

OPINION 6

STRATEGIC
STALEMATE

MONEY 9

SENSEX EXTENDS GAINS,
RECLAIMS 32,000-MARK

SPORT 12

PREMIER LEAGUE TO
RESTART ON JUNE 17

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MAY 29, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 148
*Air Surcharge Extra if ApplicableMALAIKA SHARES
HER MORNING
RITUAL
10 VIVACITY

Ensure free travel for migrants: SC

Stranded workers must be provided with food and water, States/UTs told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ten days after it junked a PIL on the plight of migrant workers, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed that no train or bus fare be charged from the migrant workers stranded across the country and they be provided food and water.

Between then and now, dozens of migrant workers were mowed down by trains and buses or were found dead inside trains while returning to their home States.

The SC, which passed interim directions, said all migrant workers who are stranded shall be provided food by concerned States and Union Territories (UTs) at places which shall be publicised and notified to them for the period they are waiting for their turn to board a train or a bus.

A Bench headed by Justice



Cadets of Scouts & Guides (not seen in the photo) provide drinking water to the migrants sitting in a Shramik Special train for their native places, during ongoing Covid-19 lockdown at Mathura Railway Station on Thursday

Ashok Bhushan said the originating State shall provide meals and water at the station

and during the journey while the Railways would provide the same to the migrant workers. It

said food and water be also provided to them for travel in buses.

The Bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and MR Shah, directed that States to oversee the registration of migrant workers and ensure that they are made to board the train or bus at the earliest.

The top court said complete information in this regard should be publicised to all concerned.

The court observed that it is presently concerned with the miseries and difficulty faced by the migrants workers who are trying to get to their native places. It said though there is no doubt that State Governments and UTs are taking steps, several lapses have been issued in the process of registration, transportation and providing food water to the migrants

Earlier, the apex court asked some questions from the Centre on the plight of

migrant workers ranging from as to how long they will have to wait before going to their native places to who will pay for their travel and provide them food and shelter.

The court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, about the confusion over the payment of travel fare of stranded migrant workers and said that they should not made to pay for their journey back home.

"What is the normal time? If a migrant is identified, there must be some certainty that he will be shifted out within one week or ten days at most? What is that time? There had been instances where one State sends migrants but at the border another State says we are not accepting the migrants. We need a policy on this," the Bench told Mehta.

Continued on Page 2

We're engaged, India rejects US offer on China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after US President Donald Trump offered to mediate between India and China in what he termed a "raging border dispute," New Delhi on Thursday virtually rejected the US proposal saying it was "engaged" with Beijing at diplomatic level to resolve the issue "peacefully."

Making the Indian stand clear, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "Our engagement on the diplomatic front continues both in Delhi as well as in Beijing."

India and China, he said, have engagements both at the military level as well as diplomatic levels. The two nations have signed several protocols on maintaining peace and tranquility at the border. There are many agreements on this issue.

"Our troops have taken a very responsible approach towards border management. They scrupulously follow the guidance provided by our leadership. At the same time, we will defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity," he added.

The US President in a tweet message from Washington had said, "We have informed both India and China that the United States is ready, willing and able to mediate or arbitrate their now raging border dispute."

Besides indicating that the LAC dispute was a bilateral issue and there was no need for third party interference, India on Thursday also said the two countries (India and China) have established a mechanism to resolve the situation peacefully through dialogue.

Sources also said talks at the local military level between commanders of the two armies are also on. In fact, more than seven rounds of talks were held in the last fortnight but could not achieve a breakthrough.

The armies of India and China are involved in face-offs at four places for the last 25 days or so in Eastern Ladakh. The Chinese army has also intruded into the Hot Spring area near Galwan valley and reinforced its troop strength to over 5,000 in total at all the stand-off locations.

Continued on Page 2



In this file photo, an Indian Army truck crosses Chang la pass near Pangong Lake in Ladakh region

Delhi, Bengal, Kerala see biggest single-day spike

For second consecutive day, India reports highest number of cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi, West Bengal and Kerala reported their biggest single day spike on Thursday and with Maharashtra recording yet another day of huge surge in number of cases and death it was the second consecutive day when the country recorded biggest spike of 7,228 cases.

Delhi reported 1,024 new cases and 13 deaths on Thursday and this is for the first time that the national Capital has reported more than 1,000 cases. Other than Maharashtra, only Gujarat, and now Delhi have reported 1,000 plus cases in a day. Delhi has now 16,281 confirmed cases with a death count of 316.

After the development in Delhi, the Haryana Government decided to seal its borders with the national Capital.

"We will keep our border with Delhi completely sealed due to increasing Covid-19 cases," Haryana Minister Anil Vij said.

After reporting between 2,000 and 2,200 cases for the three days, Maharashtra logged in 2,598 new Covid-19 cases on

Thursday, taking the total number of coronavirus cases almost to 60,000 in the State at 59,546. The toll in the State also rose to 1,982 after 85 casualties were reported in the last 24 hour.

Reports said 36 new cases of coornavirus were reported in Mumbai's Dharavi in the last 24 hours. The total number of cases rose to 1,675 on Thursday in the densely-populated area.

West Bengal, which is battling with coronavirus and destruction cause by Amphan cyclone, reported 344 new coronavirus cases which is the highest single-day spike in



The driver of an ambulance returns after helping cremate the body of a woman who died of Covid 19 in New Delhi on Thursday

cases so far. The total number of cases in the State rose to 4,536, which includes 2,573 active cases and 1,668 discharges.

Kerala is losing the initial advantage it had scored in the battle against the pandemic. The number of persons tested positive for coronavirus in the State on Thursday is an all time high, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

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Amit Shah speaks to CMs, seeks views on extension of lockdown

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to all Chief Ministers on Thursday, and sought their views on extension of the ongoing nationwide lockdown beyond May 31, officials said.

The telephonic conversations of the Home Minister came just three days before the end of the fourth phase of the lockdown.

The nationwide curbs was first imposed on March 25 to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, and has been extended thrice.

Pulwama-2 terror bid foiled, forces seize IED-laden car

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces, aided by intelligence agencies, on Thursday prevented a repeat of Pulwama type "audacious" terror strike on the convoy of security forces by timely detecting a vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (IED), fitted with at least 40-45 kg of explosives, in Ayengund area of Rajpora in Pulwama district.

Police suspected involvement of local commanders of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) along with Hizbul Mujahideen behind the sinister plot to avenge recent killings of their top commanders, including Riyaz Naiko and Junaid Sehrai, in anti-terrorist operations in the Kashmir valley.



Paramilitary soldiers stand guard near a checkpoint in Srinagar on Thursday

According to official sources, the explosive-laden car, bearing a fake registration number JK08B-1426, was detonated by the Bomb Disposal Squad causing extensive damage to window panes of local

houses in the area early Thursday morning.

Late on Wednesday, several residents were escorted to safer places before detonating the vehicle-borne IED.

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K'taka suspends flights from 5 hotspot States

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka Government on Thursday pitched for down scaling air travel from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, saying a large number of people arriving from these States have tested positive for Covid-19 and it would be difficult to manage quarantine if more arrived.

Karnataka Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy said the Government has decided to "suspend" air traffic from these States. "People are coming from other States to Karnataka.... We have decided to suspend air traffic from five States, as cases here (Karnataka) may further increase," he said.

In the statement released later, he clarified that the Government has not sought a ban on flights emanating from these five States.

"Karnataka has appealed to the Civil Aviation Ministry to take steps to lessen the air traffic to the State, with the sacred intention that there may not be adequate quarantine facilities, if there is huge turn out at a short span of time, he said.

Domestic air travel resumed in the country only on Monday after nearly two months of Covid-19 induced lockdown with Karnataka stipulating seven days institutional quarantine for passengers coming from seven States, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and MP.

Continued on Page 2

Staggered entry, no group lunch, no central ACs for Govt offices

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

For the next few months, there has to be no group lunch, entry to the offices through multiple gates, no loitering through the corridors of Shastri Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan, Rail Bhawan, Sena Bhawan, Nirman Bhawan, etc, and above all no use of central air conditioning system for the Central Government staffers. These guidelines of Union Government will come into force when the lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 is diluted or lifted and the Government departments work in full strength.

