Government. available in a year's time, Continued on Page 2 Covid-19 TOTAL CASES **DEATH**

A A SECTION AND A SECTION AND				
	Maharashtra			
200	Tamil Nadu			
- 4 EU 00C	Delhi			
S: 1,58,086	Gujarat			
IC. 4 E24	Rajasthan			
1S: 4,534	Madhya Pradesh			
VERED:	Uttar Pradesh West Bengal			
VENED.				
2	Andhra Padesh			
_	Bihar			

Pvt hospitals took land for free, they must treat Covid free: SC to Centre

patients had said the number of people dead due to the virus was higher than what the Delhi

Government's bulletin reflected. "It has also been observed that despite repeated reminders, the death summaries of the deceased are not being provided to the death audit committee leading to submission of "incorrect or delayed reports," the order

had said. The Safdarjung Hospital has submitted reports to the Delhi Government's death audit committee on 52 fatalities that took place at the facility in the last two months, official sources said on Wednesday.

Continued on Page 2

67,79

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RFCO'

The Supreme Court on Wednesday blasted private hospitals who set up their buildings on land given by the Government for free but failed to reciprocate by helping the Government in treating the poor Covid patients for free.

They have been given land either free of cost or at a very nominal cost. These private charitable hospitals should treat them for free," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. The SC asked Mehta to identify such private hospitals, which have been allotted free land.

Migrants worst sufferers, 8 die in tragic way

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA LUCKNOW

Migrants remained the worst sufferers of corona pandemic with eight of them dying in tragic circumstances on Wednesday. Three women and a man came under the wheels of Sharamik Express in Chandauli district in Ballia while four others were found dead on special trains in Varanasi

According to driver of Shramik Express, four persons were sleeping on tracks at Khobarwa hamlet of Hinauta



Jagdishsarai under Sadar Kotwali police station of Chandauli late on Tuesday.

to end LAC tension

PNS NEW DELHI

As tension simmers on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, China on Wadnesder kint deller " Wednesday hinted that talks are the only way to defuse the four ongoing standoffs with India.

While its envoy in New Delhi said the difference should be resolved through communications, his Government in Beijing said both the countries have proper mechanisms to find solution through dialogue. It also said the situation on the border is "overall stable and controllable."

This indicated that diplomatic and military level parleys between the two countries are now on in full swing to come at an amicable agreement enabling the two Armies to move back from each other thereby ending the eyeball to eyeball confrontation. At least six rounds of talks

at the local level at the rank of Brigadiers were held so far between the two sides in the last 20 days but of no avail so far.

Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said in New Delhi the two nations should never let their differences shadow the overall bilat-

Two countries must enhance mutual trust: Chinese envoy



eral ties and must enhance mutual trust.

Without referring to the military standoff, Sun said both the sides should resolve their differences through communication and adhere to the basic premise that they pose no threat to each other.

"We should correctly view our differences and never let them shadow the overall situation of bilateral cooperation.

Trump offers to mediate between India, China

PNS NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday offered to play the role of mediator to diffuse the border standoff between India and China, saying he is "ready, willing and able to mediate" between the two sides. Trump said he had conveyed his offer to India and China.

'We have informed both India and China that the US is ready, willing and able to mediate or arbitrate their now raging border dispute. Thank

India has repeatedly snubbed Trump's similar attempts in the past to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir.

His offer comes at a time when the US is criticising China for the coronavirus pandemic. China has also hit back warning the US taking the world to brink of "new cold war" over the coronavirus. Incidentally, Trump's will-

ingness to mediate came a day after Chinese President President Xi Jinping ordered the military to scale up battle preparedness, visualising worst-case scenarios, and asked his troops to reso defend the country's sovereignty

Continued on Page 2

At the same time, we should gradually seek understanding through communication and constantly resolve differences," Sun said.

He was speaking at an online interactive session organised by Confederation of Young Leaders (CYL). "We should adhere to the basic judgment that China and India are each other's opportunities and pose no threat to each other. We need to see each other's development in a correct way and enhance strategic mutual trust," he said.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

AID TO PM CARES FUND TO **BE TERMED CSR SPENDING** New Delhi: The Government has amended the norms whereby contributions by corporates to the PM CARES Fund will qualify

LOCUSTS REACH JHANSI,

companies law.

as CSR spending under the

MAY HEAD TO MAHA New Delhi/Jhansi/Nagpur: After damaging crops in Raiasthan and Madhya Pradesh, swarms of locusts entered Uttar Pradesh's Ihansi on Wednes head towards Maharashtra amid

what is being described as the

worst attack in 26 years.

Now, flyers pose spread threat, 7 in 4 flights test corona +ve

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

fter migrant workers, air Apassengers have posed a serious threat amid coronavirus pandemic across India as seven air travelers in four dif-ferent domestic flights have tested positive so far after the opening of domestic flights on May 25.

Three air passengers who arrived in Jammu, one member of Air India security staff in Delhi-Ludhiana flight and one passenger of IndiGo Chennai to Coimbatore flight tested positive. Besides, two crew members of Air India's Toronto to Continued on Page 2 | Delhi flight (for bringing

Grateful farm employee books air



stranded Indians) have tested positive for Covid-19.

The incident of coronavirus patients undertaking air travel in domestic flights has led to serious concerns not only over the implementation of

safety norms by airports, but on the entire decision of resuming flight operations. Three air passengers who had arrived in Jammu via air tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday. Continued on Page 2

Irump threatens to

Your homemade layered cloth mask can block coronavirus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

you don't need to purchase Y a costly face mask such as N95 to keep the Covid-19 at bay. Cloth masks, particularly those with several layers of cotton cloth, are enough as they can reduce transmission of the deadly virus by blocking up to 99 per cent of infectious particles, said researchers in their study published in the journal

Annals of Internal Medicine. Scientists, including those from McMaster University in Canada, said most virus transmission occurs via larger particles in secretions like droplets,



coughing, or sneezing, and some are created when water evaporates from these droplets, turning them into aerosolsized particles.

The point is not that some particles can penetrate the

mask, but that some particles are stopped, particularly outwardly, from the wearer," said study first author Catherine McMaster from University in Canada.

"Ideally, we would want a mask to work in both directions, protecting the wearer from the environment and reducing the contamination of the environment by the wearer," Clase added.

The review suggests that cloth can block particles, even aerosol-sized particles, and this supports Canadian public health policy on the issue.

Continued on Page 2

Reply to plea against Tablighi incident slur, SC asks Centre, PCI New Delhi: The Supreme

Court on Wednesday directed that the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) be also made a party to the pleas alleging that a section of the media has been fanning communal hatred by portraying Tablighi Jamaat congregation, held in March in Delhi, as being one of the main reasons for the spread of Covid-19.

While issuing notices to the Centre and the Press Council of India (PCI), a Bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde, AS Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy said it takes all matters "seriously", when a lawyer urged it to do so.

Continued on Page 2

tickets for his stranded workers

While an innumerable number of migrant labourers, mostly hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, have set off on foot in the scorching heat to reach their homes hundreds of miles away after they were left in the lurch by their employers in the cities, a farmer in National Capital's Tigipur village has set an example by booking flight tickets to Bihar for 10 labourers who have been working in his mushroom

farm for the last 27 years. 'They have always stood by us and now it is the time for us lage in Bihar's Samastipur,



to stand by them in the time of their despair," Pappan Singh Gahlot, the farmer, said, adding the flight is scheduled to leave on May 28 morning.

Every year some families hailing from Sripur Gahar vilhere," said Gahlot.

thereafter they return to their homes. This time around 10 labourers had arrived here to sow my field but lockdown was announced and they got stuck Detailed report on P3

come here to sow my field and

shut Twitter after it labels Prez tweets with fact checks Washington: For the first time,

Twitter put a warning label under two posts by Donald Trump, prompting the US President to accuse it of "interfering" in the presidential election and even threatened to close down the social media platforms. Twitter highlighted two of Trump's tweets on Tuesday that

falsely claimed mail-in ballots would lead to widespread voter fraud in the polls, appending a message Twitter introduced recently to fight misinformation or unverified claims.

Detailed report on P8

HEALTH SCAM ROW -

Himachal BJP prez resigns over 'scam'

president Rajeev Bindal resigned from his post on Wednesday within four-and-ahalf months of his appointment, saying he was doing so to ensure a proper investigation into the case of alleged corruption by a Department official. Health

In a resignation letter sent to BJP president JP Nadda, Bindal stated that he was tendering his resignation on high moral grounds as some people were dragging the party's name in the alleged corruption case.

Health Services Director Ajay Kumar Gupta was arrested on May 20 by the State Vigilance and Anti Corruption Bureau after a 43-second audio

recording went viral, in which he purportedly asks the other person for a bribe of ₹5 lakh.

Gupta was placed under suspension by the State Government after his arrest, an official said.

Bindal, who became state BJP president on January 18 after resigning from the post of assembly Speaker, said he resigned so that the case might be thoroughly investigated without any pressure.

The resignation has been accepted by the BJP president, the party said. Bindal said that BJP had nothing to do with the alleged corruption, adding that the state government had acted promptly and took action against the health official.

Without naming anyone, he said dragging the BJP's name in the case was "injustice to social service" done by the party during the coronavirus

lockdown by distributing over

ruption" in the Health

Department amid the novel

five lakh food packets, 1.10 lakh ration kits and over 30 lakh face masks. Reacting to the resignation, the Congress said that BJP cannot get rid of the "sin of cor-

coronavirus pandemic. The state Congress demanded that the probe into the scam should be entrusted to a sitting high court judge as it had no faith in the probe being conducted by the vigilance bureau.

PTI

Punjab CM to decide on lockdown extension on May 30

Chandigarh: The Punjab Government will decide on the future course of action with respect to the lockdown in the State on May 30.

Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh will chair a review meeting with the concerned departments on the overall Covid situation in the state on May 30, and announce the Government's decision on lifting or further extension of lockdown thereafter.

Disclosing this on Wednesday after the Cabinet meeting, an official spokesperson said the Cabinet decided that the decision should be taken after on-ground assessment of the situation a couple of days before the current lockdown is due to end. Any decision on extension, with our without relaxations, will be taken after the review meeting.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet complimented the Food & Civil Supplies department for ensuring seamless procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2020-21 especially amid the trying Covid-19 and lockdown

Will launch Statewide stir in Haryana if curbs on paddy cultivation stay: Hooda

Chandigarh: Former Haryana Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Wednesday threatened to launch a statewide agitation from next month if the Government did not lift restrictions on paddy cultivation in parts of the state.

Hooda's warning has come a day after Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar defended the recently launched Mera Pani, Meri Virasat scheme, aimed at crop diversification.

Hooda, who is the leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, gave the Government an ultimatum to withdraw its decision by June 1.

If the Government failed to do so, our party will take the issue to every farmer in the state and a detailed programme of agitation will be announced in Kurukshetra, he said. The Congress recently slammed the crop diver-

sification scheme, saying the Government wants farmers in 19 blocks to stop cultivating paddy and punish them by denying MSP for it in case they choose to grow the crop. The Congress has alleged that the Government

wants to deny farmers in 26 other blocks the right to grow paddy on the panchayati land. Hooda accused the Government of being stubborn

on the issue, saying it remained adamant despite

Migrants worst sufferers, 8 die in tragic way

FromPage 1

He claimed to have raised an alert but unfortunately all four of them were crushed to death under the wheels.

Soon after learning of the incident, divisional railway manager, Pankaj Saksena along with senior police officers reached the spot. They found no belongings which could help them to maintain their identity.

A broken mobile phone was, however, found lying on the spot so the cops took out the SIM card and were taking its help for identification. The train was later sent to Majhwar railway station in Chandauli and the tracks were cleared to re-start the operation. Local police also registered a case and sent the bodies for post-

Meanwhile, in the Special Shramik train, which came from Mumbai to Madhwadeeh

in Varanasi on Wednesday morning, two migrants were found dead in separate coaches. One of the victims was identified as Dashrath Prajapati

His brother, Lalmani, hailing from Lalpura in Badlapur area of Jaunpur, who was also travelling in the same train claimed that as the train left Prayagraj, condition of his brother started deteriorating and he collapsed when they reach Varanasi. Dashrath was also physically challenged.

The other passenger who was also found dead in another coach of the same train was identified as Ram Ratan Gaud (63), a resident of Raunapar in Azamgarh. The cops of Railway Protection Force (RPF) used PPE kit to seal the bodies and sent them for postmortem. At Ballia railway station also, two migrants were found dead. Bhushan Singh (48), a resident of Ekmacharan in Hazipur district of Bihar was returning from Surat on Shramik Express and was found dead when the train halted at Ballia railway

station on Tuesday night.

From Page 1

Whether cloth masks pro-

tect others from the wearer was

studied in the 1960s and 1970s,

According to the study, a mask made of three layers

(muslin-flannel-muslin)

reduced surface contamination

by 99 per cent, total airborne

microorganisms by 99 per cent,

and bacteria recovered from the

smaller particles, aerosols by 88

per cent to 99 per cent. A commercial mask made of four-

layer cotton muslin was shown

to reduce all particles by 99 per

cent, compared with 96 per cent

to 99 per cent for contemporary

mask was comparable with the

medical masks of the day, the

researchers said. The filtration

of cloth is quite variable and

single layers of the scarf, sweat-

shirt and T-shirt may be in the

10 to 40 per cent range. But

multiple layers increase effi-

ciency, and modern studies

have confirmed that some com-

binations of cloth, for example,

cotton-flannel, block more than

"Our work is just one part

90 per cent of particles.

Even for aerosols, the cloth

disposable medical masks.

the researchers said.

Assam flood situation worsens: 1 dead, nearly 3 lakh affected in 11 districts

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam worsened on Wednesday with one person losing his life and nearly three lakh people suffering in the deluge across 11 districts.

According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person was killed at Rongjuli in Goalpara district.

At present, around 2.72 lakh persons are affected due to flood in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Hojai, Darrang, Barpeta, Nalbari, Goalpara, West Karbi Anglong, Dibrugarh and

Tinsukia districts, it said.

Goalpara is the worst-hit district with 2.15 lakh people affected, followed by Nalbari with over 22,000 people hit and Nagaon with nearly 11,000 per-

Till Tuesday, around 1.95 lakh people were affected in seven districts.

The NDRF and SDRF have rescued nine people in the last 24 hours in Goalpara, while 172.53 quintals of rice, dal, salt and 804.42 litres of mustard oil have been distributed along with tarpaulin and other essentia

Maha shows fall but spike...

After Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu has emerged as the worst affected State. On Wednesday, TN reported 817 new cases and 6 deaths. The overall count for the State stands at 18,545 and 136

The Government release said that out of the 817 persons tested positive on Wednesday, 138 were from Maharashtra. A total number of 4,42,970 samples have been tested in Tamil Nadu till date and there are 70 laboratories working round the clock to test the samples. On Wednesday alone 11, 231 samples were tested in the

Delhi recorded 792 new cases and 16 deaths, Gujarat reported 376 fresh cases and 26 deaths, and Rajasthan logged 144 new cases and 2 fatalities

while Madhya Pradesh tracked 237

new patients and 8 deaths. Jammu & Kashmir saw massive pike of 162 cases from a base of around 1,830 cases while West Bengal reported 183 cases to take its tally to 4,192. Bihar, which has seen a manifold increase in number of cases in the last 25 days, reported 44 cases to 3,000

Assam which has just around 650 cases till Tuesday reported a 10 per cent spike in day reporting 92 new cases, while Kerala, which had contained the virus, traced 40 new cases on Wednesday, taking its overall tally to

Odisha reported 76 new case while Uttarakhand reported 69 new cases, which is 15 per cent hike in day from

From Page 1

On the same day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi took stock of the situation and India's operational preparedness to tackle any challenge with the security top brass including National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat

Sources said the main outcome of the high-profile meeting was that India will continue to improve its infrastructure on the LAC despite Chinese protests. In fact, one of the standoffs in the Galwan valley is on as the Chinese do not want India to construct a bridge on the strategically important 250-km long road there. New Delhi says the road is well within the Indian territory.

Incidentally, last week, the outgoing head of the State Department's South and Central Asia bureau Alice Wells supported Indian position in the border dispute with China and said such disputes are a "reminder of the threat posed by

Wells said like-minded nations such as the US, India, Australia and Asean states have rallied together in the face of China's "provocations and disturbing behaviour".

'The flare-ups on the border, I think, are a reminder that Chinese aggression is not always just rhetorical. And so whether it's in the South China Sea or whether it's along the border with India, we continue to see provocations and disturbing behaviour by China that raises questions about how China seeks to use its growing power," she said.

Trumps offers to... | China hints at talks...

"China and India should be good neighbours of harmonious coexistence and good partners to move forward hand in hand. The realisation of "Dragon and Elephant dancing together" is the only right choice for China and India, which serves the fundamental interests of our two countries and two peoples," he added.

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the situation at the border with India is "overall stable and controllable," and both the countries have proper mechanisms and communication channels to resolve the issues through dialogue and consultation.

"We are committed to safeguarding our territorial sovereignty and security and safeguarding peace and stability in the border areas. Now the China-India border area situation is overall stable and controllable. Between the two countries, we have good border related mechanism and communication channels" the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during a media briefing.

He also said the two countries are capable of resolving the issues "properly though dialogue and consultation.

We have been following the important consensus reached by the two leaders and strictly observing the agreements between the two countries," he said, apparently referring to the directions of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi after their two informal summits, asking the militaries of the two countries to take more confidence building measures. On being asked if talks are being held through diplomatic channels, Zhao said, "I think we have established border related mechanisms and diplomatic channels. This includes the communication between border troops, and between our diplomatic mis-

Nepal defers new map Act call

From Page 1

The Ministry of External Affairs said the revised map of Nepal included parts of the Indian territory and asked Kathmandu to refrain from such "unjustified cartographic assertion".

India's angry reaction came hours after the Nepal Government released the revised political and administrative map, laying claim over the strategically key areas along the border between the two According to Nepal's law, a

constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote. As per the business schedule made public on Tuesday, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shivamaya Tumbahangphe was supposed to table the bill for discussion at Parliament on Wednesday but at the request of the Oli-led Government, the discussion was removed from the business schedule at the last minute, the sources said

During the all-party meeting on Tuesday, Prime Minister Oli sought support from the top leaders on the Constitution amendment bill that recognises Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as the Nepali

territory. Ruling party chairs Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal urged the leaders not to mix the agenda of national territory with their political demands, The Kathmandu Post reported. The ties between the two

countries came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a 80-KMlong strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Nepal reacted sharply to the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through the Nepalese territory. India rejected the claim asserting that the road lies completely within its territory.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali earlier this month summoned Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra and handed over a diplomatic note to protest against India inaugurating the key road. The Lipulekh pass is a far

western point near Kalapani, a disputed border area between Nepal and India. Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory

— India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.

of a complex puzzle. In terms of making masks, it is important to realise that more layers will give more protection, both inward and outward, but will make it harder to breathe," Clase said. The researchers note that

more research is also needed into the best materials and design of cloth masks, to help many sewing masks to protect people in their community.

Another study, published last month in the journal ACS Nano, revealed that a combination of cotton with natural silk or chiffon can effectively filter out aerosol particles.

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

To Tender Notice No.: BCT/20-21/120
dtd. 22/05/2020 due on 22/06/2020. The
Name of Work of Subject has been
Amended and Now may be Read As
under: Existing: Udhna-Jalgaon Section:
Providing and Supplying, Fixing of Retro
Reflective Engineering Indicators Boards.
May be Read As: Udhna-Ukai Songhad
Section: Providing and Supplying, Fixing Section: Providing and Supplying, Fixing of Retro Reflective Engineering Indicators Boards under DEN (Central). The other

rms & conditions will remain unchanged Like us on: f facebook.com/WesternRly &

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Reply to plea against Tablighi...

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com **E-TENDER NOTICE** E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC

The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any

changes/amendments & corrigendum etc. (A) 1. 10/Advt.(Tehsildar)/2020-21, Name of Work:- ADVERTISING RIGHTS ON UNIPOPLE ON SECTOR-16A & SECTOR-16B

Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded

and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned.

(FOR ONE YEAR), NOIDA,

Cost - ₹ 69.12 Lacs Which can be uploaded by date 11.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 12.06.2020 at

General Manager, Noida CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

It asked the authorities to respond within two weeks to the pleas seeking action against some media houses for allegedly spreading communal hatred over the congregation and also apprise it of the actions taken with regard to alleged violation of the Cable Television (Regulation) Act by

"The petitioners (Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind and others) are directed to implead the NBA as party respondent in the array of parties. Issue notice to all the respondents as also the newly added respondent(s)," the Bench said

in the order, passed in the hearing conducted through video conferencing.

It said the copies of the petitions be served to the Centre and others during the day and fixed the matters for hearing on June 15. Senior advocate Dushyant

Dave, appearing for Jamiat, alleged that fake news was "galore" in relation to Tablighi Jamaat issue and such reports have damaged the secular fabric of the nation.

Circulation of such fake news constituted an offence and strict actions were needed, he added.

The top court had on

April 13 said it would "not gag the press" and had asked Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind to implead the PCI as a party to

It had said it would not pass any interim order in the matter at this stage. Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind has

sought directions to the Centre to stop dissemination of "fake news" and take strict action against those responsible for it.

The plea has alleged that unfortunate incident of Tablighi Jamaat was being used to "demonise" and blame the entire Muslim communi-

ticipated in the religious gathering at Tablighi Jamaat's headquarters in Nizamuddin West and the congregation became a key source for the spread of Covid-19 in India as many of the participants had travelled to various parts of the country for missionary

The plea has sought directions to the Centre to stop dissemination of fake news and take strict action against the section of the media spreading bigotry and communal hatred in relation to the Nizamuddin Markaz issue.