The Centre on Thursday issued a new set of guidelines which says centralised ACs may not be used for time



being, if possible. While it has suggested that employees should take entry into the building through different gates in a staggered manner, it has also advised people to take stairs, or if using lifts, then physical distance of six feet has to be ensured. The rules also say that only four people can occupy lift for one travel and that the occupants should face the wall of the lift and avoid

talking.

While wearing of mask, use of soap and sanitisers at every interval is a must, the new office memorandum notified by the Health Ministry also says that the movement of "physical" receipts and files should be discouraged so as to avoid the infection through frequent touching of papers. As much as possible, employees should avoid using other employees' phones, office paraphernalia like desks and tools and equipment.

The guidelines ask the employees to avoid group lunches. It says that the lunch timing may be staggered as much as possible and has prohibited loitering and crowding in the corridors of the office premises.

CAPSULE

MONSOON ONSET OVER KERALA LIKELY ON JUNE 1

New Delhi: The southwest monsoon is likely to hit Kerala on June 1, thanks to a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal, the IMD said.

SAMBIT HOSPITALISED WITH COVID SYMPTOMS

New Delhi: BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra was admitted to a private hospital in Gurugram on Thursday after he showed symptoms of Covid-19.

DMK SAYS POWER BILL AGAINST FEDERALISM

Chennai: Barring against any move to halt free electricity, DMK president MK Stalin on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the proposed Electricity Bill 2020 as it "encroached" the rights of the States and went "against the principles of federalism."

50 dists in 6 States under attack of Pak locusts

Crops on 15 lakh acres affected across six States since Dec last

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



This grab made from Wednesday video provided by KK Productions shows locusts swarming over city and nearby area in Indore

is reported as sowing has not taken place in most of the areas and harvest of winter crops is over.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government in Madhya Pradesh is planning to declare the locust swarm attacks as natural disaster, following a survey on the losses.

Haryana on Thursday issued high alert in 10 districts for farmers while Odisha and Chhattisgarh also issued advisories to farmers.

Delhi's neighbouring region Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram have also issued advisories to this effect.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi Govt orders pesticide spray to protect standing crops, vegetation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday issued an advisory asking authorities concerned to spray insecticides and pesticides on standing crops, vegetation, gardens and orchards to prevent an imminent attack by the swarm of locusts, informed Development Minister Gopal Rai in a tweet.

"As the swarm of locusts flies in daytime, and rests during the night, it should not be allowed to rest at night," the advisory read.

Detailed report on P3

Sonia launches 'Speak Up India' to highlight migrant labourers' plight

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Thursday launched a massive social media campaign — Speak Up India movement — to draw attention of the Centre to the plight of migrant labourers and raise public support for their help.

Blaming the Centre for turning a blind eye to the misery of millions of helpless workers, Congress president Sonia Gandhi said the Congress has launched the campaign to provide a platform for the "voiceless". The campaign was simultaneously launched on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, etc.

In addition to Sonia, other senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi,



Congress president Sonia Gandhi delivers a video message as part of the the party's Speak Up India campaign, in New Delhi on Thursday

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and P Chidambaram, posted their messages on social media.

Sonia, in her video message, charged that the Central Government has failed to

address the immediate needs and concerns of the labourers and workers while many jobs were lost, workplaces were shut down, farmers were made to struggle to sell their crops due to the ill-conceived lockdown.

She suggested the Centre to directly transfer cash to migrants and poor families and financial relief to MSMEs.

"Put direct cash of ₹7,500 per month in the account of every family for the next six months and provide ₹10,000 immediately; ensure safe and free travel of labourers back home, employment opportunity and rations; and also increase the number of work-days under MNREGA to 200 days to facilitate jobs in villages," said Sonia.

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Workers reach Patna after ‘ride’ of a lifetime

Patna/New Delhi: Would they be allowed to enter with slippers? What would happen when the plane takes off? Would they be safe? The questions raced through the minds of 10 migrants on Thursday as they readied to fly home from New Delhi to Bihar, an unforgettable first flight made possible by the generosity of their employer, a farmer in the national Capital.

Getting through airport formalities was intimidating but they had help from an official who guided them till the plane. Excited, nervous and a little panicky as they settled in their seats, many closed their eyes as the plane taxied and then tilted sharply at take-off, Naveen Ram, among the 10 workers taking their debut flight, told PTI after landing in Patna.

Some of them put their heads down on the table in front as the plane steadied in the skies, not daring to look out of the window even when the flight landed, Naveen said.

All 10 farm workers, stuck in Delhi because of the coronavirus forced lockdown, belong to Samastipur in Bihar. They had never dreamed they would get on a plane but they did thanks to Pappan Singh, a mushroom farmer in Delhi's Tigipur village, who bought their tickets.

Recounting the experiences of the morning, one which they will remember all their lives, Naveen said people at the Delhi airport were looking at them when they entered carrying jute bags and wearing slippers.

"We were not well-dressed like others. We didn't know what we should do next after entering the airport because it was our first experience of travelling in a plane. We took the help of an airline official," the 27-year-old said.

A reporter from PTI, which first reported their story, helped arrange for an official to escort them through the airport and complete the formalities.

Naveen, too, did not look out when the plane was taking off and landing.

"We had been wanting to meet our families for some time but could not do so because of the lockdown. None of us had ever thought that we would be going home in a plane one day," he said.

But that was not the end of the thrilling ride for the group, catapulted to national news at a time when migrant stories are made of arduous journeys battling hunger and heat on foot, cycle, bus or train.

Several mediapersons were waiting to interview them when they landed at Patna after the 6 am flight from Delhi, said Naveen's fellow traveller and co-worker Jitender Ram.

"We never expected to get so much attention. Yesterday, my friend phoned me, saying he was watching me on a news channel. We will always remember such a wonderful experience," Jitender said. **PTI**

350 Indians evacuated from B'desh through land route

PTI ■ DHAKA

A group of 350 Indian Nationals, mostly medical students, who were stranded in Bangladesh, on Thursday returned home through the north-eastern frontiers, the first such land-crossing since the Covid-19 outbreak in the region.

The Indian nationals, mostly from the northeastern states, crossed the border through the three checkpoints on the borders with Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura.

"This is the first land crossing of our nationals from Bangladesh during the pandemic," Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Riva Ganguly Das said as she saw off them at one of the three check posts on India-Bangladesh borders. The Indian High Commissioner visited the Indian nationals going to Tripura through the Akhaura-Agartala Integrated Check Post and interacted with them.

Maha witnesses 85 more deaths, 2,598 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With no let up in the growing curve of fatalities and infections, 85 more people succumbed to Covid-19 and 2,598 others tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State on Thursday.

On a day when the total numbers deaths rose from 1,897 to 1,982 and infected cases jumped from 56,948 to 59,546 in Maharashtra, coronavirus claimed 85 more lives and left 2,598 people infected, in a clear indication of the pandemic had slowly begin to peak in the State.

With 18,616 patients having been discharged from various hospitals, the State health authorities pegged the total active cases in the state at 38,939.

For the last three days, there have been a total of 287 deaths in Maharashtra. On May 26 (Tuesday) the state had witnessed 97 deaths, while there were 105 deaths on Wednesday. Thursday's Covid-19 toll is 85.

Of the total deaths reported on Thursday, Mumbai accounted for 38 deaths, while there were 10 deaths in Pune, nine in Satara, seven in Solapur, five in Akola, four in Vasai-Virar, three in Aurangabad, two in Navi Mumbai, one each in Raigad, Jalgaon and Nanded.

Of the dead, 60 were men while 25 were women. Forty five of them were aged over 60 years, 31 were from the age group 40 to 59 years and 9 were aged below 40 years.

Delhi Govt...

From Page 1

Joint Director, Agriculture Department, AP Saini in the advisory issued on Wednesday asked the authorities to organise awareness programmes for public and farmers to prevent the attack of locusts in the national Capital. It asked the authorities to carry out spraying of pesticides chlorpyrifos and malathion. Also, Delhi's forest department is considering covering the saplings in its nurseries with polythene to protect them against the desert locust attack.

"It is not possible to cover the trees. We will at least cover the saplings in the nurseries," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ishwar Singh said.