"It is submitted that such reporting has triggered communal antagonism and has also perpetrated hatred, result-

ing and affecting communal harmony," the plea has said. The petition further stated that this "demonisation" of the community has led to

As per the media reports, ing in fissiparous tendencies

erty of Muslims", and has thus led to the violation of their "right to life under Article 21" of the Constitution. It has also sought direction to all sections of media to strictly comply with the Supreme Court directions asking them to maintain strong sense of responsibility and

ensure that unverified news is

serious "threat to life and lib-

Later, three more similar petitions were filed which were heard together on Wednesday.

not disseminated.

medical superintendent of that officials of the Delhi government are constantly changwhich there has been a "miscommunication" among its accumulative data of Covidvery erroneous. "On Tuesday two months. The reports have been submitted to the Delhi death audit committee. "Until now, the hospital

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जल नेगम यॉत्रिक खण्ड, उ०प्र0जल निगम 220, सिविल लाइन्स-मेरठ। अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना पत्रांक : 370/निविदा / 56 दिनांक : 22.05.2020

उ०प्र0 जल निगम की ओर से नलकूप

निर्माण में अनुभवी फर्मों से **जनपद** सहारनपुर में नगर निगम सहारनपुर के कार्य क्षेत्र में कार्य स्थलों पर आर०सी० रिग मशीन से 01 नग नलकूप साइज 300x200 मिमीo (गहराई 160-170 मीo) के निर्माण कार्य, नलकूप की सम्पूर्ण एसेम्बली एवं एसेसरीज एवं पुराने नलकूप से नये रीबोर नलकूप के इन्टर-कनेक्शन हेतु ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 10.06.2020 को अधिशासी अभियन्ता, यान्त्रिक खण्ड, उ०प्र० जल निगम, मेरठ के कार्यालय में निविदा समिति द्वारा उपस्थित ठेकेदारों के समक्ष **पूर्वान्ह 15:00 बजे** खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को उ०प्र० की E-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in ਧਵ दिनांक 29.05.2020 से 08.06.2020 तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रू0 3000.00 (+18%) GST है। निविदा सूचना से सम्बन्धित विवरण जल निगम की वेबसाइट jn.upsdc.gov.in पर एवं कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण E-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

DIRCTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY MADHYA PRADESH BHOPAL

TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders for above mentioned NIT for Equipmnets Instruments and other item, Allopathic Medicine, Pharmocopial Medicine and Allopathic Feed Suppliment for the year 2020-21 have been floated on e-procurement portal http://www.mptenders.gov.in.

tender form of tender for MPDAH e-tenders are invited for Allopathic Medicine from 1000+ EMD of Rs. 1.00 Lakh 01-07-2020 02-06 Manufacturers having minimum turn over of Rs. 5.00 rocessing is to be deposit 5:30 PM crore during financial year 2018-19. through online mptenders.gov.i e-tenders are invited for Pharmocopial Medicine from 01-07-2020 1000+ EMD of Rs.25000/ 2020 69/2020 Manufacturers and Repackers only. Manufacturers Processing is to be deposit till 5:30 PM and Repackers minimum turn over of Rs. 50.00 Lacs through online during financial year 2018-19 mptenders.gov.i 01-07-2020 e-tenders are invited for Allopathic Feed Suppliment 1000+ EMD of Rs.25000/from Manufacturers only Manufacturers minimum turn Processing is to be deposit till 5:30 PM over of Rs. 1. 50 crore for during financial year 2018-19 through online mptenders.gov.in e-tenders are invited for Equipmnels Instruments and other item from Manufacturers, Authorised Distributor, 1000+ EMD of Rs. 1.00 Lakh 01-07-2020 Processing is to be deposit till 5:30 PM Stockist having manufacturers minimum turn over of Rs. 1. 00 crore for InsIruments, Equipments & other through online mptenders.gov.ir item costing less then Rs. 3.00 Lacs & manufacturers minimum turn over of Rs. 2. 00 crore for Instruments Equipments & other item costing more then Rs. 3 .00 Lacs during financial year 2018-19

- 1. The lender document can be purchased only online from above web site after making online payment
- 3. Any change in the tender will be uploaded in www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpdah.gov.in

Director Madhya Pradesh, Bhopa

Now, flyers...

From Page 1 A passenger onboard Air India's Delhi-Ludhiana flight tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday, following which all those in the flight were placed under State quarantine. The man is a permanent resident of Delhi. Air India has said a total of 36 passengers on the flight along with 4 crew members have been put in institutional quarantine following the Punjab Government rules.

According to Air India, the passenger who works in the security department of Alliance Air was traveling on a paid ticket. The passenger flew on AI 9I837 Delhi-Ludhiana flight on the second day of flight operations in India in the lockdown. The incident of Delhi-

Ludhiana flight comes just a

day after a 24-year-old passen-

ger who took the Chennai-

Coimbatore IndiGo flight test-

ed positive for the coronavirus after which the airline has grounded the flight's crew for 14 The test reports of several

passengers are being awaited. According to people aware of the flight details, 93 passengers had travelled in the flight. The Airlines released a statement, which read: "We received confirmation from the Coimbatore airport doctor that a passenger who travelled on 6E 381 from Chennai to Coimbatore on 25th May evening, has tested positive for Covid-19."

The tested patient has been placed under quarantine at an ESI State medical facility in Coimbatore. In another instance of

onboard coronavirus case, on international front, two crew members of Air India plane carrying Indian nationals from Ćanada's Toronto to New Delhi have also tested positive. They were onboard the May 21 flight under Vande Bharat mission to bring stranded Indian nation-

als back to the country. According to Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep

Singh Puri, the Indian airports handled 62,641 flyers on the second day of resumption of domestic passenger flights after the Covid-19 halt. There were 445 departures and 447 arrivals besides the 6 departures that were rescheduled. Earlier on Tuesday, Puri informed that over 58,318 passengers flew to their destination on the first day of the passenger flight resumption and there were around 832 flights that operated on Monday. Several States had asked the Centre to defer its decision to allow domestic flights amid rising coronavirus cases. In the phase 2 Vande Bharat Mission which is currently underway, will bring back nearly 58,750 Indians on as many as 311 flights from Middle East, CIS, Europe, East Europe, SE Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Africa, & UK, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, US and Canada till 17th June 2020.

Delhi sees... From Page 1

Dr Balvinder Šingh, the

Safdarjung Hospital, told PTI ing their Covid-19 death data collection teams because of own staffers. Singh said the hospital has been reporting deaths on a daily basis and the 19 deaths from February 1 to May 16 was misconstrued as a single day death which is evening, the Safdarjung Hospital submitted reports on 52 fatalities that have taken place at the facility in the last

had sent reports on four deaths caused by Covid-19 an official source told.

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Prepare micro-plan for opening schools: Sisodia to principals

Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday directed all Delhi Government school principals to prepare a micro-plan for opening the schools.

Interacting with over 1,000 Delhi government school principals, Sisodia said "We cannot have one common plan for all schools to re-open them this

year," he said.
"The reason behind following an elaborate planning process is because we need to keep many factors in mind before taking a decision. It is not just about maintaining social distancing or sanitization alone or calling one set of

the pioneer

Any decision will have far reaching implications on children and their families because school is an integral part of our social life, he said, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown has caused closure of schools since March Sisodia, also the Deputy

Chief Minister, said the agen da of his meeting was two-fold. "How should we stay connected with our children and their parents in this time when lock-

down is impacting different people differently? This will help us to directly understand their situation and prepare better and how do we plan the out to all children through



reopening of schools whenever we get the go ahead," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister asked the principals to reach

phone to see if they are in Delhi or has gone back to their native place and to check if they were able to use online classes, SMS and what is their feedback



He also appealed principals lead an in-depth brainstorming at school level involving all key stakeholders and come up with a micro-plan on

when the time comes. "We cannot have a common plan to reopen for all schools this year as the context of every school is different," he added.

Planning the reopening of school is a challenging task because apart from academic we have to keep many other factors in mind like health, safety, trust, emotional well being, and so on, he said, adding that the other challenge is that all these have to be done without extra financial resources from the govern-

A "Preparatory Planning Framework for Heads of Schools" has been issued by the department of education on

mulate the strategy, he said.

As per this framework, all head of schools will first meet in a cluster of about 10 to discuss about the issues that they need to keep in mind while planning for their school, he

Sisodia further said that principals have been asked to submit their school level plan to DDE (zone) and DDE (district) should study it. DDE (district) shall present a district wise plan to Deputy Chief Minister after June 5.

Explaining the planning framework, the Deputy Chief Minister said, it has three broad components:

What we need to keep in

schools. What we need to put in place before schools starts and what is the basis on which school makes its plan? For example strengths, limitations, overall context, etc," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister also emphasized that school should follow some points in mind while preparing their plan such as how should we provide social-emotional support to all our children, how should we ensure that we stay in touch with all our children and support them so that they do not drop out from school and join the work force and which classes should come for daily teaching-learning when school

ATTENDING NIZAMUDDIN EVENT

15 fresh chargesheets against 294 foreigners

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday filed 15 fresh chargesheets against 294 for-eigners for attending a religious congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz in a Delhi local court following a violation of visa conditions and indulging in missionary activities amidst the Covid-19 outbreak in the country.

According to police, on Wednesday they have filed 15 charge sheets against the foreigners belonging to 14 different countries, including Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and several African nations and Metropolitan Magistrate Saema Jamil has put up the matter for further hearing on

Earlier on Tuesday, the police had filed 20 chargesheet against 85 foreigners from 20 countries in the case.

"The foreign nationals have been booked for violating visa rules, violating 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," police said in its They have also been

booked for the offences under sections 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 270 (Malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and 271 (Disobedience to quarantine rule) of the Indian Penal Code," police stated in its chargesheet.

According to the charge sheet, four of the accused

were from Afghanistan, seven each from Brazil and China, five from US, two from Australia, Kajahstan, Morocco, UK, one each from Ukraine, Egypt, Russia, Jordan, France, Tunisia, Belgium, eight from Algeria, 10 from Saudi Arabia, 14

from Fiji and six each from Sudan and Philippines. 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 sec-tion 144 of Code of Criminal

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 quar-antine centres in Delhi. Some of them were sent to the centres a few days later after being detained from various

The other members were directly taken to quarantine centres to contain the spread of COVID-19. At least 9,000 people, including the foreign nationals participated in the religious congregation in Nizamuddin. Later, many of the attendees travelled to various parts of the country.

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

als 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), 270 (Malignant 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

NDMC seals two dept after four staffers test corona +ve

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday sealed its Accounts department and commercial department at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place after four of its staff tested Covid-19 positive.

Fourteen others staff who had come in their contact, are also suspected to have infected with Coronavirus, a senior NDMC official said, adding that contact tracing is being done to identify persons came in contact of them.

According to an order issued by director (coordination) Virender Singh on Wednesday, who is nodal officer for Covid-19, directions are issued with the approval of competent authority in NDMC to seal account department and commercial department at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place.

The employees working in the accounts department (6th floor) Palika Kendra and commercial department at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place are directed to work from home during this period, according to the

The civic body has also

ing as per standard operating procedure. "Staff members, who had

come in contact of affected persons, have been directed to observe home quarantine and to report to district authority in case they develop any symp-

Public health and civil department have been instructed to carry out extensive sanitization drive for three times daily to disinfect the building and surrounding areas, it said. The order came after a let-

ter written by Sukesh Aggarwal, AAO of 'Computer Billing Section' (CBS) informing NDMC authorities about cases. "One of our staff (peon) in computer billing section tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday. He visited Ayushman Hospital, Dwarka with fever where he was tested positive and later shifted to Najafgarh quarantine Centre. He attended office last on Friday and many other staff came in his contact," the letter stated.

A senior assistant of accounts branch has also tested positive for Covid-19, it said.

section have also informed that they have also developed symptoms and not feeling well," it stated, adding that some of them advised to rest after they informed that their family members have also shown similar symptoms.

However, other staff of computer billing section continue attending offices but scared of getting infected themselves by working in such circumstances, it said.

With this, the number of staff infected with life- threatening Coronavirus has reached to seven till now. Earlier, this month one sanitation worker and an engineer of the civic body had tested positive for Covid-19.

Last week, the NDMC had sealed a dispensary at Palika Kendra after an allopathic doctor tested positive for Covid-19 A senior NDMC official

said that the dispensary was sealed but now it is opened for

Twenty other staff including doctors and other medical staff deputed at the dispensary was placed under home-quarantine and they all tested negative.

Power demand surges to season's highest so far Woman held for

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{clocked}}^{\text{elhi peak power demand}}$ sons' highest and expected to in 18 years without any net-MW in July.

A senior BSES official said that power demand recorded 5,464 MW on Tuesday which is marginally more than the peak power demand (5236 MW) recorded on May 26 last

Power Delhi

Distribution (Tata Power-DDL) successfully met the peak power demand of 1556 MW on Tuesday Night, the hottest day outage as Delhi touched season's high of 5464 MW amidst

Ganesh Srinivasan, CEO of Tata Power-DDL "We witnessed the hottest day since 2002 on Tuesday in Delhi. This has resulted in an unprecedented increase in the

the ongoing heat wave.

The official further said that arrangements have been firmed up by BSES discoms to source

adequate electricity to meet the power demand of over 44 lakhs consumers

power demand as more and more consumers switched on their air conditioners. However, we were successful in meeting the peak demand without any

constraints," he said.

"Adequate arrangements of power of up to 2500 MW along with contingency plan, through long-term tie-ups, banking arrangements with other states and assure our consumers 24x7 power supply this harsh summer season," he said.

Meanwhile, a BSES official said that on their part, BRPL and BYPL successfully met the peak power demand of 2542 MW and 1174 MW respectively. Last year, peak power demand had clocked 7409 MW

in the National Capital. power supply to its consumers. We are closely watching the evolving Corona Virus situation in the national Capital and taking all appropriate measures to ensure reliable power supply to our consumers without compromising the safety of our employees," he said.

The official further said that arrangements have been firmed up by BSES discoms to "Being in essential ser- source adequate electricity to vices, BSES is always geared- meet the power demand of arrangements include long term PPAs and banking arrangements with other states. In case of unforeseen contingencies because of low generation and outages in power plants, the discoms will purchase short-term power from the exchange.

tories in and around Delhi

However, we do not know

about its quality and its effec-

tiveness against coronavirus."

ing hand sanitiser in bulk for

come to our notice. We are tak-

ing immediate action on it. The

only Rs 60 per litre.

Many shopkeepers are sell-

This information has now

extort G'gram cop PARVESH SHARMA **GURUGRAM** urugram police have arrest-

Ged a woman for allegedly threatening a constable and his friend after implicating him in a rape case and demanding Rs 30

lakh to let them off, the police said on Wednesday. According to the police, the incident happened on Saturday evening when Constable Ishaan Yadav called up the woman at around 5.30 pm and allegedly

asked her to go for a long drive. She joined the joy ride with two of Yadav's friends - Ashu and Manoj aka Sarpanch - also

accompanying them.

Manoj allegedly drove the car towards a banquet hall on the Old Delhi-Gurugram road near the Maruti plant.

The woman in her complaint had alleged that Ishaan and Manoj molested her while Ashu took her inside a room and

Later the woman had filed an FIR against the trio at the Palam Vihar police station.

"On May 26 the woman's friend called Manoj's friend and demanded Rs 30 lakh for cancellation of the FIR," said Preet Pal Singh Sangwan, ACP

false rape case to

The same day Manoj's friend approached Palam Vihar police station on Tuesday and informed the cops about the phone call and also handed over the call record-

ing to police.
"The woman also made a call to EHC Yogesh who was posted in Nathupur police Chowki and was known to constable Ishaan. "She knew that if Yogesh told Ishaan, he would hand over the money but Yogesh too recorded the phone call and handed over to the police,"

Sangwan said. Based on the phone calls and other evidence the probe team arrested the woman from Hans Enclave and filed a case against

During the police interrogation, the woman told the police that Ishaan was a con-

stable and Manoj was Sarpanch. "She made a plan that by registering a case against them, she can make a huge amount of money. So as per the plan

Ishaan and Manoj fell asleep after drinking alcohol and later developed physical relationship with mutual consent with Ashu and later filed a case against the trio," Sangwan

IRS officer commits suicide in Chankyapuri

Wednesday allegedly committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling fan in his house in upscale in

of Bapu Dham, Chanakyapuri.

According to a senior police

brought dead. 'A police team was dispatched for the hospital. During

family where he was declared

investigation, it was revealed that Saxena hanged himself from the ceiling fan in his study room around 7 am on Wednesday with the help of a bed sheet," said the senior police official.

Family said that the victim was under depression. "A suicide note has been recovered from the spot and further investigation in underway," said police.

Fireman hurt while battling flames in Vikaspuri

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

fireman was injured while Thrying to douse a fire that broke out in an office in West Delhi"s Vikaspuri. The incident was reported on Tuesday night.

According to Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official, after a call regarding fire in Vikaspuri was received on Tuesday night two fire tenders were rushed to the spot. "LPG cylinders kept in the office exploded during the firefighting operation and one of the firemen got trapped and suffered injuries, said Atul Garg, Director,

The fireman identified as Murarilal was taken to a nearby hospital from where he was referred to the Safdarjung hospital. The fire was later doused. In other incident, the DFS

rescued 20 people safely from a building in Gujatawala Town part-2. "On Wednesday at 5.10 pm, the fire department received information regarding a blaze in elecfric meter board at the

ground floor of a building in

Gujatawala Town part-2," said

Garg.
"Three fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The building was comprises of ground plus three floors. Total 20 people rescued from first and third floor,'

Shops raided for selling spurious hand sanitisers

NEW DELHI: Raids are being taken that "The team has been conducted in Bhagirath Palace, Delhi's biggest market for medicines, against shops selling inferior quality and fake hand sanitisers. The Drug Control Department of the Delhi Government on Wednesday collected samples of hand sanitisers from several shops in Bhagirath Palace and raided several others.

Atul Kumar Nasa, head of the Drug Control Department, said about the action being

SAPNA SINGH NEW DELHI

Delhi Excise Department has allowed seven more L

- 7 private shops to resume operations from Wednesday.

tinuation to the previous order

of permitting 66 of 239 eligible

These shops are allowed on alternative days between 9AM

to 6:30 PM irrespective of their

shops having both odd and

even numbers and shall deposit

vendors) shall deposit 70 per-

cent Special corona fee on the

total sales daily, which will be

The order read, "They (

percent of Corona fee.

liquor shops

The fresh order is in con-

sent by the department to Bhagirath Palace to raid the shops selling inferior hand sanitisers. This team of drug control department is raiding shops selling substandard

products here," he said.
"Samples have also been collected from many shops here to know the quality of

tisers of unnamed and dubious

firms are available in five-litre

Govt allows reopening

of 66 pvt liquor shops

deducted from their ledger

account linked with their

Vend-ID. They should, there-

fore, maintain the requisite

sanitisers," he said. In Bhagirath Palace, sani-

shopkeepers about the price of these, IANS found that a fivelitre can of sanitiser is available for just Rs 400. One such shopkeeper giving his name as A.K. Jain, said, "We are selling 5 litre cans of hand sanitiser for Rs 400. When taken in bulk, we are selling for Rs 350 for 5

cans at many shops. On asking

Blue-coloured sanitiser filled in white boxes is available at many shops here. No information about manufacturer

balance in their ledger

licences/ship allowed to oper-

ate under the containment

zone in future the same shall be

close permanently,"
According to excise depart-

ment data,Delhi government has earned over Rs 110 crore

from the cess and is expecting

even more in the coming days

with the opening up of more

shops.

Delhi has more than 850

liquor shops, of which around

150 are located in malls not be

allowed to operate, from May

5, the government imposed a

special corona fee on liquor.

"In case, any L-7

account.

address, batch number, licence or formula is given on many of these sanitiser-filled cartons. Many shopkeepers have

cleverly placed such sanitisers in stalls or on the streets right outside the shops instead of keeping them inside their

shops.
When asked about the sanitiser manufacturing company and the quality, a shopkeeper named Sanjay Sharma said, "This is a locally made hand sanitiser. It is made in fac-

concerned authorities have been asked to investigate such shops and products," Nasa

Delhi Police officers

felicitated for service **STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI Srivastava, Joint CP, Southern

The Delhi Commissioner, Shrivastava, on Wednesday awarded 230 police officers and personnel with 'Utkrisht Seva Padak' while 160 officers and personnel were awarded with 'Ati Utkrisht Seva Padak'.

Ministry of Home Affairs has instituted new medals, Utkrisht Seva Padak and Ati Utkrisht Seva Padak for the police personnel, who have completed 15 years & 25 years respectively of service, to promote professionalism and excel-

lence among police forces.

According to police, this year's awardees for Utkrisht Seva Padak include Rajesh Khurana, Special CP, Intelligence, Devesh

range, Bhisham Singh, M A Rizvi and Rajeev Ranjan, the Deputy Commissioners of Police are among 230 officers and personnel. "Around 34 inspector, 16 Dub-Inspector, 25 Assistant Sub-

selected Utkrisht Seva Padak," said police. Meanwhile, Dr Ajit Singla,

and 50 constables have been

"Personnel with service of 15 ears will be eligible for the Utkrisht Seva Padak, while those with clean record of 25 years of service will be eligible for Ati

Inspector, 100 head constables

the Additional CP and Rajender Singh, ACP Dwarka are among 160 police personnel selected for Ati Utkrisht Seva Padak.

official, police received Information that the victim was Utkrisht Seva Padak. taken to Primus hospital by his

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI A 57-year-old Indian Revenue Services(IRS) officer on

Chankyapuri area. The victim has been identified as Keshav Saxena, a resident



BJP flays Rahul for 'jeopardising anti-corona' efforts

In a repeat attack against Rahul Gandhi in last 24 hours, the BJP on Wednesday denounced him for alleging that lockdown was ineffective, BJP on Wednesday charged him with playing a "negative" role and weakening country's resolve in its fight against the pandemic.

Addressing a press conference, senior BJP leader and union Minister Ravishankar Prasad said since the break-out of the pandemic, Congress leader was telling "lies, distorting and misrepresenting

Maintaining that lockdown was very timely and manged to restrict death to 4,345 only in country of 137 crore people. On the other hand, Prasad said barring China, 15 bigcountries including the USA, Italy, Germany, UK, France, Russia and Iran, with total population of 142 crore had by thousand and five hundred and sixty two.

This he said happened under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who he claimed was "Playing on the front foot". Rahul in his criticism of the government had said that Modi was not playing on the backfoot while taking measures to contain pandem-

Prasad accused Rahul of spreading negativity, engaging in falsehood, fake news and incorrect representation of the

He said Rahul had ridiculed symbolic gesture of ringing bells, striking 'thalis', clapping and lightening of saying this will not defeat coronavirus even though these were aimed to boost morale of Corona warriors, he

Taking a swipe at the Congress leader, Prasad said

as "hot spot" by the health ministry, Rahul was congratulating himself for 'succeeding' in containing pandemic in his LS seat.

Prasad also accused Rahul of taking credit for the success of Bhilwara model of lockdown in Rajasthan which effectively contained coronavirus in the district in the early phase of the pandemic and levelling false charges against ICMR.

He also condemned Rahul for congratulating three Pulitzer prize winner who he alleged were awarded for giving an insight into the socalled freedom struggle in the

Similarly, he said the Congress leader wants Government to bring back Nirav Modi , businessmen accused of bank fraud, from England, one of the Congress member and former high court judge Abhay Thipsay was backs Modi in the case and

Rahul continues talk shows with health experts

Aday after he dubbed India's lockdown a failure citing increase in Covid-19 cases during the period, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday continued with his talk shows with expects from across the with experts from across the world on issues related to the pandemic. Professor Ashish Jha of Harvard University and Professor Johan Giesecke of Sweden's Karolinska Institute told him that "lockdown is not a goal" but a time to separate infected persons

gives the fugitive a clean chit. This is the difference between what he says and what he does", said Prasad.

Union Minister said Congress leader was running

when you can't test aggressively and that a severe lockdown can cause more deaths than the illness.

"Lockdown buys you time. but lockdown is not the goal unto itself. You can use that time to prepare a really fabulous testing, tracing, isolation infrastructure. You want to use that time to communicate with people," said Jha.

The Harvard Professor further said that vigorous testing, tracing and isolation is helpful, "but if you can't do that, then you have to lock everything

The BJP leader said Rahul away from his party's responhas been tweeting on the ShivSena-led-government in need to provide trains for the Maharashtra which has the stranded migrant workers highest number of coroneven though the Centre was avirus cases in the country already providing them for

virus from a lockdown? Of course you can. But it has very substantial economic repercussions," he said. Left unchecked, the virus will grow exponentially, he stresed.

"And the way to stop it is to take infected people and separate them from un-infected ones," advocated Jha adding life will be very different when lockdown ends.