"Covering plants with polythene can also counter-productive during this heat. So, we will do this only when we know for sure that the swarm of locusts is headed towards Delhi," the official said.

K'taka...


From Page 1

During the media interaction, Madhuswamy also said the existing restrictions on entry of people by road from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat into Karnataka would continue until further orders.

"...Because large number of people who have come from these states have tested positive and it will be difficult to manage quarantine if more people come. Until some people who are currently in quarantine go home after their quarantine period ends, we have decided to stop (arrivals) by imposing restriction," the Minister added.

Karnataka had on May 18 barred entry of people from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, which have COVID-19 cases in five figures.

The government is likely to decide on allowing trains from these states once the services resume on June 1.



ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Finance Limited

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat – 362 266
CIN NO. : U65990GJ1991PLC064603

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, UCO Bank Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 dated 15.01.2020 Calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers of M/s Saket Industries through its Co-Borrower namely Mr. Javed Mohammad, Mr. Feroz Mohammad, Mrs. Noor Jahan, Mrs. Farzana Hasan, M/s J. K. Enterprises to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,19,61,990/- (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakhs Sixty one Thousand and Nine Hundred ninety Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rule on this 27th Day of May of the year Two Thousand and Twenty.

The borrower/ Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, UCO Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 for an amount Rs.1,19,61,990/- (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakhs Sixty one Thousand and Nine Hundred Ninety Only) and interest thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :-

Immovable Property Equitable Mortgage of Property/Plot bearing no. 57, Ground Floor, Block-E, Vipul World, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 and, The Property/Plot bearing no. 50, 2nd Floor, Block-E, Sector-48, Gurgaon, Haryana-121001

ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED

PLACE : Gurgaon

DATE : 28-05-2020

Sd/-

AUTHORIZED OFFICER

CANCELLATION OF PARCEL EXPRESS TRAINS

The following Parcel Express Trains will remain cancelled, as detailed under :-

Train No.	From-To	Cancelled Upto	Extended Cancellation
00309 / 00310	Howrah-New Delhi-Howrah	From Howrah-26.05.2020 From New Delhi-28.05.2020	From Howrah-30.05.2020 From New Delhi-30.05.2020
00307 / 00308	Howrah-CSMT-Howrah	From Howrah-26.05.2020 From CSMT-25.05.2020	From CSMT-30.05.2020
00311 / 00312	Sealdah-New Delhi-Sealdah	From Sealdah-27.05.2020 From New Delhi-26.05.2020	From Sealdah-29.05.2020 & 31.05.2020 From New Delhi-29.05.2020 & 31.05.2020
00321 / 00322	Howrah-Muzaffarpur-Howrah	From Howrah-27.05.2020 From Muzaffarpur-28.05.2020	From Howrah-31.05.2020 From Muzaffarpur-01.06.2020
00463 / 00464	Howrah-Amritsar-Howrah	From Howrah-31.05.2020 From Amritsar-31.05.2020	From Howrah-31.05.2020 From Amritsar-31.05.2020

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

क्रमांक / रा.न्या.वि.प्र / M-2171 / 2020 दिनांक 22.05.2020

// निविदा //

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर के रसायन शाखा हेतु निम्नांकित उपकरणों का क्रय किया जाना है, जिसके लिए निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है:-

S. No.	Name of Instrument
01	UV Vis Spectrophotometer
02	Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy-Mass Spectroscopy (GC-MS-MS)

निविदा जारी करने की तिथि : दिनांक 26.05.2020

निविदा फार्म प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि : दिनांक 01.07.2020 सायं 05:00 बजे तक

निविदा फार्म जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि : दिनांक 09.07.2020 दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक

निविदा खोलने की तिथि : दिनांक 09.07.2020 सायं 04:00 बजे

विस्तृत विवरण राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला टिकरापारा, पुजारी पार्क के पास रायपुर (छ.ग.) पिन कोड-492001, दूरभाष (कार्यालय) 0771-4043342 / 4069791 कार्यालय के वेबसाइट www.fsl.cg.nic.in से आनलाईन आवेदन का विस्तृत जानकारी एवं निविदा फार्म प्राप्त (डाउनलोड) किया जा सकता है। निविदा फार्म प्राप्त करने के लिए संचालक, राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला रायपुर के नाम से बैंक ड्राफ्ट रु. 1000/- (एक हजार रुपये मात्र) का किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक से बनवाकर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। (संचालक महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित)

हस्ता/-

हेतु-संचालक

R.O. No.:- 810466

R.O. Date :- 26/05/2020

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE (WALK-IN-INTERVIEW)

Online applications are invited on short notice, on first come first serve basis, for the posts of House Officers / Junior Residents (MBBS) for various specialties at Govt. Medical College Doda, on following terms and conditions:-

That an applicant should produce:

1. Date of Birth certificate., 2. MBBS Certificate., 3. Attempt Certificate., 4. Internship Completion Certificate., 5. MCI/ State Med Council certificate., 6. Merit Certificate if any., 7. Certificate of extra co-curricular activities/ sports if any issued by the competent authority., 8. Affidavit of character and antecedents.

The above mentioned certificates along with applications should be mailed to the undersigned on principalgmc@doda@gmail.com on or before 2nd of June 2020. The orders shall be issued on 3rd June 2020, as per requirement. Selected candidates shall have to join within seven (7) days of issuing of orders. Any candidate who is quarantined on arrival at Doda for joining, that period shall be counted on duty.

ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD MENTION THEIR MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

No. DIP/J-909/20

Dated: 27.05.2020

Sd/- (Dr. Tariq Parvez Azad)

Principal

Ensure free...

From Page 1

The Bench, questioning him over the travel-fare for the migrants, said, "In our country, the middlemen will always be there. But we don't want middlemen to interfere when it comes to payment of fares. There has to be a clear policy as to who will pay for their travel."

At the outset, Mehta submitted a preliminary report and said between May 1 and 27 total 3,700 special trains have been run for carrying migrant labourers and many have been shifted by road to bordering states. He said 91 lakh migrant workers have been shifted to their native places till Wednesday.

Questioning the delay over transportation of migrants, the Bench said it is a major problem and many have been waiting for weeks after their registration for journey to their native places. The top court said food needs are to be provided to the migrant workers by the originating State or the Centre, as the question of receiver state providing the food would come only after they reach there.

A different Bench of the same apex court has ten days ago refused to entertain a PIL contending that the court cannot

stop migrant workers from walking on the roads or on railway tracks.

"How can anybody stop this when they sleep on tracks? There are people walking and not stopping. How can we stop it?" the Bench had observed when the petitioner pointed to the Aurangabad accident in which 16 migrants were run over by goods train when they were asleep on the track.

The three-judge Bench, in a U-turn of sorts, stated it was time "to extend a helping hand to these migrant labourers".

The SC has faced much criticism for not taking up the migrant issue even as several High Courts made scathing observations against the Governments over the plight of the migrant workers.

Terming it as human tragedy, the Madras High Court had said, "One cannot control his/her tears after seeing the pathetic condition of migrant labourers shown in the media for the past one month."

The Andhra Pradesh High Court was equally forthcoming on this matter. "If at this stage, this court does not react and pass these orders, this court would be falling in its role as a protector and alleviator of suffering. Their pain has to be alleviated at this stage," it said.

50 dists in 6 States under attack of Pak...

From Page 1

Interestingly, India has taken up the locust issue with Pakistan, but there has been no response from Pakistan yet.

According to Locusts Warning Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture, the bigger problem will come once the present swarms breed. An adult female locust lays 80-90

eggs thrice in her three-month life cycle. If left uncontrolled, a swarm can grow exponentially to 40-80 million locusts per square kilometer.

Farmers are worried as the pest could damage their summer kharif crops during the peak season of July-August-September. Farmers have been advised to play loud music to drive the insects away and save crops. Locusts don't attack animals or humans but can devastate crops and other areas of greenery.

LWO's Deputy Director KL Gurjar said there being no crops in the fields, the locusts have moved across States attracted by green cover. "The bigger problem will come once the present swarms breed. An adult female locust lays 80-90 eggs thrice in her three-month life cycle. If left uncontrolled, a swarm can grow exponentially to 40-80 million locusts per square kilometer," officials said. The locusts will start laying eggs after the monsoon starts and continue breeding for two more months, with newer generations rising during the growth phase of the kharif crop.