"This is not about going back to what life was like last May or June. That life over the next 6-12-18 months is going to look very different," he said. pandemic) are nerve centres of globalisation. If people say 9/11 is a chapter, coronavirus is a book. Rahul began his series of conversations via video conferences with experts last

month. Former RBI governor

Raghuram Rajan and Nobel

Giesecke, Rahul said, "Most

places that are affected (by the

Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee were among his first few guests. "India would ruin its economy if it has a very severe lockdown", Professor Giesecke said

taking them to their native

Union Minister Prakash

Javadekar had claimed that

lockdown

On Tuesday, another

migrants. As the Gandhi scion quesadding that coronavirus, which

world".

tioned both the experts on an exit strategy for the lockdown, he was told that a "stepwise exit" is more advisable.

affect "almost everyone in the

Most people who have it are

not even aware. While the old

and vulnerable need to be pro-

tected from the disease, you

may cause more deaths due to

a severe lockdown than the ill-

ness," he added as Rahul spoke

about the plight of the

"The disease is very mild.

effectively checked the doubling rate of Coronavirus in the country and made light of Rahul's charge of "shoddy

management" of pandemic

by the Modi-Government.

Ministry for maternal, newborn, other cares in restricted manner



 \mathbf{I} t's in Lockdown 4.0 that the Union Health Ministry has finally focussed its attention on the health services related to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescents, or RMNCAH+N, saying that these should be continued in a restricted manner in areas defined as containment and buffer zones and that coronavirus testing is not mandatory in such cases.

There have been several reports of people facing problems in availing such services at their doorsteps. The Guidelines have come amidst UNICEF report that an estimated 20 million mothers and newborns will receive pregnancy and newborn care in India in the nine-month-period following declaration of the cated high priority to maternal and child health services as countries respond to the dis-

The Ministry guidelines said that home delivery of folic acid, calcium and zinc tablets, oral rehydration solution sachets and contraceptives can also be arranged in the con-

Areas where multiple coronavirus cases are reported have been classified as containment zones and its surrounding areas are called buffer zones.

"In India, with the secondlargest global population, the growing epidemic of coronavirus requires that special efforts have to be made to continue the essential routine RMNCAH+N services," the Ministry said in its guidelines. "Covid testing is not mandatory for RMNCAH+N service. ICMR testing guidelines need to be followed

The Ministry added that it is important to ensure that essential health services for vulnerable population are continued during the pandemic. "Critical services for women, children and adolescent should be provided irrespective of their Covid status," it said. should there be a denial of essential services.

In its guidelines, the Ministry said that a mother and her newborn should be nursed together as far as possible and breastfeeding must be initiated within one hour of delivery, irrespective of the coronavirus status. However, the mother must wear a face

hygiene before feeding the child, it added.

The advisory noted that services such as antenatal and newborn care, immunisation, family planning and adolescent health, among others, are to be provided at different levels in accordance with the zonal categorisation of containment zones, buffer zones and beyond these zones. "Any area exiting a "containment/ buffer zone can start RMNCAH+N activities as listed in "areas beyond buffer zone" after a minimum gap of 14 days following delisting," it added.

The health ministry also said private sector hospitals can be involved in non-coronavirus essential services if the public sector needs to be supported. "Practices of physical distancing, handwashing, to be maintained at all service areas by all beneficiaries and service providers."

As per the UNICEF, India will see 20.1 million child births in the nine months since the pandemic declaration, followed by China at 13.5 million, Nigeria at 6.4 million, Pakistan (5 million) and Indonesia (4 million)

NHAI issues policy guidelines to expedite maintenance, repair work of national highways



PNS NEW DELHI

To take up maintenance and ways on a priority basis before monsoon, NHAI has issued policy guidelines to fast-track such work, the Government said on Wednesday.

All regional officers of NHAI have been delegated sufficient financial powers to take quick decisions regarding maintenance activities. "In order to keep the

national highways in patchless and traffic worthy condition, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has directed its Regional Officers (ROs) and Project Directors (PDs) to undertake maintenance of the National Highways on top priority-basis considering ensuing monsoon season," Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

The aim is to facilitate timely action and keep the highway stretches traffic-worthy ahead of the monsoon season i.e. latest by June 30, 2020,

"NHAI has issued new policy guidelines to help its ROs/PDs plan and prioritize better; and then expedite the process of highway mainte-

nance in the desired manner. ough planning of the requisite activities and the implementation of the same in a time bound manner," the statement It said ROs of NHAI have

been delegated sufficient financial powers to take quick decisions regarding maintenance activities, while PDs have been advised to make assessment of the condition of highways supported by technology driven tools through car mounted camera/ drone/ Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) etc for identification of various highway distress (like depression, rutting, cracking etc.) and plan rectification measures.

All field officers have been directed to adhere to the timelines, regularly monitor the progress of maintenance work the authority at regular inter-

The Government said the NHAI headquarters will be monitoring the progress closely through its project management software - Data Lake where pictures of before and after repair works would be uploaded, apart from other repair related information.

51 temples taken over by U'khand Govt illegal, embarrassment to BJP: Swamy

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to direct Uttarakhand Chief Minister to withdraw the recent Act, which took over 51 temples including Badrinath and Kedarnath temples. Terming the takeover of temples is illegal, Swamy in a letter, told Modi that the 51 temples taken over by the State Government is an embarrassment to BJP and its policy. Swamy has already challenged the controversial Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act of 2019 in High Court and the Court has issued notice to the State Government on February 25. The State Government has not yet responded to the High Court Notice.

The Uttarakhand BJP Government has brought a legislation to take over almost all the temples of the State and

also appointed the Chief Minister as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. This move is not only against the policy of our party and ideology of Hindutva, but also illegal and against the Judgment of the Supreme Court (now widely known case as Subramanian Swamy Vs State of Tamil Nadu judgment by the Supreme Court in 2014). In this the Supreme Court has laid down clearly that the Government under Article 25 of the Constitution, cannot take over the administration of any temple, except for the brief period when there is a documented misappropriation of funds of the temple," pointed out Swamy, adding that there was no misappropriation found in temples of Uttarakhand.

The controversial Act passed by the BJP-ruled State Government in 2019, intending to take control of more than 51 temples related to the Char Dham circuit has already

invited severe criticism from the Sangh Parivar organizations. This Act enables the Government to take control of the temples currently by priests, local trusts and the new Act say MPs, MLAs, and representatives appointed by the State Government will run the temples. As per the Act, the head of the Devasthanam Board will be the State Chief Minister and many Government officials are placed in the administration. The Act says, if the Chief Minister is not a Hindu, senior-most Hindu Minister will be the head of the Board.

"Rather than waiting for the Court to deliver Judgment against the takeover, it would be in the interest of our Party if you as Prime Minister gives a direction to the Chief Minister to restore the position which has existing before the takeover of the temples. It is also politically sensitive to do

Hotel quarantine for foreign

returnees only for 7 days, States told

The MHA asked the **States to ensure that** the foreign returnees who paid advance amount for 14 days are refunded their balance amount without any delay

PNS NEW DELHI

With rampant complaints-from quarantined per-sons, the Union Home Ministry on Tuesday directed all States to ensure that the hotels are charging only for seven days of quarantine from the foreign returnees and that they refund the remaining amount in case they have charged in advance for 14 days of quarantine.

In a letter issued to the Chief Secretaries, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla noted that as per the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry for international arrivals, protocol for institutional quarantine has been revised to seven days followed by seven days of home quarantine after medical assess-

"It has been brought to the notice of this ministry that Indian nationals who were quarantined in hotels after their return from abroad were made to pay advance for 14 days. Since they can now leave for home quarantine after seven days, the amount paid by them for the remaining seven days needs to be refunded to them, which some hotels are refusing to refund," the statement said.

The MHA asked the states to ensure that the foreign returnees who paid advance amount for 14 days are refunded their balance amount without any delay. There are many complaints that hotels were not returning the money the collected when 14 days quarantine was mandated and later cut short to seven days only hotel quarantine.

Shakti Basmati Rice Ltd, its 3 directors for forgery amount for introduction of

CBI books Karnal-based

PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked The CBI nas booker Karnal-based Shakti Basmati Rice Pvt Ltd and its three directors in a case of cheating and forgery for causing loss to the public sector State Bank of India (SBI) to the tune of over ₹100 crore.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered the case on a complaint from SBI against the private rice company based at Karnal (Haryana) and its three Directors and unknown others including unknown public servants.

"It was alleged that the accused, engaged in the manufacturing of grain mill products (rice), obtained credit facilities commercial branch of State Bank of India, Karnal (Haryana), by misrepresenta-

tion of facts," the CBI said in a statement. It was further alleged that the accused had cheated the Bank by diverting the loan

share capital, inflating the sale and purchase figures and devaluation/decrease of stocks to show losses. The "losses" were cited for

diverting the funds by selling the stocks out of the books. It was also alleged that the

accused failed to repay the loan amount resulting in the loss of about ₹100.46 crore) to the Bank.

Besides the firm, the directors named as accused are Shyam Lal, Parveen Kumar and Suresh Kumar.

In its complaint, the SBI alleged that the fraud came to light when a forensic audit was conducted by a firm and report was submitted on March 7 last year.

The alleged fraud was committed at Commercial Branch of SBI at Karnal.

The accused persons are alleged to have siphoned the funds by diversion of credit limits for introduction of share capital and round-tripping of funds.

The study materials will

ensure rural students'

interest in Mathematics

and Science subjects at

an early age

shared through innovative

ensure rural students' interest

in Mathematics and Science

The study materials will

Centre ties up with Super 30 to help poor crack JEE

PNS NEW DELHI

In a major boon to students living in rural areas who are preparing for IIT JEE entrance exams amidst the COVID 19 lockdown, the Centre on Wednesday tied up with Prof Anand Kumar of the Super 30 fame to impart coaching to IIT JEE aspirants in association with Common Service Centre (CSC) for a fee of just ₹1

With the help of CSC

which has now countrywide

reach, the online study mate-

rial for children living in

rural areas who cannot afford

expensive coaching will be

teaching modules.

subjects at an early age.

To begin with, Prof Anand Kumar on Wednesday interacted with poor students from rural areas on various social media platforms of CSC through video conferencing at lakhs of CSC centres across India.

Health workers told to reuse eye protection goggles with PPE Kits at least 5 times each

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has asked the frontline health workers to not to dump eye protection goggles with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits, but reuse them at least five times each, whereby one pair of goggles will be sufficient for 6 days after proper disinfection.

This is likely to upset the frontline workers as they feel that it would leave them vulnerable to the contaminants of the gadget.

In its standard operating procedure, the Government said that aim is to enable individuals to reuse goggles used by them thus allowing an extended use without risk of contracting infection.

"The kitting of the PPEs with goggles will be done away with while all goggles that conform to prescribed EN/BIS specifications will be re-used after disinfection," said the

Also, reprocessing and reuse of goggles must be done only when it is dedicated to each individual to be written over the band while manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfection of goggles has to be adhered strictly.

The Ministry has on its part given details on the process of cleaning and disin-



cleaning the gadget.

The Ministry said that eye protection must be discarded if damaged/rendered optically non-clear on repeated usage.

"Goggles may be issued to each health care worker, who will decontaminate them after every use. Goggles to be disinfected by users and re-used at least five times each, whereby one pair of goggles will suflice for 6 days. They may use them rationally till their transparency decreases or they get damaged. The ratio of issue of goggles to coverall is recommended at 1:6," said the Ministry.

In another but related statement issued here, the Ministry said that it has provided 113.58 lakh N95 masks

Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the States/ UTs / Central Institutions. "The testing capacity has

increased in the country through 435 Government laboratories and 189 private laboratories (total of 624 labs). Cumulatively, 32,42,160 samples have been tested so far for COVID-19, whereas, 1,16,041 samples were tested on Tuesday.

A total of 1,51,767 cases have been reported from the country in which 64,426 persons have been cured and the recovery rate is pegged at 42.4 per cent. The fatality rate is 2.86% whereas the world average is 6.36 per cent, said the

RS committee all set to scrutinise over two months corona lockdown Sources indicated that the PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Parliamentary Acommittee is all set to scrutinise the over two months corona lockdown when the Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla will brief the panel headed by Congress leader and former Union Minister Anand Sharma next Sources in Parliament said

that a notice for the meeting on June 3 has been sent. For two months, parliamentary committees were not given permission to hold virtual meetings and their activities have been on hold since the lockdown was announced on March 25. This will be the first meet-

ing of a parliamentary committee, which acts as a mini parliament. It will closely scrutinise the home ministry, its various notifications and steps taken during the entire lockdown period, said the source. The migrant labour issues are also expected to be reflected.

For two months, despite his written requests, Congress's Anand Sharma -- who is the chairman of the standing committee on home affairs -- did not get any official response from the chairman of the Rajya Sabha to hold these meetings.

Union Home ministry led by Amit Shah was not keen on having any legislative scrutiny during the lockdown period. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, which is under Pralhad Joshi, had also refused to allow any virtual meetings, citing rules and procedures. Officially, the Secretary

Generals of both houses met last month to find a way to hold these meetings. Cutting across party lines,

various committee chiefs have wanted meetings to be convened and have argued that 34 countries are holding sessions and meetings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also been holding online cabinet meetings, they pointed out. Twenty-two opposition parties had jointly issued a statement, demanding parliamentary committees be reconvened to allow legislative oversight over various aspects of the lockdown, which, they said, has had a negative impact across all sections of society on social, economic and health fronts.

According to Anand Sharma, he had written to the Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu to allow members who can't be physically present to join through video conferencing by a secured network.



No permission needed | Mamata sees Centre's plot in Rlys taking migrants to Bengal to hire UP workers: Yogi

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken a Uturn, two days after he declared that permission would be needed if other States employ workers from UP.

The issue sparked a major controversy and an official spokesman has now said that the Government would not include this clause of "prior permission" in the by-laws of the Migration Commission.

government spokesman also said it was working on modalities to set up the commission to provide jobs and social security to migrant workers returning to migration commission as the



"Shramik Kalyan Aayog (Workers welfare commission). About 26 lakh migrants have already returned to the state and an exercise to map their skills is being carried out

to help them get jobs. Yogi Adityanath has discussed the modalities for setting up the commission and told his officers to complete the skill mapping exercise in 15

A senior official of Team 11, said, "The chief minister discussed the modalities for setting up the commission, as well. There will be no provision requiring other states to seek UP Government"s prior permission for employing our manpower. The commission is being set up to provide jobs and social security to the workers. We will also link the migrants to the government schemes to provide them houses and loans

Yogi Adityanath said a letter should be sent to all state governments to find out about migrant workers wanting to come back to

With the Railways sending 41 trains packed with migrant workers to Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has questioned the Centre's "true intentions" behind pushing back lakhs of people "many of whom are infected with the coronavirus ... particularly in the aftermath of super cyclone Amphan," and said she would request Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention into the matter.

A visibly miffed Chief Minister on Wednesday said that the "Centre is pushing Bengal into a catastrophic situation by pushing back lakhs of migrant workers many of who are corona infected" particularly at a time when the State's infrastructure is bursting at its seams in the wake of Amphan.

"Already a few lakh migrant workers have come back to Bengal. And now about IANS | 28 trains are ferrying back

infected," the Chief Minister said blaming the Railways for taking one-sided

"We were kept in the dark before planning the workers' return," she said adding "in a bid to empty Mumbai you are creating problem in Bengal. Corona cases are rising proportionately to the rolling in of trains from infected states." An angry Chief Minister

said "who will take responsibility if the number of corona cases shoots up in the wake of mass repatriation of the migrant workers. Already we have seen that many such people are infected... Is this a time to do politics by public health

Claiming that there was a politics behind this whole affair so that the Bengal Government can be maligned," the Chief Minister said that she had even asked Home Minister take things into his hands if he really thought that her Government was unable to control the situation.

"When I asked him to take things into his own hands by toppling our Government he replied in the negative saying it would be unfair to bring down an elected Government," she said adding "the Railways could have planned the things out taking our Government into confidence. They could have followed the lockdown norms and jointly we could have taken 15 days' time to arrange for adequate number of quarantine centres" she said.

In the wake of mass return of the migrant workers the Bengal Government has decided to keep them in government quarantine centres. "Workers returning from five most corona affected states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Delhi) would be kept in ernment facilities," a senior would be used for quarantining State bureaucrat said adding the migrant workers."

9-point chargesheet against TMC by BJP

Kolkata: Rejecting the Chief Minister's allegations that Centre was playing politics to Bengal Government the State BJP on Wednesday brought a ninepoint chargesheet against the Banerjee Mamata

Government.

Claiming that the Chief Minister was trying to hide behind the excuses and blaming the Centre for her lapses State BJP president said "we are being a nine-point charge sheet against her Government which are as follows:

"First of all her failure to handle the corona crisis, secondly her government's poor

response to the post Amphan situation despite the fact that the weather office had given an accurate prediction, thirdly large-scale corruption in distribution of ration after the corona crisis pushing lakhs of poor people to abject hunger.

The fourth charge-sheet relates falling law and order problem. Then you have a dwindling economic scenario and flight of capital comprising the fifth charge-sheet. The sixth allegation is the largescale mismanagement in state's education system. The seventh charge-sheet relates to the anti-Hindu stance of the State

Monsoon may aggravate Covid crisis in Kerala, warns CM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

hief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Usaid on Wednesday that coronavirus situation in Kerala is alarming and asked the people in the State to be warriors in the fight against pandemic. "The South West Monsoon may hit the Kerala coast anytime and it would hasten the possibilities of diseases caused by rain," said the Chief Minister while briefing the media about the status of the State vis a vis coronavirus

"On Wednesday 40 more persons tested positive for covid-19 pandemic. Out of this 16 were those who returned to the State from Maharashtra while nine were from foreign countries. As on today, there are 1,004 covid-19 patients in the State. 445 persons have been hospitalised for treatment. On Wednesday,

229 persons with signs of pandemic have been admitted to hospitals," said

The Chief Minister also disclosed that 173 Keralites who were working abroad succumbed to the pandemic in the countries where they were residing. "The day also saw the number of hotspots in the State increasing to 81. On Wednesday itself, 13 hotspots were newly added to the existing list," he said.

Vijayan reiterated that it was with the return of the expatriates the State saw the number of coronavirus patients shooting up after it was flattened. "It is a matter of big concern and we are going ahead with stringent regulations," said the Chief Minister. The Health Department has tested 58, 686 samples till date and it was that 56,558 were

Ranbir canal desilted in Jammu with BSF help

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The jawans of Border Security Force (BSF) have come to the rescue of farmers in the rice bowl of RS Pura and Arnia in Jammu by way of completing the long pending desilt-ing work of Ranbir canal, running parallel to the International border with Pakistan. Ranbir canal, constructed

in 1905, is the major source of irrigation for farmers and is considered lifeline of Jammu For a long time, farmers in

the region were demanding to carry out desilting works in areas falling close to the International border. Due to accumulation of silt in the 59.55 km long canal

the farmers were not able to

fully tap the irrigation capaci-



tv of the canal. At many places, farmers failed to utilise the canal water due to huge blocks in canal system and flow of water was restricted.

Following repeated pleas by the farmers, the local authorities of Irrigation and Flood control department approached the BSF officers demanding their assistance in desilting work in the canal ahead of Border and in close vicinity of

Initially, the BSF authorities apprehended objections by their counterparts from across the border but they went ahead with the decision to bail out the farmers, growing world class basmati in the region.

BSF spokesman in Jammu said, "The desilting work was taken up in the Arnia and R S Pura Sector under the supervision of senior officers with foolproof security cover to civil staff working ahead of fence "

He said, despite provocations from across the border the work was completed in record

BSF spokesman said, "Pak Rangers objected to the work and also adopted aggressive posture but the deft and tactical handling of situation led to successful completion of work

Health survey finds 13,341 families with ILI, SARI symptoms in K'taka

KESTUR VASUKI BENGALURU

t the time of Covid -19 pandemic, a Ahealth survey conducted by the Karnataka Health Department reveals around13,341 households have people with Influenza Like Illness(ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARI) and other Covid-19 symptoms. The survey results have been uploaded to a website being maintained by the state Corona war room and Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KSRSAC).

According to officials, out of 1.68 crore households in the state, survey work is completed with 1.13 crore households. We are identifying households who are vulnerable so as to give them more support and keep a track of them through ASHA and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives," Munish Moudgil, DPAR secretary and incharge officer of the war room, said.

As per the data shared by the state corona war room, the estimated households are 1.68 crore, while 67.16 per cent of them have been surveyed so far.

The highest number of SARI/ILI and Covid symptom households are from Kalaburagi at 1,902, followed by Bengaluru Urban with 1,703 and Shivamogga with 1,217. As for vulnerable households that need follow-up, the maximum are in Bengaluru at 3.33 lakh.

It has also identified 1.37 lakh people with co-morbidities and 48.35 lakh senior citizens, considered as vulnerable groups to keep a tab on their health. The survey is being done to assess

the number of people with ILI and SARI symptoms and comorbidities. Not all of them are tested for Covid. ILI cases from containment zones, and those with a travel history to other countries and highprevalence states are tested as per the testing protocol," said Ravikumar Surpur, Commissioner of Health, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

lakh hectare land affected by Amphan in WB

Kolkata: Even as parts of south Bengal was hit by a second storm a westerly on Wednesday evening uprooting some more trees and sending down a chill down the people's spines Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that super cyclone Amphan that hit Bengal on May 20 had affected about 60 percent of the

Putting out a detailed list of losses she said Amphan has left a massive impact on the agricultural sector where about 10.5 lakh hectares of land has been damaged.

Most of these lands have been filled with salt water that burst in from the maze of rives in the Sunderbans delta. In many cases the standing crops have been affected jacking up the price of vegetable and other agricultural products.

Apart from this 58,000 fisheries have been damaged in addition to several hundred boats, she said. Fishing is the second biggest bread earner after agriculture for the 3 crore people living in the three districts of North and South 24 Parganas and Midnapore.

Apart from fisheries about 21 jetties have been lost to the super cyclone she said reminding that river transportation is a life line for the people living in the coastal parts of Bengal.

60% people, 10.5 | Maha Guv modifies ST, Forest Dwellers Act

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBA

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has notified changes in the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which now provides for appealing against the district-level committee orders in the scheduled areas of the

The notification is aimed at justice to the tribals whose Individual Forest Right or Community Forest Right have been rejected by the District Level Committee constituted under FRA.In a notification issued on May 18 in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Schedule V of the Constitution, the Governor has modified Section 6 of the (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, in its application to Scheduled Area of the State of Maharashtra. This notification applies in the case of the Provisions

of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) areas in the State of Maharashtra and allows appeal provision against the decisions of the District Level Committee. According to the modification a provision has been incorporated enabling rightful claimants of the forest rights to appeal against the Order of the District Level The notification states that Divisional Level Committees

under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioners have been constituted to hear the appeals against the decision of the District Level Committee.

The notification specifies that, in case of order passed by District Level Committee before the commencement of the notification, the application for appeal shall be made within six months from the date of issue of notification.

As per the notification, in case of order passed by the District Level Committee after the commencement of the notification, application of appeal shall be made within a period of ninety days from the date of communication of order of the District Level Committee. It was observed by the Governor that, a large number of applications under the above mentioned Act relating to record of rights is rejected by the District Level Committees under the said Act.

Madras HC asks TN Govt to

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

🟲amil Nadu Government's

I plans to acquire Veda

Nilayam, the residence of late J

Jayalalithaa, former Chief

Minister, and convert it into a

national memorial hit the road-

block on Wednesday as the

Madras High Court ruled that

the Government has no right to

Deepa and J Deepak, the

nephew and niece of the late leader as the second line legal

heirs and were entitled to a por-

tion of the imposing building from where Jayalalithaa presided

over the State and national pol-

of justices N Kirubakaran and

Abdul Quddhose asked the

State Government to consider

converting a portion of Veda

A Division bench consisting

The Court also ruled that J

do the same.

itics for years.

reconsider decision of converting

Jayalalitha's home into memorial

Nilayam,

converting

Ĵayalalithaa.

Memorial.

Chennai's Poes Garden area into

the Chief Minister's Office while

portion into a memorial for

eight weeks to reply to the Court

about its decision. It was last

week Tamil Nadu Government

promulgated an ordinance tak-

ing over the entire Veda Nilayam

as part of its move to convert it

building and all the movable

furniture, jewels, books and

others are in a State of disuse.

Hence all the immovable and

movable properties are trans-

ferred to the Government for

proper upkeep until the acqui-

process is fully

properties at Veda Nilayam -

The Government said the

Tamil Nadu has been given

another

Jayalalithaa

Sena-NCP-Cong Mins slam Fadnavis for trying to 'malign' MVA Govt

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Ministers belonging to the three The Ministers belonging to the constituents of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) - Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress – on Wednesday ripped into the Opposition BJP, demanding to know if it was a friend of foe of Maharashtra and picking holes in the statistics provided by former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis about the Central assistance to the State.

Addressing a joint news conference at the Shiv Sena's south Mumbai office, Jayant Patil, Congress minister Balarsaheb Thorat and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat came down heavily on Fadnavis for trying to "malign" the MVA Government and its Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

"The manner in which the BJP leaders from Maharashtra have gone about making baseless allegations against the MVA is surprising. Not even a single BJP leader from the BJP has shown the generosity of contributing even one rupee to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. They have donated money only PM Cares fund. I would like to know whether the BJP is a friend of a foe of Maharashtra," Jayant Patil asked.

"Compared with other States, the Maharashtra Government is combating the Coronavirus in a much better way. The situation is under control. The health experts had predicted that there would be 1.5 lakh cases in Maharashtra by the end of May, but the number of positive cases in the state is around 60,000 now. Just because we have maximum number of cases does not mean that the situation is

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Government of Tamil Nadu.

With 817 persons testing positive for coronavirus on Wednesday,

18, 545 persons have been tested pos-

itive in Tamil Nadu till date, said the

press release issued by the

19 cases including those in isolation

stood at 8,500 said the release. The

State also saw 567 fully cured persons

getting discharged from various hos-

pitals taking the total number of

cumbing to the pandemic on

Wednesday, taking the total number

out of the 817 persons tested positive

on Wednesday, 138 were from

Maharashtra. A total number of 4,42,

970 samples have been tested in

Tamil Nadu till date and there are 70

laboratories working round the clock

to test the samples. On Wednesday

alone 11, 231 samples were tested in

itive cases till date and the capital city

Chennai alone tested 12, 203 pos-

of fatalities to 133.

The State also saw six persons suc-

The Government release said that

patients who were cured to 9,909.

But the number of active Covid-

bad in the state. Our government is working effectively against Coronavirus. Just As a result we are seeing positive results in the State".

Slamming Fadnavis for projecting an exaggerated picture of the assistance received from the Centre, Parab said: "Maharashtra has not received food grains worth ₹1,750 crore as claimed by Fadnavis nor it received ₹122 crore meant for migrant workers as claimed by him. The Maharashtra government has paid ₹68 towards train fare for migrant workers to

Centre has made available 30 trains". "Fadnavis says that the Maharashtra Government has received 19,000 crore from the Centre. But the fact remains: the Centre has yet to clear this state's GST dues of over ₹18,279 crore for 2019-2020. We have not other money that Fadnavis has claimed we have received. Whatever money that has come is for ongoing schemes... Where is the money that Fadnavis is talking about?,

Fadnavis had among other things claimed on Tuesday that the Narendra Modi government had given ₹25,104 crore to the Uddhav Thackeray during the last three months, it also gave ₹4,592 crore to the state government towards providing food grains to migrant workers in the State and that it had given an assistance of ₹438 crore to the MVA dispensation towards purchase of drugs, PPE kits and N95 masks. Fadnavis had also claimed that the Maharashtra Government would get to the tune of ₹2,71, 500 crore because of the various packages announced by the Modi Government.

> continued to top the table with maximum number of coronavirus cases.

> Chengalpattu (888), Thiruvallur (825),

Cuddalore (439), Ariyalur (362),

Kancheepuram (330) are the other

problematic districts in Tamil Nadu.

by the Chief Minister's Office said that

a high level meeting of top bureau-

crats and medical experts would be

held on May 30 to take a final call on

whether to extend the lockdown

which ends on May 31. The

Government has stated that schools

would reopen after the mid-summer

vacation in the first week of June.

Various universities in the State have

started issuing memos to teaching

vate university in the State has issued

letters asking all teaching staff to be

present in the campus on June 1. With

the declaration of lockdown most of

the teaching staff drawn from outside

the State have gone back to their

respective native places. With Tamil

Nadu government saying no to train

and bus services from other States, the

teaching community find themselves

SRM University, the largest pri-

staff to be present on June 1 itself.

Meanwhile a press release issued

817 more test positive in Tamil Nadu

162 new cases in J&K, total 1,921

Jammu: The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday recorded its highest ever tally of 162 positive cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of coronavirus cases to 1,921. With two more deaths, reported from Kashmir valley, the total death toll due to Covid-19 touched 26.

The active cases of coronavirus surpassed mark of 1,000. Out of 1,041, 288 cases are active positive in Jammu and

753 in Kashmir division. According to the media bulleting "Kulgam and Kupwara districts of Kashmir valley recorded 27 and 26 positive cases while Pulwama reported 21 cases on Wednesday out of a total number of 124 cases from Kashmir valley". Out of 38 fresh cases from Jammu

division, Udhampur and Poonch recorded 11 cases each while Jammu district reported only 4 cases. Three among them were air travelers and were already under administrative quaran-

According to official sources, majority of returnees, who were tested positive across Jammu division, were already accommodated in different quarantine centres.

of Bihar Govt.

BIHAR Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking 4th Floor, BSBCCL Building, Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna

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N.I.T No.-BMSICL/Infra/17/2020

BMSICLPatna invitesTender in two bid (Technical & Financial) system in Item Rate Method hrough e-procurement (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) process from Specialized Firmfor SITC of Medical Gas Pipe Line/Plant at Following Sub Divisional Hospitals of Bihar under COVID-19.

Gr. No.	Name of Sub Divisional Hospital	Quantity	Amount of EMD(In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Processing Fee (in Rs.)	Period of Supply& Installati
1.	i)SDH Daudnagar,Dist- Aurangabad. ii) SDH Tekari, Dist- Gaya iii)SDH Sherghati, DistGaya iv)SDH MohaniaDist–Kaimur v)SDH Bikramganj, Dist–Rohtas	As per BOQ	5,88,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	on 2 Months
2.	i)SDH Manjhaul, Dist–Begusarai ii) SDH Navgacchiya, Dist-Bhagalpur 2. iii) SDH Tarapur, Dist-Munger iv) SDH Pusa, Dist-Samastipur v)SDH Dalsinghsarai, Dist-Samastipur		5,88,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	2 Months
3.	i)SDH Pakridayal, Dist- East Champaran ii)SDH Areraj, Dist- East Champaran iii)SDH Chakia, Dist- East Champaran iv)SDH Bagha, Dist- WestChamparan	As per BOQ	4,70,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	2 Months
4.	i)SDH Manihari, Dist- Katihar ii) SDH Barsoi, Dist- Katihar iii)SDH Jhanjharpur, Dist- Madhubani iv)SDH Phulparas, Dist- Madhubani v)SDH Dhamdaha, Dist- Purnea	As per BOQ	5,88,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	2 Months
5.	i)SDH Rajgir, Dist - Nalanda ii) SDH Hilsa, Dist - Nalanda		5,88,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	2 Months

2. Tender Schedule: Activity No Upto07.06.2020till 15:00 hrs. Period of Sale of Tender Document (Download) 01.06.2020 at 11.00 hrs. in the office of Date, Time and Place of Pre-Bid meeting BMSICL, Patna Last Date and time for receipt (upload) of 08.06.2020 upto 17:00 hrs. on website Tender Date/Time for submission of Original/Hard 10.06.2020upto 15.00 hrs. in the office of Copy of cost of BOQ, Earnest Money. BMSICL, Patna. Date/Time and Place for Opening of Technical 10.06.2020 at 15.30hrs.in the office of Qualification Bid . BMSICL, Patna. Date/Time & Place for opening of Financial Bid 16.06.2020 at 15.30hrs. in the office of BMSICL, Patna

(1) The Bill of Quantity, Qualification Criteria, Technical Specification and other conditions can be seen in the Tender Document downloaded from the website of

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Trouble for Uddhav

Given his inept handling of COVID-19, both his coalition allies and the BJP are keen to make him the fall guy



rue leadership is tested when a crisis such as the one caused by the COVID-19 pandemic leaves you desperately looking for answers and clutching at any straw in the wind. Except in politics, it is not about finding answers but asking questions of those who can be blamed. And so it is that the Uddhav Thackeray-led coalition Government in Maharashtra is in trouble as it seems to be fast losing its grip on containing the viral spike, which is the highest in the country and amounts to 30 per cent cases nationwide. With a monolithic leader, there is at least a semblance of a man/woman being in charge and good or bad, he/she

mostly manages to override scrutiny. But when you have somebody as vulnerable as Uddhav Thackeray, then the barbs keep flying thick and fast. Needless to say that the Shiv Sena chief got the Chief Minister's chair with zero administrative or grassroots experience by parting ways with a bossy State BJP and choosing the ideologically divergent National Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress. He did get to form a coalition Government but the wily Maratha warrior and NCP chief Sharad Pawar ensured that he cornered key Ministries and called the shots in the alliance, being its architect. The Congress, too, got some but as a C-team was never interested in making itself felt in governance. Battling such internecine pressures and keeping his numbers, with an unforgiving BJP smelling the slightest opportunity to topple him, Thackeray Junior may have fulfilled his father's dream of a Shiv Sainik being the Chief Minister but has been nothing more than a paper tiger. Yet, by virtue of being the face of a Government, he also has exposed himself to being the fall guy. And now that Maharashtra emerges as a COVID hotspot that seems to be spiralling out of control, he is desperately mobilising resources to manage the public health crisis while the BJP keeps on pointing out his flaws daily. In fact, the Shiv Sena may have historically controlled the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) but has nothing to show for its clout there in times of COVID-19. If anything, the BMC is struggling to contain the virus and the Sena itself is hopelessly out of depth as numbers of the sick keep increasing by the hour. This has partly got to do with the Sena's inexperience in governance. It has always been the "remote control" of power and with the BJP taking the lead in its earlier coalitions, has never had to bear the brunt of decision-making. Neither has it tapped into the administrative depth of Pawar or the Congress. And realising that this bad PR could backflush on them, his ruling allies are not too happy either, with Uddhav desperately reassuring them. So much so that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi intemperately forced a crisis, saying while the party could speak for COVID management in States ruled by it, in Maharashtra it was not a party to decision-making. Though Pawar stepped in to dispel fears of serious dissension within the coalition Government, the fact is some Ministers and legislators have been deeply disapproving of Uddhav's functioning and reliance on fossilised bureaucrats. He doesn't have the aura of his father, Bal Thackeray. Besides, Thackeray senior didn't have to combat a crisis such as this. So Uddhav is not only expected to deliver but come up with a practical and implementable plan in the current context. For years, the public health infrastructure in Mumbai has been neglected to accommodate private players, which aren't willing to lead the fight against the dreaded disease, leaving it to the already crumbling Government hospitals. The Sena has promoted many of these private facilities but they are not delivering for Uddhav. Besides, the Chief Minister has badly bungled the migrant exodus compared to his counterparts in other States. In fact most returnees from Mumbai have unanimously said that the Maharashtra Government didn't care about their food and shelter and had just let them loose without any compassion. And to complicate matters, now that the Sena's old and nativist constituencies like the Dharavi slums, whose dwellers service the economy of Mumbai, are under a viral siege, Uddhav has no manas left to back him up. With such a hydra-headed attack, he naturally seems the easiest man to take the fall

So what's in it for the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis? For a leader of the single largest party, who has some confidence of the people on the basis of his past performance, this is the most opportune moment to reclaim his relevance. And now that he has former Shiv Sena Chief Minister Narayan Rane with him in the party, he met Governor BS Koshyari and sought President's rule in the State on the pretext of ensuring better COVID management. Rane, who accompanied him, sought Army intervention to arrest the slide in Mumbai. Besides, Fadnavis is projecting himself as a BJP leader who can renegotiate Centre-State relations better and get things moving for an aggressive containment strategy with Central resources. He is leveraging the "one party in State and Centre" logic to wangle a better relief package for the State. The only question is the morality of Operation

Lotus as the city heaps its dead.

Hong Kong erupts again

China is resorting to 'wolf-warrior' diplomacy for 'great rejuvenation' of the State as the world corners it on COVID-19



f Chinese President Xi Jinping's "be prepared for war" cry to protect the nation's sovereignty is any indication, then China, blamed by much of the world for the COVID-19 nightmare, is hitting back even as it has been browbeaten by the virus. This warning call has been seen as anti-West, indicating China is not willing to let go of the Asian domination of the world economy it has crafted all these years. So it is turning belligerent again on the West-modelled Hong Kong and Taiwan, which it sees as bases of surveillance and destabilisation of Chinese authority. Although it had been patient with the first round of protests in Hong Kong

over repressive laws, fearing global opinion and depleted returns from the island economy, it is unapologetic and determined now as it has been roundly condemned for the Wuhan contagion. So it has decided to impose a new anthem Bill and national security laws in Hong Kong, totally bypassing the semi-autonomous territory's own legislative process. The new Bill would make it a criminal offence to "disrespect" the Chinese national anthem and ensure that it is taught in Hong Kong schools and sung by organisations. The city is also on the edge over Beijing's plans to impose the national security legislation on May 28, which aims to tackle alleged secession, subversion and terrorist activities. Citizens fear that the legislation could see Chinese intelligence agencies set up bases in the city and begin a new era of State repression. Protests, which had petered off due to the pandemic, have returned to the streets. But for Xi, demonstrable muscularity is about the survival and stability of the Communist Party.

The fact of the matter is that this Chinese aggression is not just limited to Hong Kong. Chinese ships swarmed an offshore oil rig operated by Malaysia and its Coast Guard sank a fishing boat in disputed waters off Vietnam. It denounced the second inauguration of Taiwan's President, Tsai Ing-wen, and nixed the word "peaceful" from its annual call for unification with the island nation. All this goes to show the "wolfwarrior" diplomacy that can happen with an unbridled China, no longer restrained by the fear of international rebuke and led by a leader who is pursuing a "great rejuvenation" of the Chinese State. Besides, Xi knows from past experience that though the global community has often spoken out against China's excesses in Hong Kong, it has not really counteracted the mainland on the ground. The international community has just stood by and tut-tutted over violations of human rights. It has to do better than just unleash US President Donald Trump's fury.

opanion

No silver in this playbook

The Government announced a slew of reforms for the agriculture sector. But it will do well to learn from the example of the US, where similar initiatives after WW-II backfired



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

ith a stimulus package of ₹8.4 lakh crore for the agriculture sector, the Finance Minister sought to usher in an economic "green revolution" based on providing credit guarantee to MSMEs, stocking up capacity at the farm gate and opening this sector for business. In short, the Government aims to strengthen rural banking networks, provide additional loans and expedite the goal of doubling farmers incomes. A report by the Niti Aayog appears to be the lodestar for the Finance Minster's presentation. It included suggestions on improving farm gate infrastructure, dismantling of APMC and even linking farmers to agri-business directly or through contract farming, among others.

Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar even said that "the Essential Commodities Act" is a hindrance to agri-exports and had called for its removal way back in 2017. With several States regulating the stock and supply and various food items being removed from purview, the said Act is vestigial. Even with the spread of the Coronavirus, this sector is functioning with a pre-Corona agenda. New steps though include the grant of additional funds to galvanise Niti Aayog's vision of reforming the agri sector and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of a New Property Card, which would stand as collateral for loans or advances from banks and financial institutions.

The Government was swift to link farmers' lands to banking institutions in a bid to allow more credit flow into rural India. The Indian Government is unsure about farm statistics. Does it know how many destitute farmers are connected to the rural banking system? Even if incentives are there, can loan subversion help them? Can a boost in infrastructure or market liberalisation uplift our rural sector?

Maybe the US has an answer. Agriculture was a major industry in America in the era before World War-II. Overwhelmingly, small and medium family farms dominated the country. After a slight spike post-war, farms in America soon boomeranged were "low" compared to the "costs." Sounds familiar?

With liberalisation, the US was quick to enact the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Act and the Disaster Loan Act of 1949 to ensure "loans" to farmers. Direct farm ownership loans were being provided to

secure farmlands. Emergency crop and the "feed loan programme", too, were launched to help the farmers with interim financing. Investments in rural infrastructure and easy loans were encouraged. All such measures are very much similar to the economic policy adopted by the Indian Government to tackle the ill effects of the Corona Given the extra flow of

cash, stressed farmers were quick to buy more land, farm equipment and modernise infrastructure. In fact, for some years, the yearly land inflation price overtook bank investments. Overall, the business was running good but this ascent was artificially sustained by way of fiscal manipulation. Speculation was high and credit was being used to refinance other mortgages. This caused a financial crash. Between 1950 and 1971, real farm income decreased from \$18 billion to \$13 billion. The number of farms, too, decreased by 50 per cent. But income per farm rose by 46 per cent as against a national average of 76 mortgage debt on US farms rose from \$8 billion in 1950 to \$24 billion in 1971

In former US Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz's style, either "you got big" and doubled your income or "got out" of farming. Is India, too, aiming at doubling farm incomes the same way? Well, one sparrow does not make a summer. Consider this: The Committee on Economic Development (CED), in its "An Adaptive Programme for Agriculture of 1962 and Doubling Farmers Incomes" report of 2017 had presented an ably and carefuly-prepared design, leading to the abandonment of all farm programmes at the end of five years. It proposed to "shift cultivators out of the farm to nonfarm activities" as too many farmers were a problem.

Post the implementation of an adaptive land management programme, over one million small-medium family-size farms were lost. Farmer suicides along with small and medium farm foreclosures sky-rocketed as most farmers were unable to pay back their loans. The agrarian crisis worsened depression among farmers. They have vociferously been asking for loan waivers. A NABARD study pointed out that 52.5 per cent of the rural households had a debt of \$1,470 (over ₹1.11 lakh) each average monthly rural household surplus of ₹1,413.

Providing more credit (yes, more loan schemes are to follow) will put additional burden on the farmers and the entire rural economy will be in a spiral of huge debt. With contract farming, agri-commodity trading and agri-business among others, Indian farmers will have no other option than to be hired in their own farms as was seen in the US. History has a strange way of repeating itself. The Government's decision to open the farm gate and dis-

mantle regulated APMC mandis will open the doors of agribusiness to Indian farms. Farmers in the US are at the end of the tunnel. This is where the Indian Government aspires to be. In his book, Merchants of Grain, Dan Morgan describes the journey of how "market access for farmers" led to the consolidation of elevator shafts and storage by giant companies. This was followed by the takeover of farmers' co-operatives. All of this culminated into a new grain monopoly in the US, which now controls 70 per cent of the world's supply chain. Farmers in America have no market left, just the corporate markets of Cargill and the likes. In 2006, the Bihar

Government rescinded the APMC Act to attract private is shocking. Farmers received even lower prices for their produce. Meanwhile, "traders" carted truckloads of produce to APMC mandis all the way to Punjab and Haryana to sell at Minimum Support Price (MSP). Private investment never came.

The human cost of "liberal isation" of farm gate has been huge. Violence, drug abuse and insanity encircle the American rural towns all along the "dust bowl." Joel Dyer's book, Harvest Of Rage: Why Oklahoma City Is Only The Beginning, acts as the dot-connector between the post-World War-II reforms and the current dismal state of American farmers. Home-grown militia movements had led to the Oklahoma City bombing in

1995. The US farm debt this year

stood at \$425 billion. Yet, most-

y large and company farms get

the benefits of relief packages.

Meanwhile, thousands of American farmers are waiting to be goaded out of farming again. What started out in the post-World War as a liberal reform, has completely changed American agriculture to become a farming system with minimal farmers.

Currently, India is trying to tread the same path. As an American playbook is applied to the Indian crisis, how soon before artificial fiscal measures fail, debt quadruples and foreclocome out of the war against Corona, the Government is only repackaging its agenda and opting for Cargillisation for a few agri-dollars more.

(The writer is Director, Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India)

NDBIT

Bumrah's consistency to bowl at decisive lines and take wickets player in the Indian cricket team. He instills fear in the mind of the batsmen

Former West Indies fast-howler —lan Bishop



Of course, as an actor, want to be on sets but at the same time, I feel we also have to think about the larger issue at hand.

Actor –Vickv Kaushal



Right now, we're not in the second wave. We're right in the middle of the first wave globally. We're still very much in a phase where the disease is actually on the way up

WHO's executive director



China is under scrutiny, the whole world is accusing it of spreading Covid-19. Many firms are shifting from China. It is trying to create distraction.

Union Minister



LETTERS

High time the Opposition unites

A messy start

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Up in the sky" (May 28). Domestic airlines resumed services after two months but both the flyers and airlines had to tide over significant barriers along the way. The passengers were hit hard by unstable schedules and abrupt cancellation of flights.

Complications in the wake of doubts and ambivalence harboured by States over allowing inbound flights have hampered travel operations. The capping of the number of flights to operate in some of the busiest airports like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata, with varying quarantine protocols adopted by various States, is

proving to be a dampener. Fear of imported cases is genuine but walling off completely can't be an option if the economy is to restart. States consistently complain about the tanking of revenues during lockdown and then contradict it by worrying over the risk of reopening the economy. Transport and unhindered movement of people, commodities and services are the lifeline of the economy.

his refers to the article, "Divided Opp still failing in its duty" (May 2) by Kalyani Shankar. The writer has rightly highlighted the Achilles' heel of

Opposition parties. Disunity among them made things easier for the BJP. It successfully exploited the situation and successfully retained power for a second consecutive term with a huge mandate. Ironically, the grand old party, which had been in power for the longest time since independence, too, failed in its duty of being a bulwark against the rise of the BJP. The author has attributed this failure to some obvious reasons, which have forced bigwigs such as Mulayam Singh Yadav, Deve Gowda and Lalu Prasad to take a backseat. Their heirs/successors are not on the same page with them, which is why they are detached from the voters. Some regional satraps fancy personal aggrandisement and have driven a wedge among various political parties. The Opposition meeting called by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to launch a coordinated attack against the Centre's handling of the ongoing Coronavirus crisis and the lockdown saw 22 Opposition parties in attendance. Such meetings have taken place in the past, too, but

have served little purpose Above all, lady luck is smiling on the BJP even



as adverse circumstances are veering around in its favour. The COVID-19 pandemic obfuscated all the brouhaha surrounding the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Population Register (NPR), thus taking the wind out of the Opposition sails. The writer's observation that it is high time for the Opposition, especially the Congress, to evolve a pragmatic strategy to challenge the ruling Government ahead is spot on. This will be in the nation's interest as well

Azhar A Khan

Ultimately, the passengers had to bear the brunt for no fault of theirs. Most States were reluctant to accept the Centre's decision. Before opening the skies for air travel, the Aviation Ministry should have consulted various States to formulate standard operating procedures. Katuru Durga Prasad Rao

Governments as well as the air-

lines cannot be denied.