The first swarms were sighted along the India-Pakistan border in December last year months ahead of the usual time of arrival.

The Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday informed that locust control operations have been stepped up in affected States to combat the menace. So far, 89 fire brigades for pesticide spray; 120 survey vehicles; 47 control vehicles with spray equipments and 810 tractor mounted sprayers have been deployed for effective locust control. It will also deploy drones in the work.

Assam reports 2nd death due to flood, 3 lakh affected in nine districts

Guwahati: One more person died due to floods in Assam on Thursday, which inundated nine districts affecting nearly three lakh people and destroying over 21,500 hectares of farmland, an official bulletin said here.

Flood water has receded from two districts. On Wednesday, 11 districts were flooded affecting 2.72 lakh people, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin.

A total of 2,94,170 people are now reeling under the impact of the deluge in Dhemaji, Nagaon, Hajo, Darrang, Nalbari, Goalpara, West Karbi Anglong, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts, it said adding that water has receded in Lakhimpur and Barpeta.

The ASDMA bulletin said the first wave of the flood this monsoon has so far claimed two lives in worst-hit Goalpara district where 2.01 lakh people were affected.

The Brahmaputra river is flowing above the danger marks at Neamatighat in Jorhat district and Kopili in Nagaon, it said. The NDRF and SDRF have rescued 492 people in Goalpara, West Karbi Anglong and Hajo districts. **PTI**

We're engaged...

From Page 1

The Chinese are objecting to the construction of a bridge at the strategically important 250 km road running parallel to the LAC in the Galwan valley. However, India has maintained that the road is well within its territory and does not violate the LAC in any way.

Pulwama-2 terror...

From Page 1

On Thursday, Srinagar based local teams of National Investigation Agency (NIA) and sleuths of central intelligence agencies also visited the spot to carry out their separate assessment. Forensic teams of Jammu & Kashmir police also lifted different samples to carry out investigations in the cases.

Briefing media persons in Srinagar, Inspector-General of

The Chinese have built bunkers on its side close to the LAC besides bringing forward heavy vehicles like armoured personnel carriers and increasing aerial vigil through more helicopter sorties.

Amidst the temperature rising at the LAC due to these transgressions, Chinese envoy to New Delhi Sun Weidong on Wednesday said "communication" was the way forward to end the eyeball to eyeball confrontation at the border.

His Government in Beijing also said the same day the situation on the border was "stable and controllable" adding both the countries have proper mechanisms and communication channels to resolve the issues through dialogue and consultation.

Police Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar said, "The terrorists of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) supported by IED experts of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were working together to replicate the Pulwama type terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel had sacrificed their lives on February 14, 2019".

Kumar said, "The police were receiving inputs since a week that HM and JeM terrorists were planning to launch

a big suicidal strike against security forces using car bomb. When the input matured on Wednesday, we developed it and multiple security check points of Army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir police were activated in Pulwama".

He further said that late Wednesday when the suspected car reached a security check point the security forces fired some warning shots, but the terrorists turned the car away and fled.



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Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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


S.No.	Job No. / Work name	Amount
1	44/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o R.S.P., 45 mtr wide road Sector-151 to 153 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 36.93 Lacs
2	46/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o R.S.P. Sector-150 Near Golchakkar Express Highway	Cost Rs. 25.47 Lacs
3	47/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o R.S.P. 45 mtr road sector-140 with Two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 25.73 Lacs
4.	48/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o R.S.P Sector-151 & 155	Cost Rs. 27.13 Lacs
5.	49/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o Park Sector-155	Cost Rs. 29.66 Lacs
6.	50/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o R.S.P Express Highway 45 mtr wide road LHS, 17.50 Km to 20 Km. Both side.	Cost Rs. 47.03 Lacs
7.	53/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o Sector-85 (A-1 to A-4 B-24 to 36, C-20 to 26, C-1 to C-12 Centrell Verge)	Cost Rs. 35.38 Lacs
8.	54/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o R.S.P, Along with Village Mohiyapur (Shivji Mandir)	Cost Rs. 33.77 Lacs
9.	55/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o R.S.P, Express Highway, LHS 45 mtr wide road in front of Village Nalgarka Sector-145	Cost Rs. 32.90 Lacs
10	56/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o R.S.P, Express Highway, 45 mtr wide road LHS, 15 Km. to 17.50 Km in front of Sector-146	Cost Rs. 47.03 Lacs
11	58/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, Two year M/o R.S.P, Express Highway, 45 mtr wide road, Both side of Village Jhatta Badoli	Cost Rs. 36.16 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 15.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 16.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office : Sector-39

Director (Hort.) Noida

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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum no.2

Regarding E-tender notice no. M/C&W/41/2019-20 dt. 30-03-2020 published by Mech. C&W/BSB

Published Information: Date of opening of tender Date 27-05-2020.

Corrected Information: Date of opening of tender Dt. 08-06-2020

Note:- All other conditions related to this tender will remain unchanged. The above amendment can be viewed on the IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. Through this information, it is also conveyed that in view of the spread of Corona virus across the country, the work of the courts is interrupted at present. In this situation Railway Board letter no. 2018/CE-1/CT/37/GCC/ Policy New Delhi dated 12-05-2020, it has been directed that if the tenderer cannot enclose the notarized affidavit, he can attach or download the facts related to the affidavits in the tender forms by automatically certifying them. This information is also being displayed on the respective website.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer CPRO/Yantrik-22 (C&W) Varanasi

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

PUBLIC NOTICE



My Client Purushottam Yadav S/o Shri Ajit Ram R/o N-41, Prem Nagar-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086, has disowned/debarred his son Sunil Yadav and his wife Smt. Kiran Devi from his movable, immovable property and has served all connections due to his misbehavior and out of control. Anybody dealing or police case with them my client shall not be responsible for his act and conduct

Mahender Kumar (Advocate)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

ई-निविदा सूचना

मण्डल रेल प्रबंधक, इंडीनिगरि, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निष्पत्ति प्रक्रां में निविदा निम्न कार्य के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) ई-निविदा सूचना 2020-21: 62, कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Zone contract Zone- 6: Residential Building Old & New Loco Colony, Water supply zonal work for residential staff Quarters & Bungalows at JU under ADEN/ HQ/ Jodhpur for Year 2020 to 2022. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 2,00,23,902.60/- बयाना राशि: ₹ 2,50,100/- (2) ई-निविदा सूचना 2020-21: 63, कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Providing Platform Shelter of small sizes at various stations of division to make good MEA requirement in Jodhpur Division (7 stations in SRDEN East Jurisdiction). अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 48,322.31/- बयाना राशि: ₹ 97,900/- निविदा सूचना संख्या 2020-21/ 62 से 63 तक निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 19.06.2020 को 15:00 बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है- www.ireps.gov.in 527-DK/20

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Govt issues advisory to deal with locust attack

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to deal with possible locust attack, the Delhi Government has issued advisory asking authorities to spray insecticides and pesticides on crops, vegetation, gardens and orchards.

Cabinet Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said that in view of the increasing threat of locusts in north India, the agriculture department of the

Delhi Government will run awareness programmes to make the people and farmers of Delhi aware of this new threat.

“There are many north Indian states which are witnessing a massive locust attack and keeping in mind the situation the Delhi government has issued this advisory. Alerts and directions have been sent to the revenue commissioners, DMs and MCD commissioners regarding the matter,” he said.

The officials have been instructed to work proactively to ensure preparedness to deal with locust attack as not only the agriculture sector but horticulture sector like vegetation, plants, gardens, orchard etc has also been affected by the locust attack, he said.

It may be noted that India is battling the worst desert locust outbreak as swarms of locusts first attacked Rajasthan and have now spread to Punjab,

Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Rai also tweeted the circular issued by the Delhi government saying that all concerned authorities are advised to take preventive measures to control and eradicate the locusts to avoid devastating effect on standing agricultural and horticultural crops, vegetation, plants, gardens, orchard etc. in Delhi.

“As the swarm usually fly in

day time, and rest during night time therefore the locusts should not be allowed to rest especially during night,. It directed that awareness programmes be organised for the public and farmers to prevent and control any such invasion by locusts in Delhi,” it said.

The circular also said that the authorities may carry out spraying of insecticides or pesticides during the night.

Sensing the gravity of the

matter, states have stepped in and taken preventive measures suggesting farmers to spray their crops with a solution based on neem seeds extract mixing with water or they can also spray their crops with neem-based pesticides available in the market by mixing with water.

The centre has also stepped in to help states in dealing the menace.

NDMC seals its office after 4 test corona positive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after four employees of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), the civic body has sealed the entire building on Thursday and directed all the officers and employees to work from home for next two day and be available on mobile and email all the times.

In view of the employees working in accounts and commercial department of NDMC, reported corona virus (Covid-19) positive, the civic body has decided to seal the entire headquarters building in Palika Kendra, according to statement issued by NDMC.

“NDMC civil engineering department (building maintenance division) and public health department have carried out an extensive disinfection drive in Palika Kendra and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place offices. This disinfection drive will continued carry out for three times a day for next two days,” it said.

A team of 20 health workers led by NDMC officials of public health department

sprayed 100 liter disinfectant by Knapsack machines, it said, adding that one per cent sodium hypochlorite solution was used to disinfect the building and surroundings.

A senior NDMC official said that at least 4,000 litres water with bleaching through water tanker were used. This exercise has been carried out in addition to daily disinfection of building by civil engineering department through outsourced agency, he added.

The Covid-19 cell of NDMC is being intimidated the district authority to carry out the contact tracing as per standard operating procedure (SOP) for the staff of Palika Kendra and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place .

It is also directed to all people who were in close contact with affected person / employees to observe home quarantine procedure and report to district authority in case they become symptomatic.

The civic body has also advised all affected employees to inform director (welfare) in case any help is required.

Mosquito breeding reported in 2,644 households, say civic bodies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Municipal Corporations have reported mosquito breeding in 2,644 households in the national Capital and 2,675 legal notices issued this year for various violations, according to data released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

The dengue breeding checkers have checked 3988968 houses and also issued challans to 59 numbers of office and residential premises till May 23.

Also, the number of people suffering from dengue in Delhi has reached to 52 this year. Meanwhile, no further spike in cases of malaria and chikungunya reported.

According to the data, the number of people diagnosed with malaria and Chikungunya stand at 39 and 18 respectively.

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

A senior SDMC official said that all the preventive steps have been taken to reduce the cases. “The key to prevention of Dengue is ensuring

there is no clean stagnant water in homes and around, which does not allow the Aedes mosquitoes to breed, and therefore dengue cannot spread,” he said.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mosquito thrive even in dirty water. Doctors have advised people to take precautions and ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae around them. They have urged people to wear full-sleeves clothes and use mosquito nets.

The malaria parasite is transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitoes, which bite mainly between dusk and dawn. According to World Health Organisation malaria is caused by the protozoan parasite Plasmodium.

Man arrested for rash driving

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old man was arrested for allegedly driving rashly and misbehaving and threatening a couple after ramming his car into theirs in Delhi's Connaught Place.

The driver of the offending vehicle has been identified as Piyush, a resident of Defence Colony. Police has also recovered the car being driven at the time of incident from the possession of the accused.

According Eish Singhal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi district, the incident took place on Wednesday.

“A couple going towards their home reached the Minto Road traffic signal, Outer Circle, at around 6:40 PM and a car being driven in a rash and negligent manner hit their car,” said the DCP.

18 new Covid containment zones in G’gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

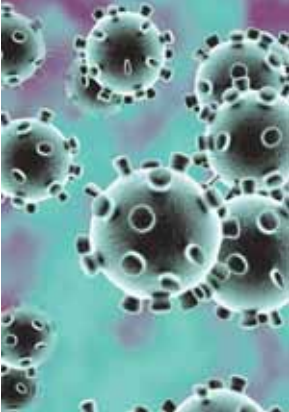
The number of containment zones in the district has increased to 63 from 45 on Thursday with new additions in the Gurugram district. The district administration added 18 areas in the district to the revised list of containment zones, while Dev Jewellery Shop, Ashok Vihar, Nandi Dham, Chhotu Ram Chank was de-notified after no Covid-19 cases were reported from there in the last 28 days.

However, based on the recommendations of the Containment Review

Committee, District Magistrate, Amit Khatri, in a four-page order, 60 containment zone have been set up in Gurugram block, 2 in Pataudi and one in Sohna. Thus a total of 63 containment zones have been made in the district.

Meanwhile, health officials have detected 30 new positive cases of coronavirus on Thursday including one death. With this, the total number of positive cases reached 367 in Gurugram including 171 active cases and 193 discharged from hospitals.

According to the health department officials, at least one Covid-19 case has been



reported in the last week from each of these new areas. As per the district health bulletin,

most of the persons recently infected with the coronavirus were people working in small factories, security guards, and domestic helpers who reside in high population density areas. Most of them had contracted the virus after coming in contact with a Covid-19 patient.

Of the 83 cases reported on May 26 to 28, Eight are the contacts of a high-risk a confirmed case in Rajendra Park area and Eight from Sector-18 and Sarhoul village, five from sector-10A, Four from Gandhi Nagar, three health workers, three from Shankar Chowk, two from Dundaheera, two from BSF camp Bhodsi and one

each from Gandhi Nagar, Hari Nagar, Ganga vihar, Ashok vihar, Acharyapuri, Jyoti Park, Sector-14, Chakkarpur, Basai Enclave and 12 police personnel who were posted in border areas like Kapashera, Dundaheera and Udyog vihar was also infected from the virus.

“As per the guidelines of the ministry of health and family welfare, we have declared the same number of buffer zones along every containment zones. The review of these containment zones will take place only after no case would appear in the next 28 days,” a health official said.

MARKAZ CASE: Police file 12 chargesheets against 541 foreigners

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday filed 12 chargesheets in a Delhi court against 541 foreign nationals from three countries for attending Markaz at Nizamuddin in national capital by violating visa conditions, indulging in missionary activities illegally and violating Government guidelines, issued in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak in the country.

The police filed the chargesheets before

Metropolitan Magistrate Archana Beniwal who put up the matter for consideration of the chargesheets on June 25.

Till date 47 charge sheets have been filed against 915 foreign nationals in the case.

According to the chargesheet filed on Thursday, 42 of the accused are from Malaysia, 85 from different parts of Kyrgystan and 414 from different parts of Indonesia.

According to the chargesheets, all 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.

They have also been for the offences under sections 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dan-

gerous 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 and relevant sections of the Foreigners Act.

The Centre has cancelled their Visa and blacklisted them. The foreign nationals have not been arrested yet.

Earlier, the police had filed 20 charge sheets against 82 foreigners from 20 countries on Tuesday and 15 on Wednesday against 294 from 14 countries in the case. The 294 foreigners

belonged to countries, including Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and several African nations.

Out of the 82 foreigners charge sheeted earlier, 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.

After being exposed to a

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

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 reli-

gious 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.

HC OK's shifting of 955 foreign Tablighis from quarantine centres to alternate accommodation

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday allowed shifting of 955 foreign nationals, who had participated in the religious congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz event, from institutional quarantine to an alternate place of accommodation.

A bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar, which conducted the hearing through video conferencing, disposed of two petitions filed by various foreign nationals and said all of them will be shifted from government's quarantine centers to nine designated places in the national capital as suggested by them.

The high court's order came after the Centre, Delhi government and Delhi Police did not object to the suggestion of petitioners' counsel for shifting the foreigners to alternate accommodation and that the financial burden will be borne by the community, Tablighi Jamaat.

The high court had earlier sought response of the authorities on a plea seeking release of 916 foreign nationals, who had participated in the religious congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz event and are held in institutional quarantine since March 30 despite being tested negative for COVID-19. Later, another similar petition was filed by various other foreign nationals.

The Revenue Department, in a status report filed through Delhi government standing counsel Rahul Mehra and advocate Chaitanya Gosain, gave its no objection for shifting the foreign nationals. Similarly, Delhi Police and Centre also verbally recorded



their no objection for it.