Lagging behind

Sir — With India registering 1,51,876 confirmed Coronavirus cases, we are vet to flatten the curve. Patchy implementation of lockdown guidelines in some States may have led to a sudden spike in the number of cases. The exodus of migrant labourers from metro cities to their villages was avoidable. Insufficient aid led to this situation. Had they come at the right time, precious lives would have been

Shambhavi Via email

A new normal isn't possible **Improper handling** without reasonable compromises in these areas. Fear psychosis, stemming from unpreparedness,

> N Sadhasiva Reddy Bengaluru

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Up in the sky" (May 28). It was expected that with the resumption of domestic flights, there would be an eventual return to normality. On the contrary, the sudden cancellation of some domestic flights led to utter chaos at the airports. Improper handling of the situation on the Send your feedback to: part of the Central and State letterstopioneer@gmail.com

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Pandemic and PDS

In this crucial time, e-PDS is the need of the hour to ensure food security among scores of migrant labourers



BISWAL CHAKRABORT

n the occasion of World Hunger Day, when COVID-19 is wreaking havoc and lakhs of people are starving in urban and rural India, the Nobel laureate and economist Amartya Sen's theory of the economics of famine deserves a revisit. Sen's pioneering research *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation* on the Bengal famine of 1943 reveals that the major cause of the famine was not a sudden decline in food supply but from the inequalities built into the mechanism for distributing food. Around two to three million people had died of starvation in British India during the World War II. Nothing much has changed.

The Public Distribution System (PDS), the main pillar of India's food subsidy reforms, is bootstrapped to ramshackle conditions. States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand remain doubly disadvantaged. Beneficiaries complain against the dearth and delay of foodgrain distribution in the national Capital. However, the Delhi Government has plans to provide kits with other kitchen essentials along with the rations.

As per the norms of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 75 per cent of India's rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population should be covered by the PDS. However, this is a distant dream and the mechanism is becoming more flimsy and dysfunctional each year. And at a time when millions are facing grave and immediate hunger, the Centre and States are passing the buck and playing a blame game.

Migrant labourers in all major cities are facing forced deprivation as they have been denied ration cards and matters have been made worse by the fact that they have lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic. Consequently, the mission of the PDS and food security are hanging in the balance.

Sen, Abhijit Banerjee and Raghuram Rajan have pitched for temporary ration cards to be issued for the time being but nothing seems to be moving in that direction. The bureaucratic machinery seems to have jammed. Consequently 5.5 per cent of India's population living under the extreme poverty line with pervasive inequality and deep deprivation is battling with the pandemic on its own, on a hungry stomach.

To combat the crisis, which has caused a war-like situation, the Government announced a ₹20 lakh crore special economic package. The Centre has approved the world's largest food ration security benefit scheme. It has plans to distribute foodgrain worth ₹46,000 crore to 80 crore people. The programme 'one nation, one ration card', to be operational by June 1, promises to be a boon for PDS beneficiaries as they will be able to access rations from any fair price shop in the nation.

However, at this juncture, the evolution, efforts and evaluation of food security in executing the PDS in various States have been requestioned. The problems with the PDS and abject poverty are adding to the woes of the marginalised when they are attempting to eke out a living in these troubled times.

At present, poverty, the PDS and the pandemic are areas of concern. According to sources, the stock of foodgrain with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) stood at 77.7 million tonnes as of last March. The FCI has assured the people and the Government that there would be no dearth of foodgrain to meet the required supply. To tackle the crisis, the Government has announced a ₹1.7-lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package which would benefit 80 crore people under the NFSA. Thousands of beneficiaries are stocking up on foodgrain in advance for a maximum of two months. Moreover, the FCI is saddled with excess stocks of wheat and rice.

However, many have been left out of the purview of the PDS. The number is 14 per cent of the population in Bihar and 12 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. Shockingly, the food security law seems to be dysfunctional in the national Capital, too, as 13 million inhabitants have been deprived of basic amenities during this epidemic. In Mumbai's Dharavi slum, where 31 Coronavirus deaths were reported, the food supply is dwindling. And this is India's financial capital. The situation is worse in rural India.

Inequality is a denial of human rights and social justice. Oxfam's inequality estimation indicates that the top 10 per cent of the Indian population holds 77 per cent of the total national wealth, which further detects the distortions in healthcare, education and social security measures. This is going to widen the gap between the rich and the poor. This pandemic calls for the reorientation of public and economic policies. In this crucial time, e-PDS is the need of the hour to realise food security among the scores of migrant labourers. Rajan, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has rightly expressed: "You have to treat this pandemic as a situation that is unprecedented. We have to break norms in order to tackle what is needed." The PDS needs to be the customised, keeping the poverty and the pandemic in mind.

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

PM MODI HAD SAID THAT THE DISEASE WOULD START TO REDUCE BY THE END OF MAY. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VIRUS IS NOT REDUCING. SO WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

—CONGRESS MP RAHUL GANDHI





CONGRESS RULED STATES WERE THE FIRST TO
ANNOUNCE THE LOCKDOWN. RAHUL IS SPREADING LIES
AND WEAKENING INDIA'S BATTLE AGAINST THE VIRUS.
—UNION MINISTER

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

Just tame the dragon

India has strengthened its position not only militarily but strategically as well. Therefore, it needs to stand firm and retain its control over the LAC



ANIL GUPTA

In the ongoing battle for supremacy between the US and China, the latter let loose its "wolf-warriors", signifying Beijing's new and aggressive diplomatic response to countries blaming it for the Coronavirus pandemic. "Wolf-warrior diplomacy," named after two Chinese movies, describes offensives by its diplomats to defend China's national interests, often in confrontational ways. However, the global anger against Beijing was so much that anti-China sentiments gained momentum and the "wolf-warrior diplomacy" failed to make an impact. Saner voices at home began to call for restraint but they went unheeded as China today is ruled by the all-powerful Xi Jinping and his diktat prevails.

So China displayed its aggressiveness in South China Sea (SCS) by sinking a Vietnamese fishing trawler near the Paracel Islands in early April. In mid-April, the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Civil Affairs jointly announced the naming of 80 islands, reefs, seamounts, shoals and ridges in the SCS, triggering angry protests from other claimants. China was using the global fight against the Corona to pursue its territorial ambitions as part of its traditional expansionist policy.

The Chinese actions in SCS were checkmated by US intervention as India continued to pursue its strategy of balance. But was the Chinese belligerence in the SCS a warning to India which it failed to read? India's change in FDI rules to stem Chinese predatory trade practices didn't go down well with Beijing. Neither was China happy with India joining the comity of nations backing a draft resolution at the World Health Organisation (WHO), nor was it happy with the likely shift of global companies from China to India. The final straw for China was the chairmanship of the executive board of the World Health Assembly by way of which India could take to task both Beijing and the WHO. China felt threatened by India though New Delhi made it clear that it wants to avoid power politics.

So China soon made India the target of its "wolf warrior-diplomacy" too. First through Press statements, harsh articles and accusations of unfair trade practices. Then it decided to shift the scene to the Sino-Indian border.

Two of the three incursion points chosen had traditionally been undisputed in the past. China once again dared India but knew very well that it was not the same India of 1962. It was trying its usual technique of messaging and signalling to coerce New Delhi, least realising that India had learnt its lessons well at Doklam. China's recent provocations on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have strategic messaging rather than tactical. These are not the usual summer time intrusions and are almost simultaneous. Naku La in North Sikkim, Galwan Valley in Sub-Sector North (SSN) and Pangong Tso (PTSO) in the Middle Sector of Eastern Ladakh.

Sector of Eastern Ladakh.

The scuffles had very little to do with border disputes because both Naku La and Galwan were never disputed by the Chinese earlier. It wanted to send signals to India that it wants negotiations, maybe to get out of the global mess it finds itself in, a leverage against the global pandemic inquiry. China is scared of losing its status as the "global factory." China has also tried to provoke Nepal by asking it to raise a boundary dispute with India in the Lipulekh and Kalapani sectors. China is using Nepal as a pressure point as part of its coercive strategy.

cive strategy.

While the incursion in North Sikkim was resolved using the existing border management protocols, the same failed to resolve the tension in Eastern Ladakh. In fact, China is reported to be



DARING THE TIGER. INDIA'S **DOMINANT** LOCATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC **BESTOWS** UPON IT A **STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE** WHICH IT MUST NOT LOSE. THE FACT REMAINS THAT BOTH SIDES NEED TO NEGOTIATE AN EXIT STRATEGY AND BELEAGUERED CHINA — IF THINKING TO USE

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THIS AS A
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AT HOME — MAY
HAVE TO CONCEDE
MORE





As part of its War Zone Campaign (WZC) doctrine, China has rapidly developed infrastructure right up to the forward posts, to create military asymmetry to gain advantage over the adversary in a short or localised conflict. However, it objects strongly and reacts with force to India's attempts to do the same on its side of the LAC. In the current scenario, too, the bone of contention is the newly-constructed Leh-Shyok-DBO Highway, which has not only removed the asymmetry but placed Indian troops at an advantage.

COUPLE With this is the activation of a number of Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) by the Indian Air Force (IAF). The Chinese sensitivities in the area lie in Aksai Chin and Karakoram Pass, both of which have become easily accessible to Indian troops.

That is the reason the Chinese side

is focussing on the Galwan stand-off, painting India as the aggressor. In an article, its official *Global Times* newspaper accused Indian troops of crossing over into Chinese territory. In typical Chinese style, they predicted India would regret its actions. "The Galwan Valley is not like Doklam because it is in the Aksai Chin region in southern Xinjiang of China, where the Chinese military has an advantage and mature infrastructure. So, if India escalates the friction, the Indian military force could pay a heavy price", it says.

To understand the Chinese belligerence, one needs to understand the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Unlike the Indian Army, the PLA is not a national army. It is the military wing of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) with the primary role of ensuring supremacy of the CCP. Unlike a national army dedicated to the defence of a State and its

people, the Chinese military's purpose is to create political power for the party. The PLA is guided by the "political warfare" doctrine of the CCP which includes "Three Warfares" or "3Ws" encompassing, public opinion warfare, psychological warfare and legal warfare.

The first of the "3Ws," media or pub-

Ine first of the 3Ws, media or public opinion warfare, attempts to shape public opinion both domestically and internationally. If the domestic element sounds odd, it is because the PLA believes that energising or mobilising the Chinese public is useful for signalling resolve and deterring foreign incursions on Chinese interests. The second warfare attempts to influence foreign decision-makers and how they approach China policy. The third seeks to shape the legal context for Chinese actions, including building the legal justification for Beijing's actions and using domestic laws to signal Chinese intentions. All of these fall under the broader umbrella of political warfare. The party leads and the PLA follows

It would be of interest to note that both Doklam and the current stand-off were synchronised with the important political meetings of the CCP, which are held periodically to critically examine the efficacy of the Government, Xi Jinping in the instant case.

The military strategy of the PLA is based on the famous concept of "winning without fighting." Even today CCP believes in the famous quote of Sun Tzu, To win hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill." Coercion remains the basic philosophy for resolving political differences. In military terms it's called "shi", calibrated power display with limited forces on the borders in order to seek Sino-centric solutions. China believes in coercing the adversaries to submit to its will or face consequences. Psychological warfare is an important component of Chinese war fighting doctrine. It also believes in creating adverse political pressure through a disturbed neighbourhood. Nepal's recent hostile attitude and Pakistan are the two examples of the same. Another terminology often used to explain Chinese warfare doctrine is "Unrestricted Warfare." The ultimate aim of all these is to secure victory over the adversary through aggression and coercion without the need to fight a war. Exaggerated figures of troop deployment, pitching of dummy tents, deployment of heavy machinery, verbal aggression, propaganda, a no holds barred hate campaign, threatening statements through State-controlled media, cyber-attacks, misquoting laws and interpreting them to its own advantage are all the tricks of the trade employed by China.

State-controlled media, cyber-attacks, misquoting laws and interpreting them to its own advantage are all the tricks of the trade employed by China.

India understands the Chinese brinkmanship very well. India's stand till now has been not only politically and militarily correct but aggressive as well. China also understands that its international image is at the lowest in the contemporary era. It would not be able to browbeat India so easily. China is scared that with changed military equations in the sector, India may become aggressive about Aksai Chin like it has done in the case of Gilgit-Baltistan. In geo-strategic terms China today has many vulnerabilities like Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang and the SCS to name a few.

India has strengthened its position not only militarily but strategically as well. Therefore, India needs to stand firm and retain its control over the LAC. The dragon has made a mistake this time by daring the tiger. India's dominant location in the Indo-Pacific bestows upon it a strategic advantage which it must not lose. The fact remains that both sides need to negotiate an exit strategy and a beleaguered China — if thinking to use this as a bargaining strategy to strengthen the geopolitical image of the CCP at home — may have to concede more than

The best way to face the dragon is to tame it. That is exactly what India is doing. The proverbial Chinese dragon is supposed to be peaceful unlike its firespitting version.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran and political commentator)

Labour law reforms lifeline for employers

Workers can move to greener pastures but employers don't have the freedom to get rid of a person who is unfit to work. How unfair is that?



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Pven as the Centre and State Governments are fully immersed in reviving the economy that got derailed by the Coronavirus outbreak, a new controversy has erupted, with trade union leaders being up in arms against the

changes in the country's labour laws.
What angered the trade union bosses was the move by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government to release some of the industries from the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Relations

Act, 1961 and the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government's decision to give freedom to industrial and business establishments from the Minimum Wages Act, for a period of three years.

As a result of this, all trade union bosses, cutting across party affiliations, have joined hands and declared war against the Centre and the State Governments which were bold enough to modify the Labour Laws and Acts that govern employer-employee relations in the country.

Every 10 years, India witnesses the appointment of the Pay Commission by the Union Government to revise the salaries and perks of Central Government employees. Subsequently, the State exchequer spends a big fortune to implement the panel's recommendations. This is followed by the State Government employees asking for matching hikes in their pays and perks. The question being asked is

whether our Government employees (both in Central and State services) are worth the pay which they collect every month. Having been a Government employee for nearly 15 years, I feel that our babus get more than what they deserve. The corporate sector is no different. The management of our private sector firms is too considerate when it comes to the interests of the workers. And sadly, our employees live by the dictum "minimum work and maximum pay."

I remember the day I joined

I remember the day I joined Government service as a Class Three employee. The first person to welcome me after I submitted the joining report was MN Unni, a seasoned Government employee. He introduced me to the four "golden rules" of Government service. "Come to the office on time; leave after office hours; never say no to anybody and don't do any work," was his advice. He

said the first two rules had to do with punctuality and played a major role in convincing the department head about a worker's sincerity and dedication. "If the boss is convinced that you reach office on time and stay back till the working hours are over, you have won half the war", said Unni.

The last two rules "never say no

have won half the war', said Unni.

The last two rules, "never say no to anybody and don't do any work" reflect the mindset of our bureaucracy. "Nobody will ask whether you have completed the assignment you have been entrusted with as long as you never say no to them for anything", was Unni's mantra to survive the "hardship" of Government service.

Well, coming back to the present, launching a business or industrial enterprise and running it smoothly to the satisfaction of all have to be an art in today's world. An author has the freedom to write whatever he feels like penning down, an artist has the inde-

pendence to draw a painting of his choice (as long as it does not hurt anyone's religious sentiments) and a historian is at liberty to push his conclusions even without proper validation. But an industrialist or entrepreneur has no such freedom and he is at the mercy of his employees.

A worker employed by a company has the freedom to move to greener pastures while his employer is not that fortunate, because he does not have the freedom to get rid of a person who is unfit, unskilled or unwilling to work. How unfair is that?

Many times I have asked USbased entrepreneurs why they are hesitant to set up shop in India. Their answer is nearly always the same. Our archaic labour laws and the outdated industrial Act prevent them from making any investment in the coun-

"Once you open a business enter-

prise in India, you are in for major trouble. We cannot lock it down if the venture is a failure. We are bound by rules to pay salaries to workers irrespective of the fact whether we are working or not. It is impossible to wind up the operations in the country," says a highly-successful Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur.

For the good of the country, there should be a law which makes it mandatory for trade union bosses to have worked in a factory/firm/farm and that too for a certain number of years. This is because only people who have worked somewhere know the true value of work.

Trade union leaders should never engage in union trade because this means they are dealing in something that is outside the purview of their understanding, experience and exper-

(The writer is a senior journalist)





MIXED SIGNALS

Comments from officials and State media have confirmed that the city's residents have every reason to worry. Authorities insist the legislation will not impact Hong Kong's autonomy and at the same time stress that it will. This is worrying.

(*The Guardian* editorial)

Trump 'displeased' with China's new security law for HK

Donald Trump is "displeased" with China's new national security law for Hong Kong, the White House has said, amid rising tensions between Washington and Beijing in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

China on Friday intro-duced the draft of a controversial national security law in Hong Kong in its parliament to tighten Beijing's control over the former British colony, in what could be the biggest blow to the territory's autonomy and personal freedoms since 1997 when it came under Chinese rule.

Hong Kong, an economic powerhouse, is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China. It has observed a "one country, two systems" policy since Britain returned sovereignty to China on July 1, 1997, which has allowed it certain freedoms the rest of China does not have.

The US over the last few days has expressed concerns over the new Chinese law on Hong Kong and has indicated of taking steps against it.

"He (Trump) is displeased with China's efforts and that it's hard to see how Hong Kong can remain a financial hub if China takes over," White House Press Secretary reporters at a news conference

As many as 16 Congressmen have introduced a resolution in the Congress to condemn the Chinese Communist Party's proposed national security law in Hong Kong. The proposed law bans secession, subversion, and foreign interference, and would radically upend the "one party, two systems" structure.

In addition to denouncing the proposal, the resolution calls for the world to stand with Hong Kong and states unequivocally the proposal puts Beijing in direct violation of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law.

The Chinese Communist Party's so-called 'national security'law is not only a violation of their previous agreements, it's also a direct attack on Hong Kong's freedoms," said Congressman Markwayne

"We cannot let the CCP get away with this power grab. I am proud to cosponsor this resolution with my colleagues and stand with Hong Kong in their fight against tyranny," he added.

"Hong Kong has flourished as a bastion of liberty," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said ear-

"The United States strong-ly urges Beijing to reconsider its disastrous proposal, abide by its international obligations, and respect Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy, democratic institutions, and civil liberties, which are key to preserving its special status under US law," he said.

Congressman Chris Smith, author of the House-passed Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, condemned Beijing's efforts to destroy Hong Kong's freedoms of press, speech and assembly.

"We are witnessing the death knell of the 'high degree of autonomy' that China's communist rulers had promised and are guaranteed under both the Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration," he said.

"Should Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam continue to follow the dictates of Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping and fail to protect the rights of the people of Hong Kong, she will have presided over the death of 'One Country, Two Systems,' and the United States will be forced, by statute, to reassess the status of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and our relationship with it," Smith said.

Hong Kong: Police in Hong Kong fired pepper pellets and made 300 arrests as thousands of people took to the streets on Wednesday to voice anger over national security legislation proposed by China, that has raised international alarm over freedoms in the city.

In the heart of the financial district, riot police fired pepper pellets to disperse a crowd, and elsewhere in the city police rounded up groups of dozens of suspected protesters, making them sit on sidewalks before searching their belongings.

A heavy police presence around the Legislative Council deterred protesters planning to disrupt the debate of a bill that would criminalise disrespect of the Chinese national anthem. The bill is expected to become law next month.

Angry over perceived threats to the semi-autonomous city's freedoms, people of all ages took to the streets, some dressed in black, some wearing office clothes or school uniforms and some hiding their faces beneath open umbrellas in scenes reminiscent of the unrest that shook Hong Kong last year.
"Although you're afraid

inside your heart, you need to



Riot police detain a young protester as a second reading of a controversial national anthem law takes place in Hong Kong on Wednesday

speak out," said Chang, 29, a clerk and protester dressed in black with a helmet respirator and goggles in her backpack. Many shops, banks and

offices closed early. The latest protests follow the

Chinese government's proposal for national security legislation aimed at tackling secession, subversion and terrorism in Hong Kong.

The planned laws could see Chinese intelligence agencies

set up bases in Hong Kong. The proposal, unveiled in Beijing last week, triggered the first big street unrest in Hong Kong in months on Sunday, with police firing tear gas and water cannon to disperse protesters.

The United States, Britain, the European Union and others have expressed concern about the legislation, widely seen as a possible turning point for China's freest city and one of the world's main financial hubs. Agency

Around the

Globe

Kathmandu: Nepal on Wednesday

recorded its highest single-day

surge in the coronavirus cases

with 114 new infections, taking

the total COVID-19 tally to 886 in

the Himalayan nation, the health

ministry said. Nepal, which has

extended its nationwide lockdown

till June 2 to contain the spread of

countries having the least number

Islamabad: Pakistan registered

during the last 24 hours, taking

the total number of COVID-19

cases in the country to 59,151,

1,446 new coronavirus infections

the deadly virus, is among the

of COVID-19 cases.

Twitter labels Trump tweets with a fact check for first time | EU proposes 750 bn-euro

Washington: For the first time, Twitter put a warning label under two posts by Donald Trump, prompting the US president to accuse the popular social media platform of "interfering" in the presidential election scheduled in November.

Twitter highlighted two of Trump's tweets on Tuesday that falsely claimed mail-in ballots would lead to widespread voter fraud in the elections, appending a message the social media giant has introduced recently to fight misinformation or unverified claims. "There is NO WAY

(ZERO!) that Main-in Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone....," Trump tweeted. Twitter's notification displays a blue exclamation mark underneath the two tweets, suggesting readers "get the facts about mail-in ballots".

Trump, who has some 80 million followers on Twitter, responded by tweeting again, saying the social media company "is completely stifling free speech". "Twitter is now interfering in the 2020 Presidential Election. They are saying my statement on Mail-In Ballots, which will lead to massive corruption and fraud, is incorrect, based on fact-checking by Fake News CNN and the Amazon Washington Post....," a visibly

upset Trump tweeted. "Twitter is completely stifling FREE SPEECH, and I, as President, will not allow it to happen!" he said in another

Trump threatens to close down social media

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened to close down social media platforms after Twitter labelled two of his tweets "unsubstantiated" and accused him of making false claims.

"Republicans feel that Social Media Platforms totally silence conservatives voices. We will strongly regulate, or close them down, before we can ever allow this to happen," Trump tweeted. Twitter targeted two tweets

the president posted on Tuesday in which he contended without evidence that mailin voting would lead to fraud and a "Rigged Election."

Under the tweets, Twitter posted a link which read "Get

the facts about mail-in ballots" a first for the social network which has long resisted calls to censure the US president over truth-defying posts.

Trump pushed back again on Wednesday saying "we can't let large scale Mail-In Ballots take root in our Country. It would be a free for all on cheating, forgery and the theft of Ballots.

"Whoever cheated the most would win. Likewise, Social Media. Clean up your act, NOW!!!!" The president also accused social media platforms of interfering in the last election, saying "we saw what they attempted to do, and failed, in 2016."

coronavirus recovery fund

proposing a 750 billion-euro (\$825 billion) recovery fund to help the bloc's economy through the deep recession induced by the coronavirus pandemic, commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said on Wednesday. Gentiloni, who is in charge

of economic affairs at the commission, wrote in a tweet that the move is "a European turning point to face an unprecedented crisis." However, the 27 nation EU remains deeply divided over what conditions should be attached to the funds, and Wednesday's proposal from the EU's executive arm is likely to set off weeks of wrangling.