The high court was also informed that 47 charge sheets have been filed against the foreign nationals as of now in the trial court.

Senior advocate Rebecca John and lawyer Ashima Mandla, appearing for the petitioners, had sought that all foreign nationals who have been tested negative for Covid-19 and are in quarantine be released and sent to alternate places of accommodation and submitted the list.

The Delhi Police had earlier told the high court that it had neither arrested nor detained anyone in the case lodged against members of Tablighi Jamaat for participating in the religious congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz event during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The petitions had challenged a May 9 order of Delhi government's Department of Revenue which had directed for handing over of 567 foreign nationals, presently held in institutional quarantine, to the custody of Delhi Police after being tested negative for the virus.

The petitioners had said the order is ultra vires to the right to equality before law and

right to life and liberty.

The plea said FIRs were lodged by the Delhi Police in relation to the Markaz congregation against unknown persons.

It said the Delhi government's Revenue Department's order directing for handling over custody of 567 foreign nationals under institutional quarantine to the custody of the Delhi Police, upon being tested negative for Covid-19, is prima facie illegal and untenable in law.

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

In April, Covid cases in Delhi spiked after hundreds of many Tablighi Jamaat members, who had attended a large congregation in Nizamuddin, tested positive.

The other members were directly taken to quarantine centres to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Menstrual hygiene campaign launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to create awareness about menstrual hygiene with the help of civil society organisations, Department of Women and Child and Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) launched “Menstrual Hygiene Campaign” on Thursday on the occasion of ‘Menstrual Hygiene Day’.

Cabinet minister Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam inaugu-

rated the campaign.

In this week-long campaign, DCPCR will reach out to east and northeast districts of Delhi will distribute sanitary napkins to women and adolescent girls living in various JJ clusters, the Government said in a statement.

Through this campaign, the focus will be to ensure participation of not just women but also men in this conversation around menstruation and women's health, it said.

“Awareness regarding men-

strual health and hygiene needs to begin at the level of the family. Due to various socio-economic barriers, women especially adolescent girls living in slums and JJ clusters have bare minimum access to clean toilets and sanitation,” Gautam added.

The minister further said that the aim through this campaign is to not only distribute sanitary napkins but to also create awareness among families regarding menstrual hygiene. “We need to get rid of the stig-

ma which is attached to menstruation to have a society where both men and women have equal participation in public life,” he said.

In India, there is a lot of stigma around menstruation. Women are not allowed access to public spaces if they menstruating. In many cases, girls have to drop out of school or women have to quit their job due to lack of clean toilets and sanitation facilities which is essential during menstruation,” it added.



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DP/239/2020

Cabinet Secy reviews 13 worst-hit cities

Holds meeting with Chief Secretaries of States, 13 Municipal Commissioners and District Magistrates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Three days ahead of Lockdown-4 to end, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Thursday held a meeting with Chief Secretaries of States, and 13 Municipal Commissioners and District Magistrates of most Covid-19-affected cities.

These 13 cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, are having 70 per cent of the positive cases in India.

The meeting is seen important as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on May 31, Sunday through his radio talk Mann Ki Baat. As Prime Minister's address is not fixed on other days, it is widely expected that he will announce the way forward after May 31, the day the Lockdown-4 regulations ends.

"The meeting bears significance as these 13 cities are considered to be the worst Coronavirus-affected locations and constitute about 70 per



cent of the positive cases in the country. The 13 focus cities are Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi / New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Thane, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata / Howrah, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Jaipur, Jodhpur, Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur (Tamil Nadu)

The measures taken by the officials and the staff of the municipal corporations for the management of Covid-19 cases were reviewed in the meeting," the Cabinet Secretariat said in a statement.

Health Secretaries of the States also attended the high-level meeting chaired by Gauba. The Cabinet Secretary stressed for the containment of zones and demarcating these areas geographically for implementation of strict protocols to prevent the pandemic. He also

urged the States to doubling of the tests on people.

"Centre has stressed that containment zones are to be geographically defined based on factors like mapping of cases and contacts and their geographical dispersion. This would enable in demarcating a well defined perimeter and enforcing the strict protocol of lockdown. Municipal corporations can decide if residential colonies, mohallas, municipal wards or police-station areas, municipal zones, towns can be designated as containment zones, as required. The cities were advised that the area should be appropriately defined by the district administration and local urban body with technical inputs from local level," the Cabinet Secretariat maintained.

India: HCQ to be used with full responsibility

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as Italy, Belgium and France have stopped usage of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) amid WHO's concerns over its safety aspects, India on Thursday reiterated that it will continue to use it as it has been recommended as prophylaxis with full responsibility, and as per the clinical protocol the drug might be used for therapeutics also.

"Several trials have been done on the use of HCQ, it is also being done in India. Our experience so far is that as per the current guidelines for its use by frontline workers, its benefits outweigh any risks. More research will throw light on new aspects, on the basis of which further decisions will be taken," said Dr VK Paul, Niti Aayog member, at a routine Press briefing here.

Paul also mentioned a few more medicines and therapies, which are in advance stage of trial for Covid-19 which has infected over 1.60 lakhs and killed over 4,000 people.

He said,"On the drug front, we tried many medicines, including oral medicine



Favipiravir, plant-based medicine ACQH, Itolizumab (Also used for arthritis) BCG vaccine Micro-Bacterium W, Convalescent Plasma, Arbidol, and HCQ besides Ramdesivir. Eight vaccine candidates are being tried."

ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava too had said India would continue to use HCQ as prophylaxis despite its suspension from the solidarity trial of Covid-19. Scientists are studying these drugs and therapies, both in and out of the solidarity trial.

On May 26, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had announced "a temporary pause" in clinical trial of HCQ on Covid-19 patients, while the safety data of the anti-malaria drug was being reviewed.

This had prompted the three of the countries hardest hit by coronavirus infections to put a break on the large trial of the drug .

Soon test that detects viral particle's presence is on anvil: Vijayraghavan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Principal Scientific Adviser Dr K Vijayraghavan on Thursday said the RT-PCR test — the gold standard in India — looks for viral genetic material but soon a test that detects the viral particle's presence is on the anvil.

"As for testing and diagnosis, a new kind of test is likely to come up for testing of virus particle presence. Several nucleic acid tests have been developed, variations of RT-PCR tests have been developed. Then there are antibody tests.

"If sensitivity and specificity of antibody tests are high, they can be used to test at individual level. Otherwise, they can be used for community surveillance purpose," said Dr Vijayraghavan, at a media briefing here.

Dr VK Paul, member of the Niti Aayog and chairman of the Empowered Group 1 said that at least 20 Indian companies are now producing diagnostic kits. "India will be able to produce 5 lakh indigenous kits daily by July," he said, adding the manufacturers will be able to export after the domestic demands are fully met.

Till last month, India had been heavily dependent on other countries as it had been importing the testing kits.

□ If sensitivity and specificity of antibody tests are high, they can be used to test at individual level. Otherwise, they can be used for community surveillance purpose, said Dr K Vijayraghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser

□ Dr VK Paul, member of the Niti Aayog and chairman of the Empowered Group 1 said that at least 20 Indian companies are now producing diagnostic kits. □ India will be able

to produce 5 lakh indigenous kits daily by July, he said

□ The first goal of project CARD will be to churn out at least 10 million or 1 crore rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 by July 2020

□ The final aim is to make India a diagnostic export powerhouse by the end of 2020

□ It also seeks to bolster India's capabilities in manufacturing reagents, probes, primers, and other components needed for diagnostics



However, now the local manufacturers too have jumped in the fray in a big way.

To bring the scientists and laboratories in touch with private firms to produce millions of testing kits, including around 10 million rapid antibody tests that offer quick results is being done under the project called Consortium for affordable and rapid diagnostics (CARD), spearheaded by the NITI Aayog and the Central Government's Department of Biotechnology.

The first goal of project CARD will be to churn out at least 10 million or 1 crore

rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 by July 2020.

The final aim is to make India a diagnostic export powerhouse by the end of 2020. It also seeks to bolster India's capabilities in manufacturing reagents, probes, primers, and other components needed for diagnostics.

"The final frontier for the fight against Covid-19 is science and technology. The base of our institutions of science and technology, bio-tech and pharma industry is strong. The entire infrastructure is engaged in the war against Covid-19," said Dr Paul.

Nearly 30 groups in India trying to develop vaccines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 30 groups in India, ranging from big industry players to individual academics, are trying to develop vaccines to fight coronavirus, Principal Scientific Adviser K VijayRaghavan said on Thursday.

Of these 30, 20 are working at a good pace, he said.

"About 30 groups in India, big industry to individual academics are trying to develop vaccines to fight COVID-19 of which 20 are keeping a good pace," VijayRaghavan said at a media briefing here.

He said vaccine development currently takes nearly 10 years, but the aim the world over is to find a vaccine for coronavirus in a year even as he



added that "till today, we have not observed any change in the virus that alters its fundamental properties."

He said designing new drugs is a "very very big challenge" and just like a vaccine it takes a very long time.

"Most attempts fail and thus you have to try a lot," said VijayRaghavan.

He said start-ups and academics have also got into developing vaccines and specified that four categories of vaccines can be there.

For instance, mRNA vaccines, in which a component of genetic material of the virus is injected. Our body translates it into viral protein and develops immune system when the virus

attacks. Another is standard vaccine in which weak version of the virus is used while yet another uses protein coding region of the virus is attached to the backbone of another virus to develop vaccine, he said.

The scientist further elaborated that virus protein is developed in the lab and is used with another stimulant while several companies are trying to develop it on the backbone of flu vaccine, it is in late pre-clinical trial stage and may be by October, pre-clinical trial would conclude.

"Indian companies are collaborating with foreign companies. Academics are also trying to develop the vaccines. The logistics of making the vaccine available to everyone will be a big challenge," said

About the drugs, he said, drugs attack the virus chemically after it infects. This is a big challenge, as the virus uses our machinery to replicate. A drug has to be designed to attack only the virus.

"It has to attack the virus an early stage. There are two broad categories of drugs which can be developed. It can be repurposed drugs or new drugs. "Designing of new drugs is a major challenge.

"In India, in addition to our science agencies, the CSIR and AICTE have embarked on drug discovery hackathon where students are trained with info on how to do computational drug discovery, they will get access to expensive equipment.

"As for testing and diagnosis, a new kind of test is likely to come up for testing of virus particle presence. Several nucleic acid tests have been developed, variations of RTPCR tests have been developed. Then there are antibody tests.

"If sensitivity and specificity of antibody tests are high, they can be used to test at individual level. Otherwise, they can be used for community surveillance purpose," explained the scientist.

5 measures can prevent spread of Covid-19

These are maintaining hygiene, surface cleaning, physical distancing, tracking and testing in absence of drugs and vaccine, said Dr K Vijayraghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With no letup in the coronavirus cases whose numbers have crossed over 1.60 lakhs and with over 4,000 mortalities, Dr K Vijayraghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser on Thursday suggested that five measures should be taken to prevent spread of Covid-19, till the time its vaccine is developed. These are maintaining hygiene, surface cleaning, physical distancing, tracking and testing in the absence of drugs and vaccine, he said at a Press briefing here.

"The disease spreads as our immune response takes a little longer and the virus by that time overwhelms us. The vaccine is given to those who are not infected, that's why safety is important. It usually takes 10 to 15 years to develop vac-



cines at a cost of 200-300 million dollars.

However, the five steps suggested by the senior scientist to keep the covid-19 at bay elude densely populated countries like India which has most of its people living below poverty line, people have poor hygiene habits because of many reasons and have the lowest Covid-19 testing rate per mil-

lion in the world.

The migration of workers as well as arrivals of stranded Indians from abroad coupled with the easing of the lockdown has just added to the mounting tally of the cases.

In fact, experts say that the cases are likely to witness sharp spike in near future. Dr V Ravi, Head of Neurovirology, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and nodal officer in the Karnataka Health Task Force for COVID-19 cautioned that there will be a spike in COVID-19 cases after Lockdown 4.0 ends which is after May 31, 2020.

"The country has not yet witnessed the spike in cases. The numbers will go up from June onwards after Lockdown 4.0 ends on May 31, and there will be community spread," he

said as per a report.

Dr Ghanshyam Pangtey, professor at the medicine department at Lady Hardinge Medical College had told a news agency that once the virus covers up to 30 per cent of population, possibly in the next four to five months, the situation will become very difficult to handle with the limited resources.

According to the Union Health Ministry, number of cases under active medical supervision is 86,110. So far, a total of 67,691 people has been cured. In the last 24 hours, 3,266 patients were found cured. This takes our total recovery rate to 42.75 per cent, said a statement issued here by the Ministry. Also, India's fatality rate is much lower than the world average of 6.36 per cent, it said.

Parallel processing has to be done: Vijayraghavan

New Delhi: Dr K Vijayraghavan said If we want to develop vaccine in one year, than parallel processing has to be done. "Hundred vaccines are being tested, instead of one. Simultaneously, we have to go fast on the regulatory process without compromising quality. We have to have manufacturing capability without compromising our standard immunising programme."

He added we have to have a distribution system ready. "This will require investment of 2 to 3 billion dollars, which is currently being done by the world. Our vaccine manufacturing is top class, of the three standard immunising vaccines, two are produced in India."

PNS



Children of migrant workers look out from a train at a railway station in Guwahati on Thursday

AP

Cong seeking benefits from challenges country is facing, indulging in political slander: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday accused the Congress of "seeking benefit from challenges" the country is facing currently, and said the opposition party is indulging in "political slander" which is "unfortunate but expected".

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Smriti Irani's hard-hitting counter attack on the Congress came after opposition party president Sonia Gandhi took a swipe at the Modi Government, saying the entire country has heard the cries of pain of migrants except the Centre.

Gandhi also urged the Centre to unlock its coffers to help those affected by the coronavirus-induced lockdown. Reacting strongly to Gandhi's remarks, Irani said, "It is unfortunate that when the nation needs to stand united against the Covid-19 pandemic, certain political parties are seeking benefit from challenges the country faces".

The Union Minister asserted that Governments across States, including those ruled by the Congress, are "witness to and have benefited" from the Rs 1.76 lakh crore 'PM Garib Kalyan

Yojna'. The scheme has supported some of the weakest segments of our society, she added.

"In this hour of crisis, the Centre and States, including district authorities, have converged their efforts. And for the Congress at this time to indulge in political slander is unfortunate but expected," Irani said. The Congress president in a video message, posted as part of her party's 'Speak Up India' campaign launched on Thursday, also demanded that the Government should provide Rs 7,500 to each needy family for the next six months. **PTI**

Patra admitted to pvt hospital in Gurugram after he showed Covid-19 symptoms

New Delhi: BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra has been admitted to a private hospital in Gurugram after he showed symptoms of Covid-19, sources said. He is admitted to the Medanta hospital in Gurgaon, hospital sources said.

The BJP leader has shown symptoms of Covid-19, a source said. Patra is one of the most visible BJP faces on news channels. He is also very active on social media and posted several tweets on Thursday as well. **PTI**

HRD Minister interacts with Heads of more than 45,000 higher educational institutions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Thursday interacted with Heads of more than 45,000 Higher Educational Institutions across the country through Webinar hosted by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru.

While lauding the initiatives taken by NAAC at this time of the pandemic, Pokhriyal called upon the HEIs in the country to treat the current situation as an opportunity to overcome limitations in the system.

He called upon the educationists, students, parents to switch-over to the online method and make the most of the situation so that the academic session of the students and the HEIs are not interrupted. He said there is an urgent need to improve and enhance the Online ecosystem in India & educators should contribute to enhance the reach so that online education reaches even the rural areas.

The Minister addressed and Interacted with a galaxy of Academicians comprising participation from Vice Chancellors/Registrars/Professors/IQAC heads/Principals/ Faculty from across the Nation.

In the hour long interaction and address, the Union Minister reflected on various issues and concerns raised by educationists related to Academic Calendar, Online Education, examinations, Fees, Mental health of students, problems of students, fellowships, NEET, entrance examinations etc. He dwelt upon at length on the initiatives taken by the Government with regard to Swayam Prabha, Deeksharambh, Paramarsh and a host of other special initiatives taken during the pandemic period.