The move comes with the

Brussels: The EU's executive is world's biggest trading bloc set to enter its deepest-ever recession as the impact from the coronavirus ravages economies. Virtually every country has broken the EU's deficit limit as they've spent to keep health care systems, businesses and jobs alive.

Earlier this month, the leaders of Germany and France - historically, the two main drivers of EU integration agreed on a one-time 500 billion-euro (\$543 billion) fund, a proposal that would add further cash to an arsenal of financial measures the bloc is deploying to cope with the economic fallout.

That plan would involve the EU borrowing money in

financial markets to help sectors and countries that are particularly affected by the pandemic. The European Commission's blueprint is likely to resemble the Franco-German plan in many ways while attaching the fund to the EU's next long-term budget.

The big question will be how much money will take the form of grants and how much would be loans.

Austria, Denmark, the the health ministry said on Netherlands and Sweden - a group of countries dubbed the "Frugal Four" for their budgetary rectitude — are reluctant to see money given away without any strings attached, and their opposition to grants could hold up the project.

Mexico City: Mexico's health department has reported 501 new one-day high and the first time the figure exceeded 500. Moscow: A Russian health official

has said that 101 medics have died of the coronavirus, according to data provided by regional authorities. Health care workers question the official toll and believe that the real figure is much higher. An online list of medics who died compiled by their colleagues has over 300

Washington: US Vice President Mike Pence's Press Secretary Katie Miller has joined work after recovering from the coronavirus In a Twitter Post on Tuesday, Miller, who was among the three White House staff members to test positive, said that she was back at work and thanked the medical fraternity and her family for supporting her during the

Brussels: Belgium's institute for health is now advising against the use of malaria drug hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19 patients after global studies suggested it is ineffective.

Beijing: China has reported one new confirmed coronavirus case and 28 asymptomatic infections majority of them from COVID-19 epicentre Wuhan, health officials said on Wednesday. China's National Health Commission (NHC) said no new locally transmitted coronavirus case was reported on Tuesday.

4 Minneapolis officers fired after death of black man

Minneapolis (US): Four Minneapolis officers involved in the arrest of a black man who died in police custody have been fired, hours after a bystander's video showed an officer kneeling on the handcuffed man's neck, even after he pleaded that he could not breathe and stopped moving.

Jacob Frey Mayor announced the firings on Twitter on Tuesday, saying "This is the right call."

The man's death Monday night was under investigation by the FBI and state law enforcement authorities. It immediately drew comparisons to the case of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man who died in 2014 in New York after he was placed in a chokehold by police and pleaded for his life, saying he could not breathe.

In a post on his Facebook age, Frey apologized Tuesday to the black community for the

Rio De Janeiro: Brazil's Federal

Police on Wednesday executed

more than two dozen searches

and seizure warrants in six

states as part of an investigation

into a network that allegedly

spread defamatory fake news

and threats against Supreme

allies and supporters of President

Iair Bolsonaro, and the presi-

dent's son Carlos Bolsonaro

The judicial orders targeted

Court justices

officer's treatment of the man, who was later identified as 46year-old George Floyd, who worked security at a restaurant.

"Being Black in America should not be a death sentence. For five minutes, we watched a white officer press his knee into a Black man's neck. Five minutes. When you hear someone calling for help, you're sup-posed to help. This officer failed in the most basic, human sense," Frey posted.

Police said the man matched the description of a suspect in a forgery case at a grocery store, and that he resisted arrest.

The video starts with the shirtless man on the ground, and does not show what happened in the moments prior. The unidentified officer is kneeling on his neck, ignoring his pleas. "Please, please, please, I can't breathe. Please, man," said Floyd, who has his face against the pavement.

Floyd also moans. One of the officers tells him to "relax." The man calls for his mother

my neck hurts, everything hurts ... I can't breathe? As bystanders shout their concern, one officer says, "He's talking, so he's breathing." But Floyd stops talking and slowly becomes motionless under the officer's restraint. The officer does not remove his knee until

and says: "My stomach hurts,

the man is loaded onto a gurney by paramedics. Several witnesses had gathered on a nearby sidewalk, some recording the scene on their phones. The bystanders

become increasingly agitated. One man yells repeatedly. "He's not responsive right now!" Two witnesses, including one woman who said she was a Minneapolis firefighter, yell at the officers to check the man's pulse. "Check his pulse

right now and tell me what it

Rebel groups kill at least 40 in attacks in eastern Congo

Beni (Congo): Rebels have killed at least 40 people in several attacks in Congo's eastern Irumu territory, a local civil rights group says.

Members of the Allied Democratic Forces and an Islamic State-linked group known as MTM staged the attacks Tuesday in Samboko, Bandavilemba and Walese-Vukutu in Ituri province, the Centre for the Promotion of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights said in a statement Wednesday.

The rebels, who recently began carrying out attacks together, used machetes and looted food and other valuables, the group said. CEPAD-HO said at least 627 civilians have been killed by ADF forces since Oct. 30.

Most attacks have occurred in response to large-scale offensives by Congolese armed forces in the region.

Oz police won't charge reporter after leak probe

Canberra: Australian police announced on Wednesday that they had decided against charging a journalist over a newspaper article she wrote more than two years ago following a high-profile investigation that triggered a national storm over press freedom.

Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Ian McCartney said he had decided that no one would be charged following an investigation that spanned 25 months because of a "lack of evidence." Annika Smethurst's article,

citing "top secret letters" between the heads of the Defense and Home Affairs departments, reported plans to create new espionage powers that would allow an intelligence agency to spy on Australian citizens for the first time. It was published in News Corp. Australia's Sunday papers on April 29, 2018.

Australian Federal Police responded with raids on Smethurt's Canberra home on June 4 last year with warrants to search her computer, phone and home. The next day, police raided Australian Broadcasting Corp.'s Sydney headquarters over unrelated leaked government documents.

ABC journalists Dan Oakes and Sam Clark — who reported in 2017 that Australian troops had killed unarmed men and children in Afghanistan in a potential war crime - are still under active investigation, McCartney said.

The raids brought rival Australian media organiza-tions together to demand more press freedom and guarantees that reporters would not risk jail over public interest journalism.

Media organizations argue that press freedoms have been eroded by more than 70 counterterrorism and security laws passed by Parliament since the 9/11 attacks in the US. AP

Police arrest 26 people in UK truck deaths of **39 Vietnamese**

AP BRUSSELS

Police in Belgium and France on Wednesday announced the arrests of 26 people suspected of human trafficking in the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants who were found in a refrigerated truck in Britain last year.

Judicial authorities said a series of early morning raids took place simultaneously in Belgium and France on Tuesday as part of two legal investigations.

One inquiry was launched following the investigation into the deaths of the 39 migrants found in October inside a truck's refrigerated container that had been hauled to England. Police investigating the case found the 31 male and eight female victims were all from Vietnam and ranged in age from 15 to 44, including

China's survey team remeasure its height

team on Wednesday reached Mount Everest through Tibet to

surement, the height of Mount

Brazil cops search Bolsonaro Rights group urges inquiry into Philippine drug war killings ly spread libelous claims and threats about Supreme Court Duterte and Philippine

justices or jeopardize the court's Geneva: Human Rights Watch is calling on the UN's top ability to operate. Bolsonaro's backers have often expressed human rights body to launch an frustration at court rulings limindependent investigation into iting the president's power and the Philippine Government's drug war that has left thousands dead, pointing in particular to its harmful effects on children.

The advocacy group made the call alongside Wednesday's launch of a report timed for the UN-backed Human Rights Council session next month. The report highlights the distress and economic troubles faced by many children whose family breadwinners were killed in the violence over nearly the

last four years. The 48-page report is based on nearly 50 interviews and examines the impact of about two dozen killings under President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war. Some children have been

forced to drop out of school, to go to work, and even live in the streets as the government doesn't offer a program to support children left behind by such killings, the rights group said.
"Filipino children have suf-

fered horribly from President Duterte's decision to unleash the police and their hit men against suspected drug users," the group's Philippines researcher Carlos Conde said.

"The government needs to stop this endless violence that is upending children's lives and direct assistance to the children

police officials did not immediately comment on the report but they have insisted in the past that suspects were gunned down after they fought back during arrests or raids. The Philippine government maintains it has no policy condoning extrajudicial killings. Duterte, however, has

openly threatened drug traffickers with death and encouraged suspects to be shot when they threaten the lives of law enforcers. The Philippines' record is expected to come up at the June Human Rights Council session in Geneva — if coronavirus conditions permit, based on an assessment by Swiss authorities. AP Swiss authorities.

virus had 'multiple origins' Beijing: In what seems to be an the virus that caused the pan-

China's latest U-turn, says

absolutely new theory, Chinese scientists have said that the novel coronavirus may not have its origin in the Wuhan seafood market, which allegedly caused the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic. People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, revealed on Wednesday that new evidence suggests 'multiple origins of the transmission of the virus.

The leading newspaper of China wrote on Wednesday, "Chinese scientists have discovered a novel coronavirus clade that is different from that shared among patients connected to the Huanan seafood market in Wuhan, which provides new evidence that the market may not be the origin of

demic." On the new theory of the virus origin, the paper says,

'Scientists collected viral

genome samples from 326 patients in Shanghai between January 20 and February 25. They identified two major clades, both of which included cases diagnosed in early December 2019. The scientists noticed that genomes of six patients with contact history related to the Huanan seafood market fell into one kind of clade while those of three other patients diagnosed in the same period but without exposure to the market clustered into the other clade, suggesting multiple origins of transmission in **IANS**

summits Everest to Beijing: A Chinese survey

remeasure the exact height of the world's tallest mountain. According to China's mea-

Everest is 8,844.43 meters which is four meters less than Nepal's calculations. On May 1. China, which differs with Nepal over the height of Everest, began a new survey to measure the altitude of the world's highest peak. The event marked a crucial step in China's mission to remeasure the height of the world's highest peak, which scientists believe will enhance human knowledge of nature and help boost scientific development, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

criticized the operations on his official Twitter account, calling the investigation "unconstitutional, political and ideological." A lawmaker closely allied with Bolsonaro, Carla Zambelli, also denounced the searches.

allies in fake news prober

The Federal Police did not name the subjects of its investigation. The case involves

social media posts that alleged-

denunciations of the justices are common among the small group of pro-Bolsonaro demonstrators who have gathered each weekend in the capital, Brasilia. Bolsonaro himself has joined the demonstrations. The president has pushed

for Brazil's economy to reopen even as the COVID-19 death toll rises and criticized those who have frustrated his wishes. The Supreme Court ruled in April that governors and mayors have jurisdiction to impose restrictions in spite of Bolsonaro's wishes.

SENSEX SOARS 996 PTS

Banking, IT stocks sparkle

PTI MUMBAI

The Sensex rallied 996 points while the Nifty surged past the 9,300-mark on Wednesday as investors piled into banking, finance and IT counters ahead of the expiry of monthly derivatives contracts.

Firm global cues and foreign capital inflows added to the buying momentum, traders said. After hitting a high of 31,660.60 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 995.92 points or 3.25 per cent higher at 31,605.22.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 285.90 points or 3.17 per cent to 9,314.95. Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 13.46 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank and Bajaj Finance.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, UltraTech Cement, Titan and Asian Paints were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.85 per cent. Despite concerns over COVID-19,

APTEL ——

appointed

member

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

as technical

shutosh Karnatak, Director

A(Projects), GAIL will take

over as member in APTEL -

the designated appellate body

that hears appeals against the

orders of central and state elec-

tricity regulatory commission

and oil regulator PNGRB.

Karnatak, who was in February

appointed Technical Member

(Petroleum and Natural Gas) in

the Appellate Tribunal for

Electricity(APTEL), will take

over his new assignment on

ed Karnatak, who was to super-

annuate from gas utility GAIL next month, for a three-year term in APTEL.He replaces BN

Talukdar, who retired on

December 31, 2019. An elec-

trical engineer from HBTI,

Kanpur, and post-graduate from IIT, Delhi.

The Government appoint-

Friday, sources said.

Dr Ashutosh



market participants preferred to accumulate stocks ahead of the expiry of May futures and options contracts on Thursday, propelling benchmark indices, experts said. "The benchmark indices staged an intra-day rally in sync with global cues, as some pockets of value buying emerged. Inspite of rising number of infections, markets expect slow return to normalcy, when lockdown 4.0 ends

NHPC distributes

Swachchhata

Pakhwada 2020

hygiene kits

NSE Nifty 9,314.95 ▲285.90 Axis Bank 12.24 Sun Pharma-1.95 ICICI Bank 8.95 UltraTech -1.44 6.89 Zee Ent. -1.00 6.54 Titan Bajaj Finance 5.76 Asian Paints - 0.84

"...Institutional buying in banking stocks helped the bank index gain by over 7 per cent. The volatility is expected to continue, ahead of tomorrow's F&O expiry," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. bankex rallied 7.31 per cent, followed by finance, IT, metal, teck and energy indices. BSE healthcare was the sole loser,

dropping 0.84 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and 0.54 per cent higher.

Foreign portfolio investors purchased equities worth a net ₹4,716.13 crore on Tuesday, provisional exchange data showed. Global equities were mostly higher as the gradual reopening of economies enthused investors, though simmering US-China tensions and protests in Hong Kong capped the gains.

Bourses in Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Shanghai and Hong Kong closed in the red. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading with significant gains in early deals. International oil benchmark Brent crude futures slipped 0.91 per cent to USD 35.84 per barrel.

On the currency front, the rupee depreciated 5 paise to provisionally settle at 75.71 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the number of coronavirus cases in India climbed to 1,51,767 and the death toll touched 4,337, as per health ministry data. Globally the number of cases linked to the disease has crossed 55.89 lakh, with the death tally at around 3.50 lakh.

with ₹20 lakh cr to battle

PNS NEW DELHI

NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company is observing Swachhata Pakhwada across all it regional offices, power stations and projects from 16th to 31st May 2020. During this Pakhwada, NHPC is also organising various activities.

PFC to provide lunch to doctors, medical staff

New Delhi: In yet another step to battle COVID-19 pandemic, state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has tied up with TajSats, one of Asia's largest food companies, to provide hygienic and nutritious food to frontline COVID As part of this endeavor,

PFC will provide packed lunch boxes to Doctors and other Health Medical Staff engaged in treatment of COVID-19 patients at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New

COVID-19 disruptions: Gadkari

Wednesday.

Gadkari said the economy is facing serious problems, businesses are being closed and unemployment is growing. All sections of the society, whether migrants, media, business persons or employees, are facing problems, but ultimately "we will win the economic war" and the "corona war", he said.

the coronavirus-hit economy and states should come forward with ₹20 lakh crore, while another ₹10 lakh crore can be harnessed from public-private investment," Road Transport, Highways and MSME Minister

Gadkari told PTI. He further noted that 'these funds together with the₹ 20 lakh

crore package already announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi would result in ₹50 lakh crore liquidity in the market to battle the adverse impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic on the Centre had announced ₹20

lakh crore economic stimulus package, including ₹8.01 lakh crore of liquidity measures announced by the Reserve Bank since March. The fivepart stimulus package comprised ₹5.94 lakh crore in the first tranche that provided credit line to small businesses, and support to shadow banks and electricity distribution companies, while, the second tranche included free foodgrain to the stranded migrant workers for two months and credit to farmers, totalling ₹3.10 lakh crore. Spending on agriculture infrastructure and other measures for agriculture and allied sectors in the third tranche totalled to ₹1.5 lakh crore.

States should come forward

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $M^{\text{ore liquidity is needed to}}_{\text{boost economic activity}}$ following the coronavirus pandemic and States should come forward with ₹20 lakh crore, while another ₹10 lakh crore can be harnessed from publicprivate investment to fight the COVID-19 disruptions, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on

"More liquidity needs to be pumped in the market to boost

AMID COVID-19 CRISIS

Floor price issue may not figure on Trai's radar for 2 months: Source

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The telecom industry's fresh push on floor tariffs not withstanding, regulator Trai is unlikely to take up the matter, even via a virtual open house, for the next two months or so, given the COVID-19 crisis and the difficulties being faced by people, a source said.

This is not an "opportune moment" to address the issue, and in any case, telecom operators are free to take decisions on tariff matters, the senior Trai official said.

As things stand today, there is no restriction on players to take independent calls on pricing issues, the official added.

When contacted, COAI Director-General Rajan Mathews told PTI that the industry is disappointed.

"Central and State Govts are looking to move out of COVID-quarantine and prompt economic activities, revive economic opportuni-ties and jobs. While specific measures have been announced to simulate the economy, there has been no relief for the telecom industry. 'The absence of any other

relief has prompted us to approach the regulator for help in stabilising our revenue streams," Mathews said.

Meanwhile, the Trai official argued that many low-income users who recharge for lesser amounts to make calls are fac-

India's economy poised to bounce back after Covid-19: Investor Richman

demic. One investor that seems

to be rising above the challenges

is Latvian-born James Richman

- known for his profitable

major investments in Asia and

exciting companies such as 3D-

printed technologies.

global economy has suffered a devastating blow courtesy the Covid-19 pandemic. Although statistics show that some countries are worse hit by the virus, all nations have been affected onomically. Across the globe, It is quite a rarity to still be Governments are scrambling to economically.

making profits despite the pan-

INDIA'S A STRONG ECONOMY: India is considered as a developing country with huge potential. This is true because of a multitude of reasons. One is its enormous population. India is home to a population of 1.3 billion. This factor helps to boost their nominal GDP which is ranked fifth globally. The number of people is also related to the country's purchasing power parity (PPP) which is currently at third worldwide. It has shown a steady increase in GDP of around 6-7 per cent since the turn of the century.

ROBUST AND YOUNG POPULATION:

Another factor that puts India in a good position to bounce back post-COVID-19 is its favorable demographics. A huge portion of India's 1.3 billion people is under 40-years-old. First, we can relate this factor with the population's resiliency to the virus itself. Experts say that SARS-COV 2 is most potent when infecting people above 65-years-old. This may explain India's very low COVID-19 related deaths in proportion to its population and people infected. Also, a younger population means a wider chunk of people that are exposed to technology. Not to be offensive to the elderly, but people under 40-years-old are more exposed to technological advances because it has been integrated into their education, communication, and daily lives.

INDIA'S TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT: The South Asian country's information technology

industry is massive. It boasts of a \$180 billion budget and employs over 4 million people. This is paired with its telecommunications industry which is second in the world in terms of mobile phones. smartphones, and internet users. Their power in technology drives several other sectors. These include the pharmaceutical industry which supplies a multitude of countries, including the US.

A RISING PHARMACEUTICAL POWER: For the past several years, India has been rising as a leader in producing pharmaceuticals globally. Their

James Richman, who believe that India is on its way to achievstimulate their economic ing a comeback. HERE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY: generics markets are rapidly growing and are already supplying 20 per cent of the global generic drug exports. The onslaught of COVID-19 has seen India restrict its supply in generic drugs which evidenced

machinery. Several different

packages have been implement-

ed by various countries with

some gaining public approval. However, which countries are

poised to bounce back econom-

ically? There are some, including

other countries' reliance. Factors such as inexpensive labour costs, robust government support, and lower

player in global pharmaceuticals.

HANDLING OF COVID-19 CASES: In India, the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic can be described as advanced. It was one of the first countries that imposed a lockdown. Also, it is reported to be one of the most strictly imposed lockdowns in the world. Aside from this, India has been able to develop its indigenous coronavirus testing kit courtesy of Minal Bhonsale. She was the virologist who headed the project at MyLab Discovery Solutions. The unique thing about India's approach in handling the pandemic is that its population has rediscovered hope, goodness,

production costs have made India a very important

SECTORS THAT ARE BOUND TO BOUNCE BACK: Experts predict that India's economy will hit big strides, but not all at once. Some sectors are more inclined to a quicker rise than others. Economists see a jumpstart in the essentials sector. The pent-up demand caused by the lockdown will surely raise the amount of spending. This, coupled with government stimulus packages, will support the essential goods to spring back to life immediately. Being a global leader in pharmaceuticals, India will be capitalising on this sector. The government has shored upon its supplies and has opened up more access to investments in pharmaceutical production.

SUPPORTING INDIA'S RECOVERY: The situation of India can be taken both ways by

any observer. However, finance and economic experts such as investor James Richman, are eager to see the effects of their policies that balance "lives and livelihood".



Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Ichari Dam, Dakpathar, invites

sealed tenders from interested bidders for following works. Tender No. 01/EE(E&M)/ICHARI/TN/2020-21; Annual cleaning of trash rack Tender No.02/EE(E&M)/ICHARI/TN/2020-21: Annual contract for

Estimated Value of work : Rs. 12,27,641/-, 10,94,880/- (GST Extra) : Rs. 24,560/-, 21,900/-: Rs. 1,180/- each(GST inclusive) Tender Document Fee Last date of down loading tender : 18.06.2020, upto 17:00 Hrs.

ast date of submission of tender : 19.06.2020, upto 16:00 Hrs. : 22.06.2020, 11:00 Hrs onwards. Date of opening of tender For eligibility criteria, full & further details, please visit website www.ujvnl.com

पत्रांकः 338 दिनांकः 27.05.2020 Executive Engineer (E&M) "Avoid wasteful use of electricity

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "Ujjwal", MaharaniBagh, GMS Road, Dehradul CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866 (Tel.: 0135-2763508, Fax: 0135-2763507)

operation & maintenance of LT panels, DG set and lighting systems.

Hiring of 3 Nos. Truck for period of 3 years for SSE/Sig/DG, TKD, HNZM of Delhi Division Approximate Cost of Work (in ₹) ₹57,50,754.00 only Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex.-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055 Tender Inviting Officer Address Tender document fee (in ₹) ₹5,900.00 only ₹1.15.000.00 only Earnest Money to be deposited Tender uploaded date & time 17.06.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. See the N.Rly. website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice Board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, Website Particular & notice board location where complete details of tender can

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through E-Tendering)

Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/1342 Dated 26.05.2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
1	High Tensile Transition CB Coupler for AC Loco	60 Sets	25/06/2020

For Principal Chief Materials Manage Like us on: f facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly 8

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely Daaud S/o Iqbaal R/o H.No. RZC-116, Nihal Vihar, Delhi Aged- 19 Years has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 19.03.2020 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi vide DD No. 72-A Dated 19.03.2020 has been registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:



Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Wearing: Black coloured t-shirt, Blue coloured iaens pant and white shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 FAX No.: 011-24368639 DP/123/OD/2020





General public is here by informed that one person Namely: Tappu Krishan Bhai, S/o: Krishan Bhai Bheekha Bahai, R/o H. No. A-5/355, Paschim Vihar, Delhi. Age: 92 years, Height: 6'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, ID mark: A Tattoo Mark of Flower on Right Hand, Wearing: Blue Kurta-white Pajami and Lether Chapple in feet has been missing / kidnapped since 24.08.2018, Paschim Vihar, Delhi the area of PS.

Paschim Vihar East. In this regard a DD No. 25-A dated 29.08.2018 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi Ph. 011-25263471, 25267286 DP/108/0D/2020

be seen etc.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified boy Namely: Unknown, S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : 18-20 years, Height: 5'4" Complexion: Shallow, Identification: A tattoo mark of "SUKH PAL" on right hand, Wearing: Black colour T-shirt and Navy blue colour lower has been found dead at Near NDPL Office,

DD No. 27A dated 09.05.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Raj Park, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this found

Mangol Puri, Delhi on 09.05.2020. In this regard a case vide

dead boy may kindly inform to the following:-

P.S. Raj Park, Delhi Outer Distt., Delhi Tel. No. 011-27910071, 27910070 DP/177/OD/2020

ИО	RTH	ERN	RAI	LWAY

		E	E-TENDER NOTICE
1	Name of the work with location		Conservancy contract for daily removal of solid waste/rubbish/refuse/hedge cuttings etc. from the dustbins/heaps or nominated sites of Railway Station, Railway Colonies and other Railway premises at Zone 'A' DEE (as per list attached) with contractor's own labour and with his own truck/tempo or any other mechanized means and to dump the same into the Municipal Corporation dumping grounds every day by 09.00 hrs. and keeping the 3 meters area around the dustbins clean and hygienic for a period of three years from the date of award of work on a monthly payment basis
2	Approximate estimate cost	•	Rs. 55,075/- (Rs. Fifty five Thousand Seventy Five only) Per Month or Rs. 19,82,700/- (Rs. Nineteen Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred only) & 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. 39,700/- (Rs. Thirty Nine Thousand Seven 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.
7	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	-	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 31-Med-SAN-Garbage-Zone –'A' DEE-2020-23. Dated 22.05.2020 1181/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body male, name and address unknown. Age: about 40-42 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin wearing grey pant was found dead at patri near DDA Park, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 19.05.2020.

UNKNOWN

In this regard a DD No. 21A Dt. 19.05.2020 U/s 174 CrPC has

been lodged at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following. S.H.O.,

Diluted

DP/225/N/2020

(6)

GULSHAN

P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Ph.: 011-23917100, 23968730

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a man namely Momim @ Satish, about 45 years of age whose, residence and family is unknown had been found dead at Near Tikona Park, Mori Gate, Back Side of Tis Hazari, Delhi on 21.05.2020. In this regard a vide has been registered with FIR No: 153/20 dated 21.05.2020 u/s 302/34 IPC at P.S. Subzi

Mandi, 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 45 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue colour

jeans and white colour shirt with black colour lining. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Ph. No. 011-23823161, 23827354

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax: 011-24368639 DP/233/N/2020

GULSHAN POLYOLS LIMITED

CIN:L24231UP2000PLC034918 Read, Off: 9th K.M., Jansath Road, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh Ph.:0131-3201231, Fax: 0131- 2661378, website: www.gulshanindia.com

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FY 2019-20

Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter & Year ended 31st March, 2020

(Rs. in Lakhs) Quarter ended Year ended **Particulars** 31.03.2020 31.12.2019 31.03.2019 31.03.2020 31.03.2019 17108.12 62174.49 67584.91 Total income from Operations (Refer Note- 2) 13553.90 14,041.81 Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordina Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period Before Tax (After Exceptional and / or 595.87 595.87 2742.22 Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period After Tax (After Exceptional and / or 477.64 577.92 2058.40 Extraordinary Items) Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / 259.19 477.64 577.92 2039.39 2142.52 (Loss) for the period) (After Tax) and other Comprehensive Income (After Tax)] Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value of Rs. 1/- each) Reserves Excluding Revaluation Reserve 469.17 469.17 469.17 469.17 469.17 Earnings Per Share for Continuing and Discontinued Opreations (Before & After Extraordinary Items) (Face Value of Rs. 1/-each) 1.02 1.23 4.39

period and earnings per share.

The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit committee of the Board at its meeting held on May 26, 2020 and approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on May 26, 2020.

Effective April 1, 2019, the Company adopted Ind AS 116 "Leases", applied to all lease contracts existing on April 1, 2019 using the modified retrospective method along with the transition option to recognize Right-of-Use asset (ROU) at an amount equal to the lease liability. Accordingly, comparatives for the quarters ended March 31, 2019 and December 31, 2019 and year ended March 31, 2019 have not been retrospectively adjusted. The effect of this adoption is not material on the profit for the

Figures for the previous period have been regrouped/ rearranged wherever necessary to make them comparable with current figure.

Effective April 1, 2019, the Company adopted Unit of Production method for calculating Depreciation instead of W.D.V. method in case of Distillery unit

The Company had already Paid an interim dividend for the financial year 2019-2020 of Rs.0.70/- per equity share face value of Rs. 1/- each (70%) in their meeting held on 21st February, 2020. The Interim dividend is to be treated as Final Dividend

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic globally and in India is causing significant disturbance and slowdown of economic activity. COVID-19 has caused interruption in production, supply chain disruption, unavailability of personnel, etc. during last week of March, 2020 and thereafter. The management of the Company has exercised due care in concluding significant accounting judgements and estimates in preparation of the financial results. In assessing the recoverability of Trade receivables, the Company has considered subsequent recoveries, past trends, credit risk profiles of the customers and internal and external information available up to the date of issuance of these financial results. In assessing the recoverability of inventories, the Company has considered the latest selling prices, customer orders on hand and margins. Based on the above assessment, the Company is of the view that the carrying amounts of Trade receivables and inventories are expected to be realizable to the extent shown in the financial results. The impact of COVID-19 may be different from the estimates as at the date of approval of these financial results and the Company will continue to closely monitor the development

For and on behalf of the Board Dr. C. K. Jain

Date : 26th May, 2020

Chairman and Managing Director

"I don't know how seriously they were tak-

ing it but now it is a wake up call to follow sustainable practises and packaging

so that you look like a responsible brand.

Consumers will also respect that. Now is

the time to not just talk about it but do

through the use of natural yarns, organ-

ic textiles, natural dyes, recyclable trims

and accessories. It can change the way we

have been thinking about the industry.

"We need to look at end-to-end sustain-

able practices and processes to be imple-

mented across the garment and textile

industry in our country. There is a dire

need for a basic certification process, pos-

sibly initiated by the government with a

handful of experts, to help our industry

implement and follow safety, health and

sustainable concerns. There is also an

urgent need to minimise wastage of

water and power, recycling raw materials

something substantial," says he.



Ajay appeals for **Dharavi**

Bollywood superstar **AJAY DEVGN** has appealed to all to donate for the residents of Dharavi, Asia's largest slum located in Mumbai, which has become the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic in the city.

He himself has taken the responsibili-

ty of 700 families. "Dharavi is at the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak. Many citizens supported by MCGM are working tirelessly on ground through NGOs to provide the needy with ration and hygiene kits. We at ADFF are helping 700 families. I urge you to also donate," tweeted the actor.

> 'Apart from one commercial and award shows that Ayushmann and I did together, we

have never shared the screen before ZEE5's Yaar Ka Punchnama show. We became friends because we bumped into each other at a lot of places and even though he might not remember, I met him for the first time after his film Vicky Donor released.'

—Taapsee Pannu

Actor VIDYA BALAN created quite a stir recently when she dropped the first look poster of her debut



Global Film Festival on June 2. This 10-day digital film festival will be hosted on YouTube and will encompass programming from 20 festivals, including Mumbai Film Festival, Berlin, Cannes and many more.

selected by the Mumbai Film

Festival to be world premiered at

the one-of-a-kind, We Are One: A

Tom unites with director Doug

be reuniting with director Doug Liman for his yetto-be-titled action adventure film,

Hollywood star TOM CRUISE will



along with Cruise.

MAKE WAY FOR SLOW FASHION

Designers tell SAKSHI SHARMA that the post-COVID world will have a seasonless look. Though trends will always dictate the industry, comfort will overtake luxury and versatility

ollections that do not fit into the notion of season, layering up or down according to the weather, styling garments so that they can be worn in a multiple ways and sustainable practices — the fashion industry is looking at ways to move forward in a pandemic-hit world. So did you think that at a time when everything is succumbing to the new normal, this industry would remain untouched?

The first indication was a recent, virtual press conference which could have wide ramifications for the industry. Broadcast live from the Rome studio, it had Gucci's creative director, Alessandro Michele declaring the fashion week calendar obsolete. He said he was no longer adhering to a rota staked out by spring/summer, autumn/winter, cruise

and pre-fall shows. Instead, the brand will show "seasonless" collections twice a year answering to the need for fashion that is more in sync with the requirements of a planet that is tottering under the onslaught of excess. There are no plans for a show in September, when the Gucci collection showcased, as a key part of Milan fashion week. The move has created quite a stir in the fashion world which wonders about the way forward. Designer Ashish N

Soni says that there was an overdose of fashion prior to

the pandemic. There were just too many shows, too many collections and too much fast fashion even at the luxury level. "There was over consumption and over indulgence in fashion. A lot of brands are now refraining from this to find their brand soul. What Gucci is suggesting was there a long time back but finally people are taking note of it as it makes more sense in the current times. Seasonless fashion is the future. I have been doing my show only once a year. It's a step in the right direction. I am glad that even if we are learning from the pandemic, it is in the interest of the people and the planet," adds he.

Designer Payal Jain agrees with Alessandro and says that it makes a lot of sense right now as we are living in very dynamic and uncertain times, with no surety of what the following week or month holds. Payal asks: "In such a situation, how can one plan fashion collection six to 10 months in advance?" Seasons will spill into one another and the boundaries will merge. A slow transition towards this direction was already underway for some vears. Now is the time to combine seasonal collections into a simple format, with comfort, practicality, versatile usage and long-term sustainability as prime concerns for the future, be it for the creators of fash-



ion lines, or the consumers.

Fashion designer Pooja Shroff says that it's a great idea and strongly believes in it as most of her pieces are non seasonal and can be worn all year round and layered/styled differently each time according to the

But one wonders how feasible will it be in the Indian weather conditions. Ashish says that earlier it was mindless consumption with see now, buy now being the driving forces. It won't be season driven heavily any more. "It helps us because, besides North India, there is no Fall in the rest of the country. We pretty much have a tropical climate and a warm weather throughout the year. We sell the Spring/Summer collection all across India though some places do not experience summer. So in the same way, if vou showcase the collection in September or October that product will be seasonless enough. There's no winter in Kolkata, Mumbai and other places so I'd rather sell a seasonless collection than doing several shows. It makes the functioning of the business

Payal feels that a collection that does not adhere to seasons is very feasible as we have long summers and a comparatively shorter winter, hence the former can remain the focus. "With experimental thinking and reinvention of the conven-Fashion can be made more sustainable and supportive for the environment tional winter fabrics, weaves and silhouettes, we can create lines that work through the year and give enough variety to the consumer, yet keep them up to date

with global fashion," says she. Nanki Papneja, creative director at Limerick, says that if the number of collections are reduced, it will be imperative for a designer to create several options for major seasons in each collection. This is where classics like a jacket and cape come into the picture. Pieces that one can layer up or layer down as per season will see prominence in each collection. Even in the pre-COVID phase, all brands were

> be a conscious decision for all in the fashthen. ion industry to do our bit for the environment," says Payal.

The world has been locked down for quite a few days during which most of us have taken to wearing t-shirts and shorts or pajamas. This has paved the way for a new fashion phenomenon — slothwear where comfort occupies a place of primary importance in people's mind. Ashish says, "Now the consumer is looking at more comfort-

> be value driven and priced right. This is being said in almost every report and prediction. When the 2008 financial crisis hit the world, there was a revival of minimalism. It is again going to be a huge trend where people would want to buy simple, comfortable and easy clothing, which is crafted well with sustainable practises, is easy to take care of and has a certain value attached to it. Though it might take six to eight months to bounce back but there won't be any drastic

> > will adhere to the parameters of comfort, versatility, ease of maintenance and a seasonless look. She says: "Trends will always dictate fashion but comfort will

overtake luxury and versatility will certainly get more marks than a startling statement. AW 2020-21 will be reinvented this time...



Perceptions, awareness and attitudes

On the eve of Menstrual Hygiene Day, here are some Ayurvedic tips to fight disorders and findings of a survey done by Youth Ki Awaaz

On World Wichest Hygiene Day, Youth Ki Awaaz in collaboration with Water, Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) has published findings from an online survey it conducted on the issue of menstrual health and hygiene. The survey which was launched online in September 2019 and conducted over a period of 12 weeks gathered responses from young Indians in the categories of awareness on menstrual hygiene, taboos, perceptions and attitudes towards periods in India.

It gathered preferences on issues of product usage, productivity at the workplace; ated with first periods: Fear cultural practises and beliefs and explored the intersections around menstrual hygiene, health, gender, emotional and mental well-being.

The idea behind the survey was to dig deeper into how young people perceive menstrual hygiene and gauge their attitudes, which can help further inform decision making process by policy makers.

Some of the findings from the survey are:

□ Sustainable menstrual hygiene products: Almost 71 per cent of those who responded agreed to using nonbiodegradable sanitary napkins and almost 63 per cent recognised that it is harmful for the environment. But affordability and the issue of trust, remained a barrier in menstruators making a clear switch to biodegradable alternatives.

☐ Young people are more open to conversation around menstrual hygiene: More than 28 percent respondents in the age group of 18-22 said they were comfortable speaking



about menstruation while only 27 percent agreed to that in the age group of 23-25 years.

and anxiety were the dominant negative emotions for the women experiencing their first period with more than 23 per cent respondents opting for

Need for a relook at menstrual leave policy: Almost 41 per cent of the respondents were in favour of introducing a Bill in Parliament around the menstrual leave.

Cultural taboos exist: Almost 49.2 per cent respondents admitted that they have heard activities like "Praying" should be avoided during Periods. And 51.1 per cent respondents admitted they have been isolated or excluded from an event because of

☐ Lack of diversity around menstrual hygiene in India: More than 47 per cent respondents felt that menstruation is a "women's only issue". The majority were not aware that

periods is also a non-binary

and Trans men issue. So much

so, that only 10 per cent

menstruation.

respondents felt that the needs of non-binary and trans population are being met around

menstrual hygiene. Dr Partap Chauhan, director, Jiva Ayurveda says that the factors are responsible for this condition include increased intake of sour, salty, hot, pungent, heavy, and fermented food; meat of fatty and domestic animals; alcoholic beverages; indigestion; and eating before the previous meal is digested. Conditions that also have a strong effect include repeated abortions, excessive sexual activity, increased physical exertion (walking, riding, weight lifting, etc.), emaciation, trauma, and day sleeping. Psychological conditions such as grief, anger, lust, and anxiety are also known to play a key role in aggravating menstrual prob-

He says: "According to Ayurveda, poor diet and inefficient digestion are the main causative factors for these disorders. Improperly digested food leads to the production of toxins in the body. These toxins are circulated by the blood to the deep tissues and channels, where they cause blockages and stagnation. These conditions cause

aggravation of Vata Dosha

(air) and the Rakta Dhatu (blood). The aggravated *Vata* brings impaired blood into the channels carrying the menstrual blood, leading to increase menstrual blood

He recommends various types of treatment to treat menstrual problems. These include nourishing and toning herbs as well as rejuvenative treatment in accordance with the nature of the disorder. Massage and the incorporation of meditation and yoga may also be beneficial for permanent elimination of the problems. It is important to address these menstruation problems because a woman expels a large proportion of her wastes and toxins through this process. If these toxins remain in the body, they cause further stagnation and blockage within the body.

Dr Partap shares some Ayurvedic tips to fight menstrual problems:

Take one crushed garlic clove with two cloves twice a day during your periods.

When suffering from period cramps, take a teaspoon of aloe vera gel mixed with a pinch of black pepper or cinnamon powder.

Drinking ginger infused herbal tea helps. You can also mix one tsp of ginger powder in warm water and have that.

Take the following decoction from the first day of your periods as it helps to alleviate the symptoms: Boil one tsp of cumin seeds with two glasses of water over moderate heat until the mixture reduces to half. Sieve the seeds. Add a teaspoon of honey and drink it warm.

Cooling showers and bathing with sandalwood and mint essence are helpful.

Hum Tum is memorable because of Chintu uncle: Rani

 $R_{
m gic}$ ani Mukerji is extremely nostalgic on the 16th anniversary of her film Hum Tum starring Saif Ali Khan and Rishi Kapoor. She is fondly remembering her shooting experience with the legendary actor who recently passed away leaving a huge and an irreparable void for the Indian cinema industry.

Rani says, "Hum Tum will always be memorable for me because it was the film that Chintu uncle was part of and I fondly remember our shoot in Amsterdam. Recently, when I met up with him before his untimely demise, we were chatting about the film's shoot and were recalling the days of how much fun we had during the Amsterdam schedule." She adds, "I remember very clearly that for Chintu uncle, it was one of the first films in which he had started playing key character roles. He took a leap of faith and he agreed to play Saif's dad because till then he was always the leading star. Somehow he did this and he was just brilliant as usual and made our film truly spe-

Rani also reveals that she was a huge fan of Rishi Ji, the actor and the person that he was. She narrates her memories of acting with him in Hum Tum saying, "Chintu uncle belonged to the era where actors never did sync sound and it was a sync-sound film. We were shooting in a house in Amsterdam which had wooden flooring and Dilip Subramaniam was the sound recordist. He kept telling Chintu uncle that each time he would take a step in the house, the floor would creak and the sound would come. Chintu uncle invariably moved and Dilip would say cut, we will need one more!"She says, "He was just not used to one more take and we used to all crack up because he used to fire him. He used to say what the hell is this, why is the take not getting fine and why is the floor creaking. He was hilarious. It was quite a first for him because he had to actually understand what this sync sound is all about because they used to all dub for their films and these things never mattered. It was a first



and we used to have lots of chats and laughs about this. I have always been a huge fan of him and his demise has been a double loss for me, as somebody whom I knew very well and also as a fan." Rani feels that the film was def-

initely ahead of the curve by show-

ing progressive portrayal of women in cinema. She says, "It was a very, very special and modern subject. It was definitely ahead of its time. The way my character Rhea reacts at the end and walks away from Saif's character's (Karan) life when he just randomly suggests to get married because they had physical intimacy, it was bold. I think that was way ahead of its time for a woman to do this in a Hindi film. For a girl to actually walk away from a man and break stereotypes and notions of how a woman should react, it was new but it was also much needed to show in cinema." She adds, "Before Hum Tum, we hadn't seen many roles where women were strong and selfreliant like that. They would hardly take a stand like that. So, it kind of spoke about the new emerging woman. So, I think Rhea's character stood for the modern Indian woman at that time and I remember when Adi offered me the film along with Kunal, I had completely gone gung ho and really, really loved the script and had said - this is great. Let's do

the pioneer

ALWAYS A FIRST TIME

A survey, conducted by IQAC of Dev Samaj College of Education, reveals that 90.2 per cent teachers have never taken online classes before

ut of the total 82.1 per cent respondents having no previous experience of online teaching, 90.2 per cent teachers said that they are taking online classes for the first time. This was revealed in a survey, conducted by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Dev Samaj College of Education, Chandigarh, to study the challenges faced by teachers during online classes besides seeking their recommendations to further improve it in a result oriented manner.

It comprises of a total sample size of 3,550 teachers from different government, recognised private and government aided private schools of Chandigarh and Punjab. The sample survey consisted of 38.6 per cent primary teachers, 33.9 per cent trained graduate teachers and 27.5 per cent post graduate teachers. It was carried out by Dr Anita Nangia and Dr Seema Sareen under the guidance of principal of Dev Samaj College of Education, Dr Agnese Dhillon.

The responses entered by teachers during the online survey throw ample light on various challenges frequently faced by them since the online teaching came into light. The findings pointed out that 33.56 per cent of the teachers do not face any problem due to the lack of appropriate materials and resources, while 61.66 per cent reported that they faced this challenge to some extent and 7.77 per cent to great



For 44.23 per cent teachers, lack of inservice training is not a real challenge. Approximately, 74 per cent teachers find it difficult to assemble all the students for the class, whereas 26 per cent do not face

this challenge.
It was also found that 22.54 per cent of the teachers did not find it difficult to follow up the learning of students, whereas 56.45 per cent had this problem to some extent and 21.01 per cent to a great extent. However, lack of time and lack of confidence was not at all a problem for the majority of teachers.

The study has further revealed that nearly 32.75 per cent use WhatApp to send

notes in PDF formats. Many teachers make their own videos of the lessons and share these with the students. This was followed by Cloud Meet apps like Zoom, Web Ex and Team Link. Approximately 16.08 per cent of the teachers use Google Apps like Google Classrooms, Google Hangouts and Google Meets for online teaching, while 19.20 per cent of the group use other apps such as Next Learning Platform, SnapHW, Shisya, Deeksha, Extramarks and give YouTube links to the students.

Notably, the survey was conducted during the trying circumstances amid the Coronavirus pandemic when the schools and colleges across India have been shut

since mid-March. E-learning was an unplanned and rapid move, initiated by all educational institutions, with no proper training to teachers, insufficient bandwidth and little preparation. Undoubtedly, online mode of teaching is a good stopgap arrangement with no other option. But approximately two-third students in rural areas are unable to access teaching material as they don't have internet access and other relevant resources. The least benefited children of this online mode of teaching are poor students from rural areas and those who took admissions in EWS quota in reputed private schools.

This shift from traditional classrooms

to online teaching was appreciated by many. A respondent said, "During such chaotic times, online classes are one of the best ways to keep students engaged." Another said, "I strongly promote e-learning mode in this technologically advanced world. It's a great initiative taken by schools." Likewise, one more teacher added, "Online teaching emerged as a blessing in these times. We should continue with this to ensure the safety of our children. Digital is great way to impart good knowledge to today's gen. Initially, the process might look difficult but over time with regular inputs, it'll become more effective."

Those were some of the pros of the elearning mode. Well, here comes the cons: Teaching online automatically makes you less visible than you'd be in a traditional teaching role. This can impact your authority and make students feel less connected with you. Some teachers said that many of the students didn't have the kind of devices, laptops, smartphones or money to keep the connection going." Moreover, there is no proper place for practical work in the subjects like Physics, Chemistry and Math. Psychological, social, emotional and physical aspects of development are totaly neglected and above all, parents cooperation needs to be strengthened. "These are the real challenges that hinder the process of online teaching," many respon-

Some school teachers complained that they were themselves struggling to get a hang of the technology and wanted that they should be given proper training. Similarly, students too needed proper training. Strong connection of Wi-fi and power systems are required to make this far more result oriented and efficient.

More user friendly and effective apps should be developed to cope up with the aforesaid problems. The training to teachers in managing technology and counselling of parents regarding the benefits and challenges of online teaching is the need of the hour. Students, parents and even some teachers feel that this is a waste of time as everything would be repeated once the schools open. They said that there should be proper enlightenment whether online or offline teaching both are equally important and that the pace of the curriculum would adversely affect the students' development. The future and the education system of the country can consequently suffer. Therefore, we should be

furniture manufacturing, planti-

serious and come up with many innovative techniques so that interest and motivation to study among students can be developed. Their mental, emotional and psychological health must be taken care of.

CBSE should provide some uniform pattern of study material for all teachers. Government policy should give free high speed internet for educational apps or softwares. As we know that all the students don't have resources to take online classes - some have suffer due to financial problems, while a few lack the knowledge of tech gadgets. A teacher can't provide resources. S/he can only impart valuable knowledge.

There is a huge difference between the traditional method and online mode of teaching. Face to face interaction has its own value as there is human connect. Students understand the importance of maintaining discipline. They can't leave the classroom while the teacher is teaching, whereas here, students have the option of leaving the conference, turning the audio and video off. Even though there are advantages of e-learning, it can't replace the traditional method in any manner. Only those students who have resources smartphone, laptops, good internet connectivity and are serious about learning get benefitted through it. A few more educational TV channels can be incorporated that would cover some topics for kids.

A Punjabi teacher and a Hindi teacher stated, "We find it difficult due to unavailability of the Punjabi font and less material in Hindi. It's a real task for us. Us teachers are really putting their heart to the process. We expect students to be a little more serious towards this online teaching method. We have to find some more appropriate ways by which we can evaluate students' work or efforts." "Parents should supervise their children so that there is no misuse of technology during this difficult phase. Student surveys should also be conducted to understand the availability of resources and the internet," they added.

While underscoring the need of physical activity, a teacher said, "Physical education can be taught only through traditional teaching. You cannot teach a sport online. It's something which is done prac-

The global health crisis has for sure increased the use of technology in education. However, it's not a boon for everybody out there.

The state of Chhattisgarh is I leading the entire nation in terms of forest conservation today. During the lockdown period, when forest-based economic activities were stalled throughout the country, Chhattisgarh registered good number of achievements under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Amid lockdown, the state registered maximum participation in forest produce collection. On the same note, the revenue of forest dwellers is expected to be about ₹2,500 crore. According to the data received from TRIFED, one lakh quintal forest produce has been collected in the state so far. While the pandemic has whole world, the collection of tribal forest produce in Chhattisgarh is keeping pace with the livelihood of tribals and simultaneously boosting the economy of the

The stay-at-home orders has deepened the issue of unemployment in the country. However, forest dwellers in Chhattisgarh are getting employment in gathering forest produce and providing forest cover. The new economic strategy of the state government involves bringing a big change in the life of the forest dwellers through forest produce. The state collects 15 lakh standard sacks of tendu leaves every year, through which 12 lakh 65 thousand collector families get employment. The value of tendu leaves have been increased to ₹4,000 per standard bag, giving them a direct benefit of ₹649 crore.

The state government has increased the number of forest products purchased through the minimum support price mechanism from seven to 25 now. The forest produce is being procured man-days of employment are being created through wood art development, lac bangles manufacturing, dona-pattal making, drug processing, honey processing, bell metal, terracotta handicrafts work and much more. The Forest Development Corporation is giving 14,000 youngsters a job opportunity through construction of bamboo tree guards, bamboo



ng of medicinal plants through Vanaushadhi Board. Similarly, with the help of CFTRI Mysore, production of Mahua based energy bar, chocolate, pickle, sanitiser, amla-based dehydrated products, tamarind candy, *jamun* juice and bell marmalade, are being planned. The income of forest dwellers

is increasing continuously due to the collection of minor forest produce. Tea plantations in Jashpur and Surguja districts directly benefit the beneficiaries. One thousand women have got jobs of sewing 50 lakh masks. In the current year, about 12 thousand women have received an 23 lakh from primary processing of tamarind. This year, the target is of planting 70 lakh plants on the own land of the forest dwellers. As part of efforts to promote lac production, 36 thousand main farmers have been selected in 164 production areas. Apart from this, other forest-based activities have also created large employment opportunities.

Jharkhand (123 trains), Madhya Pradesh

being witnessed on May 23 and 24 is over.

The congestion had occurred due to con-

vergence of more than two third rail traf-

fic on routes to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

and late clearance of the terminals due to

health protocols that needed to be com-

pleted by state authorities. The matter has

resolved through active consultation with

state governments.

The rail route congestion which was

(112 trains), Odisha (73 trains).



YEIDA made its way

They say: Where there is a will, there is a way. I These words fit perfectly on the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority as it has earned in crores during the lockdown itself by promoting industrial activities. The authority settled the applications for industrial plots

through video conferencing.

The CEO of the authority, Dr Arunvir Singh, said, "This is the first time industrial plots have been allocated through video conferencing. Eight industrial units and six institutional plots were allotted during the lockdown. A plot of 5,000 sqm has been allotted to Messrs Ocean Carpet and Furnishing India Private Limited in Sector 33. M/s Integrated Batteries has been allotted 5,000 Sqm, M/s Clifton Packaging: 5,000 Sqm, M/s Pooja Processor: 5,000 Sqm, M/s SPS Fine Industries: 5,000 Sqm, M/s Crescent Techno Solution: 20,000 Sqm, M/s Basant Overseas: 5,000 Sqm and Huac Engineering India Private Limited: 40,000 sgm. Thus, a total investment of ₹129.90 crore has been done?

Also, about 2,800 people will get employment in these industrial units. Similarly, the authority has earned about 16 crores from six institution-



The Yamuna Authority is taking special care of the employment of the people. The authority is giving 20 per cent reservation to such applicants in the three ongoing schemes, so that people can get employment opportunities. Currently, the authority is planning industrial plots for Apparel Park, MSME Park and Handicrafts-ODOP Park. Due to lockdown, the last date for the first application was May 15. But now, the last date of application has been extended to June 30.

Dr Arunvir said, "Only those who are registered in DPIP are being considered in the category of a startup. Full care is being taken that the plot should be allotted to those who want to set up their units here because we are paying special attention to the income of the authority as well as the employment that people get. If the applications in the reservation category are less, then the remaining plots will be put in the general cat-

Álso, he added that 64 applications have been received in the earlier scheme for readymade garments. These applications will be disposed of on June 2. The information has been given to the applicants by the authority.

Civil Defence members voluntarily serve passengers

N orthern Railway is striving in every way to strengthen the efforts being put in by government to make the lives of people easier. Special trains are being run to help the stranded ones reach their destinations. Assets of Northern Railway are being utilised optimally and innovatively. Rail coaches have been

converted into mobile quarantine entres, WHO standard protecgears (PPEs) are being produced in the maintenance workshops and the tertiary medical hospitals have been convertinto COVID-19 care centres.

Northern Railway Civil Defence volunteers are rendering invaluable service to the society keep-

ing up their motto — working for the benefit of all living beings. At New Delhi railway station, the Civil Defence volunteers ensure that all passengers strictly follow the norms set for travelling. They help in the movement of the travellers in an orderly manner. They also distribute face masks stitched by the volunteers themselves to the passengers who need them. The volunteers also help in sanitising the platforms and the train



agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL), a company of Government of Madhya Pradesh. The agreement has been signed to fund projects worth ` 22,000 crore for 225 MW hydroelectric and multipurpose projects in Madhya

Pradesh.

The MoU was signed on a virtual platform by Rajeev Sharma, CMD, PFC and ICP Keshari, Managing Director, NBPCL. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has conducted the pre-feasibility study of these projects and has provided approval for their execution. The disbursal of the amount will be linked to the execu-

Indian Railways run 'Shramik Special' trains

Indian Railways operationalise 3,060 (Shramik Special' trains across the

country and transport more than 40 lakh passengers to their home states.

various states. The top five are Gujarat (853 trains), Maharashtra (550 trains), Punjab (333 trains), Uttar Pradesh (221

trains), Delhi (181 trains). The number

of trains that were terminated in various

states across the country are Uttar Pradesh (1,245 trains), Bihar (846 trains),

These trains were originated from

tion of the projects.
Some of the major multipurpose projects that will be financed under the MoU are Basaniya Multipurpose Project Dindori, Chinki Boras Multipurpose Project Narsinghpur Raisen Hoshangabad, Sakkar Pench Link Narsinghpur Chhindwara and Dudhi Project Chhindwara Hoshangabad.



Senior officials of Kolkata Metro hold meeting

Manoj Joshi, GM of Kolkata Metro, held a high level meeting with senior officers. He took stock of the damage caused by cyclone Amphan. He instructed all to make proper assessment of the damaged Metro's asset and immediately start the repairing work. He asked to continue intensive cleaning of rakes as well as keep Metro's rolling stock and other assets ready for the resumption of services whenever orders are received.

During the meeting, General Manager further stressed on maintaining proper fitness of rolling stock, tunnels, signaling system, power supply machinery and other assets of Metro during the lockdown period. Fortunately, no damage has

been detected in Noapara Carshed. In spite of wind speed reaching upto 133 km/hour, Noapara Carshed remained unhurt due to great pre-emptive measures taken by the Metro authorities.

Metro rakes were parked at the safest place inside the carshed with wedges to prevent it from free rolling during the cyclone.

WT20 stares at postponement to 2022 India to start Aus Test series on December 3 in Brisbane

ICC likely to take call on T20 World Cup in board meeting today

The postponement of this year's T20 World Cup in Australia to 2022, which might open up a

window for the lucrative IPL in October, is expected to be formalised when the International Cricket Council's all-powerful board holds a tele-conference on Thursday.

The decision, if it is formalised, owing to the Covid-

19 pandemic will give members a chance to chalk out their bilateral blue-print in the coming months.

There is a good chance that postponement of World T20 will be decided during Thursday's board meeting. Whether there will be a formal announcement or not is the question," an ICC board member said.

"There is very little chance of World T20 going ahead in this situation. I don't think either Cricket Australia or the top boards will mind,"

It was reported that ICC's Events Committee — led by Chris Tetley might present multiple options and one of the options that members are likely to seriously contemplate is shifting the tournament to October-November, 2022 while India hosts its edition in 2021. An ICC spokesperson said



reports stating that a decision to postpone the World Cup has been taken are

However, the spokesperson acknowledged that a "number of contingency plans are being explored in light of the rapidly changing public health situation caused by the Covid-

It can also be safely concluded that India will be touring Australia at the end of the year as members are likely to give more precedence to bilateral engagements to recover from the financial losses incurred during the pandemic.

The board member also said that it's not only about the countries but also about broadcasters Star Sports, which incidentally holds rights for both the ICC events as well as BCCI's India Cricket rights and the IPL rights.

"There are a few questions that need to be asked. The commercial viability of having a T20 World Cup in February-March 2021. Before that, an IPL in October-November window and another IPL in the March-May window," a BCCI insider privy to the broad-

IPL would be a great fit if WT20 is delayed: Cummins

SYDNEY: Australia's premier pacer
Pat Cummins on Wednesday said
that the Indian Premier League
would be a "great fit" for the October
window if the T20 World Cup is post-

"If that opens up a window I think the IPL would be a great fit," Cummins, who was bought by

cast deals said.

"So we are looking at three big-ticket tournaments in six months. În this current economic scenario, that will be very bad call," he added.

He also listed the bilateral engage ments that the BCCI will agree to.

"India is most certainly going to Australia and England is coming for a five-match series in India. As far as South Africa T20 series is concerned, let Cricket South Africa decide where they stand as far as ICC policy matters are concerned," the source said.

With Chris Nenzani, BCCI will only believe when he puts pen to paper,"

The organisation of the Indian Premier League will largely depend on India's Covid-19 situation during that

more after a long break off cricket. There's a lot of reasons why I would want it to go ahead but the main one is it's a great tournament."

time but with the central Government trying to bring in normalcy, the cashrich league could get a five-week con densed window to go ahead.

Some of the issues that BCCI as well as all other stakeholders will be dealing with include, limited or no spectators as per ICC regulations.

Limited number of venues and increase of double-headers could be the way forward. Also the organisation should be in such a manner that all foreign players coming in might need to go for a mandatory 14-day quarantine. In that case, when do they arrive? Also when India tour Australia, they

might also have to quarantine themselves which means the team needs at least three weeks before playing the

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Cricket Australia has locked in four venues for the financially crucial Test series against India and the first match is tentatively set for a December 3 start in Brisbane, as per local media reports. Two Australian media out-

lets - 7news.com.cu and the Sydney Morning Herald — reported that the schedule for the four Tests has been finalised. According to reports, CA Chief Executive Kevin Roberts will make it official on Friday and the plan does not include any quarantine hub or bio bubble for the

"Cricket Australia (CA) on Wednesday ticked off on the Test series beginning in Brisbane on December 3 before heading to Adelaide from December 11 and Melbourne and

Sydney for the traditional Boxing Day (December 26) and New Year Tests (January 3)," 7news.Com.Au reported. It is expected that the second Test in Adelaide will be

Day/Night affair as BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had committed earlier.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported: "Perth is scheduled to kick off the Australian Test summer with a pink-ball match against Afghanistan but Brisbane has won the right to host world powerhouse India in the season's marquee series."

According to the *Sydney* Morning Herald, "CA will on Friday announce the international schedule for the 2020-21 season, which will feature as many as five international men's sides, though this will be subject to change due to the global health crisis."

The 7news.Com.Au report also stated that there will be no quarantine hub or bio bubble required as of now.

"With Australia's coronavirus situation easing, the series looks certain to go ahead without the need for a quarantine hub. The entire tour taking place in one city had been a possibility but the biggest question now is whether — or how many fans will be allowed to attend the matches,"

report stated.



Bishop compares current Indian pace unit to Windies bowlers of past

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The burning desire to succeed abroad acted as a stimulus for India to consciously create a fearsome pace battery, says former West Indies speed-ster Ian Bishop, who compared the current unit to intimidating Caribbean bowlers of the past.

Bishop said the trend started with the likes of Zaheer Khan, RP Singh, Munaf Patel following in the foot steps of Javagal Srinath and Kapil Dev in

"It is perhaps the best generation of talents of fast bowling India have produced. And it started a while ago," Bishop said on *Cricbuzz in Conversation*.

"We can go back to Zaheer, RP Singh, Munaf Srinath, who followed Kapil Dev. It's great to see,"

Led by Bumrah, India has one of the most fearsome pacers. Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ishant Sharma add variety to the

"It seemed to me from the outside that there was a deliberate attempt by India to recognise that 'batsmen were good, but if have to win overseas, we have to get players from the MRF Pace Foundation and the NCA coming through, try to prepare pitches to encourage these faster bowlers rather than dusty turners" the 52-year-old said.

Bishop, who took 161 wickets in 43 Tests for West Indies, in a huge compliment, said the current Indian bowling unit reminds him of the West Indian pace battery that included the likes of Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner Malcolm Marshal and Colin Croft.

"And now when you have three fast bowlers, sometimes four and an excellent spinner, it takes my mind back to the West Indies pace quartet before my generation — the Marshalls, the Holdings, the Garners, the Roberts — I'll stick Colin Croft in there," he said.

"There is no release point, two come out, two come on. There is no flow of runs, and there is always a threat of penetration and physical harm to a lesser extent. That is one of the things that makes this group of fast bowlers excellent," he added.

Aggression can't be taught to bowlers: Ambrose

MELBOURNE (PTI): Aggression can't be taught to bowlers as it's a trait they ought to be born with, says West Indies legend Curtly Ambrose, who tormented batsmen in his glorious career. Ambrose said though he

was naturally aggressive, it was

fellow legendary Antiguan bowler Andy Roberts, who encouraged him to embrace it while bowling.
"One of the things he mentioned to me was to always be aggressive, to always get under the skin of batsmen. That stuck

in my mind coming from a great

man like him," Ambrose said on

a Sky Sports podcast. "I don't think you can teach a bowler to be aggressive — it has to be something within you. You can try but if a bowler doesn't have it inside of him, it probably won't work. For me it worked because I am naturally aggressive while I am competing. It natural-

wickets in 98 Tests, said if one can



make the ball talk, there is hardly any need to sledge the batsmen. "...If you are good enough at what you do, you let the five and a half ounces (the cricket ball) do the talking for you.

"If you keep sledging, you probably aren't any good. That wasn't the West Indian way. Five Ambrose, who took 405 and half ounces coming at you at 90mph is more than enough!"

It's time to embrace split-coaching: Lehmann

LONDON: Split-coaching is the way forward for Indian cricket and rest of the world since it is becoming increasingly difficult to balance work and family, reckons former Australia coach Darren Lehmann.

Lehmann said dividing responsibilities format-wise should increase the longevity of the

Talking alongside former England World Cup-winning coach Trevor Bayliss on BBC's Tuffers and Vaughan Show, Lehmann said being away from the family for more than half a year is too much pressure on a coach.

"I think split coaches is the way to go in India as well as here. You just can't be away for 200 days a year. It's too much for the family and it's too much pressure on a single coach,"

"I think to get longevity out of your coaches you have to have split roles," he added. The 50-year-old suggested divid-

ing responsibilities on the basis of

"It might be white ball or red ball cricket. You have to see how that works. I see that evolving and maybe the stage they start talking to the players on the ground but that's probably way off," Lehmann said. PTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In an unusual move, ace lifter Mirabai Chanu has been nominated for the Arjuna award by the national federation though the former world champion is already a recipient of Khel Ratna, country's highest sporting honour.

The Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) has nominated Chanu along with Ragala Venkat Rahul and Punam Yadav.

Chanu had received the Khel Ratna along with Indian cricket

team captain Virat Kohli in 2018. She was also awarded the Padma Shri — the country's fourth-highest civilian award — the same year.

IWLF nominates Mirabai for Arjuna

The 25-year-old, who received the twin honour after winning the 2017 weightlifting world championship in USA, says there is an honour attached with the Arjuna award, so she won't mind it getting it after Khel Ratna.
"I know Khel Ratna is the

highest but I missed out on the Arjuna award earlier and I want it too. Sometimes you want all of it. Players like to get the Arjuna award," Mirabai said. "I had also applied for Arjuna award in 2018. We had applied for both the Arjuna award and the Khel Ratna then," she said. Asked if an athlete, who has already been awarded the

Khel Ratna, can be nominated for an Arjuna Award, IWLF secretary general Sahadev Yadav said "it is possible." After recovering from a back injury, which marred her progress in 2018, Chanu improved her performance, further, in 2019.

She lifted 86kg in snatch and a personal best of 113kg in clean and jerk for a total of 199kg at the Asian Championships in April last year but missed the Bronze medal by a whisker.

Her best performance came at the World championship in September, when the Manipuri breached the much anticipated 200kg mark by bettering her personal best in all three sections. In snatch, she lifted 87kg, followed by 114kg in clean and jerk for a total of 201kg.

BWF Oly qualification process to start next year within the new qualifying period

ly flowed for me."

n extended qualification period for the Tokyo Olympics will be introduced next year and ranking points earned at tournaments during the original qualification phase will be maintained, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said on Wednesday.

With the Covid-19 pandemic

disrupting the international calen-

der, the BWF was unable to complete the last six weeks of its oneyear qualifying period, which ended on April 28. But with the Tokyo Games postponed, the governing body of badminton has decided to extend

the Olympic qualification period to next year. "An extended Olympic qualification period will be introduced from Week 1-17 in 2021 and

includes the select number of tour-



naments that were postponed, cancelled or suspended due to Covid-19," the BWF said in a release.

"These eligible tournaments

must be completed by Week 17 in The BWF also said that the

postponed Olympic qualifiers is likely to be held in the same week next year as originally planned in

"Such eligible tournaments within this new qualifying period should preferably take place in the same corresponding week from 2020 to 2021. "If this is not possible, the BWF

will allow sanctioning another date within Week 1-17 in 2021 subject to approval."

The BWF also said that the ranking points gathered by players in the completed tournaments during the qualification phase which was between April 29, 2019 to April 26, 2020 will be maintained.

The governing body had last week unveiled a revised calendar for

the remainder of 2020 to salvage the

disruption-hit season. However, the BWF made it clear that those tournaments won't be included in the Olympic quali-

"Tournaments rescheduled for the end of 2020 outlined in the revamped BWF Tournament Calendar 2020 released last week will not count towards qualification. Only the 2021 editions of each tournament," it said.

The BWF also said that "players from China and Hong Kong will be eligible to earn points from the 2021 Badminton Asia Team Championships as they "were not able to participate in the 2020 Badminton Asia Team Championships in Manila due to Covid-19 travel restrictions imposed on athletes from those nations and territories by the Government of the Philippines."

PL clubs vote to resume contact training

Premier League clubs voted unanimously on Wednesday to resume

contact training as the English top-flight took a significant step towards a possible restart in June. Clubs returned to training in small and

socially distanced groups last week but they have now moved to stage two of the "return to training protocol". "Premier League sharehold-

ers today (Wednesday) voted unanimously to resume contact training, marking another step towards restarting the Premier League season, when safe to do so," the league said in a state-"Squads are now able to

train as a group and engage in tackling while minimising any unnecessary close contact."



towards resuming the season, when conditions allow." The small number of posi-

tive tests from the first two rounds of testing at Premier League clubs has raised hopes of a return next month.

Eight cases of coronavirus among players and staff have been detected from 1,744 tests in the Premier League.

Bayern close on Bundesliga title after 1-0 win against Dortmund

DORTMUND (AFP): Joshua Kimmich described his winning goal as "brutally important" after Bayern Munich took a huge step towards an eighth straight Bundesliga title on Tuesday with a 1-0 win at Borussia Dortmund to leave them seven points clear at the top with just six games left.

Kimmich's brilliant effort came just before half-time behind closed doors at Signal Iduna Park as hosts Dortmund missed the chance to turn up the heat on the Bavarians without



the backing of their huge sup-

"It was brutally important: I looked around to see if everyone understood how important it was, Kimmich said of his deft chip. Kimmich's captain

Manuel Neuer echoed the defensive midfielder's thoughts. That was a very important sign," said Neuer. Bayern won 4-0 when the teams met in Munich in November and they

record against second-placed Dortmund. 'Now only Bayern can decide what happens," said

frustrated Dortmund cap-

tain Mats Hummels Dortmund's star teenage striker, Erling Braut Haaland, who had scored ten goals in as many league games, failed to make an impact against Bayern's watertight

defence before going off injured

in the second half. Jerome Boateng and David

Alaba gave him no room, while Kimmich and Leon Goretzka in midfield made sure passes intended for him rarely met their mark. The Norway forward limped off with 20 minutes left after a heavy tackle from Boateng. Elsewhere,

Leverkusen dropped to fifth after being routed 4-1 at home by Wolfsburg, whose defender Marin Pongracic claimed two goals. It was a shock defeat at home for Peter Bosz-coached Leverkusen who had won their previous 12 games. Moenchengladbach

fourth with a goalless draw at second-from-bottom Werder Bremen, who are two points from safety. Eintracht Frankfurt took a point at home in a 3-3 draw with Freiburg thanks to late

goals by Timothy Chandler and

Japan striker Daichi Kamada.

climbed over Leverkusen into

to discover season fate **AFP** ■ ROME

Serie A's hopes of follow-ing Germany and Spain back onto the pitch will be decided on Thursday in a meeting the Italian Government which will determine the fate of the season in Italy. Minister Sports

Vincenzo Spadafora will tell representatives from the Italian football federation and Lega Serie A if the health conditions are right to return to action after nearly three months. Clubs returned to group training on May 19

but competitive action

remains suspended until

mid-June.

The indications are that and the Sovernment's Scientific Technical Committee will

agree to both implementing a health protocol and to resume the season. If there is a

Serie A meeting Italian Govt

green light on Thursday, Lega Serie
A will meet on Friday to examine "the different calendar hypotheses" for the remaining Serie A and

Italian Cup matches. The league wants competition to resume on the weekend of June 13-14, starting with four postponed fixtures — Atalanta-Sassuolo, Verona-Cagliari, Inter

Milan-Sampdoria and Torino-

They hope the season will resume fully on June 20, with the

goal of awarding the league title, defining promotions and relegations, before playing Italian Cup semi-finals, with the final in early August.

The closing stages of the European club competitions could also be played in August. Three Italian clubs are still in the Champions League and two in the Europa League.

On Friday, the Plan B will also be analysed at the Lega Serie A meeting, a format with short playoffs to determine the title, European places and relegation, if the season is again suspended, or all the matches not

Mbappe praises Klopp

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe has lavished praise on Premier League giants Liverpool and their manager Jurgen Klopp amid rumours that he wants a move away from Parc des Princes. Mbappe feels Klopp has

converted Liverpool into a ruthless machine that keeps on churning out positive results day in day out. This season, Liverpool have been a machine in the Premier League. They have

truth is that it is never easy," Mbappe was quoted as saying by mirror.co.uk. "Performances like they

have been having don't just happen. To be as ruthless as they have been would come from lots of hard work in training and from having a very good manager," he added.

made winning look easy but the