He also urged all Higher Educational Institutions to take part in NAAC accreditation process. He reiterated that the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is very concerned about the well being of Higher Educational Institutions

and assured of all help in furthering the academic activities of student fraternity.

The Union Minister asked all Universities to constitute a special cell which will be empowered to address the issues of students related to academic calendar and examinations arising out of special circumstances due to Covid 19.

He said that a task force has been created in UGC and NCERT to resolve the different issues of students. Nishank assured that Ministry is committed to provide all assistance to students in the time of crisis.

During the interaction the Union Minister highlighted the process of how the new session will be commenced, at the same time he specified that the priority will be given to the safety of the students.

He called educational fraternity as Corona Warriors because in this extraordinary situation they are working round the clock to provide quality education to students.

NIA forensic team reaches Pulwama

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A forensic team of National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reached Pulwama where a car fitted with an IED with an estimated 40-45 kg of RDX was blasted in situ by the bomb disposal squad early on Thursday.

A Pulwama-like terror plot is being touted to have been averted by destroying the explosives-laden vehicle and the forensic team lifted various samples from the incident site for scientific testing and analysis into the type of explosives and detonators fitted into the IED, sources said.

While the case has not been handed over by the NIA officially, the investigation is likely to be taken over by the federal anti-terror probe agency soon, they said.

According to preliminary information gathered by the agencies, the car was driven by

a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist who escaped after initial fire-fight with the security forces. The Santro car had a fake number plate and the registration number was that of a two wheeler registered at Kathua of Jammu zone.

Initial inputs suggest a Pakistan-based terrorist of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, Walid, who is an expert in fabricating IEDs, could have been involved in developing the bomb for detonation by the occupants of the now destructed car.

The pattern is similar to Pulwama-I in which Pak terrorist groups JeM and LeT had planned and helped in fabrication of the IED which was blasted by a local boy who acted as a fidayeen and rammed the Maruti Eeco car packed with explosives on a convoy of the CRPF in February last year killing 40 paramilitary men and injuring several others.

Monsoon to keep its date with India, make onset on June 1 in Kerala: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Thanks to a cyclonic circulation, monsoon will keep its date with India contrary to the earlier forecast of a slight delay. The southwest monsoon is likely to make an onset over Kerala on June 1, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

This is because conditions are becoming favourable for monsoon winds to advance as a low pressure area is expected to develop over the Arabian Sea between May 31 and June 4. The IMD had in its onset date forecast on May 15 said that the monsoon is likely to hit the southern state on June 5, four days after its normal onset date. The normal onset of monsoon over Kerala is June 1.

However, a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal is likely to help in the progress of monsoon.

and adjoining east central Arabian Sea during May 31 to June 4. In view of this, conditions are very likely to become favourable from June 1 for onset of southwest monsoon over Kerala," the IMD said.

It is also likely to intensify into a cyclone but may not impact India's west coast, IMD said. According to the IMD, the country is likely to receive normal monsoon this year. "With the strengthening of westerlies and increase in convective clouds, the southwest Monsoon has further

advanced into some parts of Maldives-Comorin area, some more parts of south Bay of Bengal, remaining parts of Andaman Sea and Andaman Nicobar Islands," it said.

Another low pressure area is likely to form over southeast and adjoining east-central Arabian Sea, close to the Indian coast between May 31 and 4 June.

"Scattered low and medium clouds with embedded intense to very intense convection lay over southeast and west central Arabian Sea," IMD said in its cyclone bulletin for Thursday.



Bengal for lockdown till June 14

Adhir slams State Govt for mishandling migrant workers issue

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government wants the lockdown to be extended by two weeks beyond May 31, sources at the State secretariat Nabanna said quoting the office of the Chief Secretary.

According to sources the State Government has already communicated its views to the Centre notwithstanding the fact that most establishments save malls, cinema halls, restaurants and educational institutions have been fully or partially functioning in the State.

The State Government had already allowed resumption of bus and auto-rickshaw services with limited passengers from Wednesday.

Meanwhile even as train loads of migrant workers rolled in at various stations in Bengal Congress leader in Lok Sabha

Adhir Chowdhury on Thursday slammed the Mamata Banerjee Government for lackluster handling of the migrant workers issue failing to realise the plight of those stuck in other states for months.

“Why the State is cold-shouldering the issue of migrant workers who are languishing in other States without food and shelter... Why the State Government has not created facilities for the migrant workers who are coming in hordes from other States... How the state can be so insensitive towards its own citizens?” Chowdhury a five-time MP from Behrampore asked wondering why the Chief Minister was so worried about ‘shramik trains’ coming to Bengal when already the workers are returning to this State in hordes by buses and trucks.

“The workers are coming back in hordes in buses and trucks, paying for the fare by selling whatever they had and

here the State Government is simply looking the other way. Why this Government is so insensitive towards the plight of these poor and hapless people suffering for the past several months?” he asked wondering “where is a difference between people coming in trains and those coming buses.”

Chowdhury’s comments came on a day when about 25 trains entered Bengal bringing back several thousand workers to Burdwan, Malda, Dankuni, Purulia, Birbhum and Bankura.

Elsewhere another instance of alleged “insensitivity” raised many an eyebrow when Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh termed the incident of a toddler playing besides its dead mother’s body at Muzaffarpur railway station a “minor event.”

The Bengal opposition parties have pulled up Ghosh for his “insensitive comments” saying he was only reflecting the views of his party which was only an “attendant of the rich.”

Condemning Ghosh for

his alleged cavalier ways senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugato Roy said “less said about this man is the better. He is foul in his mouth and insensitive too. He is better suited as a wood-cutter.”

CPI(M) politburo member and former MP Md Salim said “one can only express sympathy for the ruthless person who calls the heart-rending scene of a toddler trying to awaken its dead mother in a Railway Station --- particularly at a time when the migrant workers are dying a hundred death every day --- a ‘minor incident’.”

He said, “the rest of the BJP leadership think that Modi is the only God and Ambanis and Adanis are the only human beings ... and the remaining people are animals. What can you expect from them... The Modi Government with the help of the leaders like Dilip Ghosh has failed to save humankind but successes in killing humanity.”

Green loss to turn City of Joy into ‘city of heat’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The City of Joy may get transformed into a “hot city” in the coming decades not because of any ‘page three’ factor but because of the large-scale destruction of Kolkata’s green cover, experts say.

With about 5,500 trees felled by the super cyclone that his the city after 283 years Kolkata may witness a climate change of sorts getting robbed of about more than 5 lakh kilos of oxygen, experts at Jadavpur University say.

While Kolkata lost about 5,500 trees the iconic Botanical Gardens in Howrah saw about 1,000 trees getting damaged. The Pagla Gaach (Mad tree) and the Kalpa Brisksha—the only surviving species of their kind in the world — at Botanical Gardens too have suffered some damage, sources said.

“It is irreparable loss considering as well the fact that Sunderbans — 100 miles down south near the sea — has lost about 1.5 lakh trees meaning thereby that Kolkata will get that much less protection in the next cyclones,” said Partho

Bhowmick an expert.

The double whammy is the “loss of trees coupled with carbon emission creating a condition for the cyclones to visit the city more regularly and the loss of green cover in Sunderbans (on the verge of the sea) denying the region the natural speed breaker for the cyclones,” said DP Mitra an environmental expert.

“Even if you plant trees at a brisk pace which is unlikely to happen understanding the bureaucratic velocity of work the trees that will be planted now will take at least 10 years — if we plant some fast growing trees — to grow to a level that can at least half-mange the situation,” said a Sutapa Saha a green cover expert.

Normally it takes 15 to 20 years for a tree to reach a state where it is able to absorb a good amount of carbon dioxide besides providing oxygen. A full-grown tree absorbs about 20-25 kg of CO2 which is a huge amount.

Considering the fact that an individual requires about 750 kg of oxygen one should be surrounded by about 10 trees.

Maha Guv announces austerity steps to cut costs at Raj Bhavan

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an effort to make available more resources available for Covid-19 relief works, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Thursday announced a series of austerity measures, including a freeze on new capital works and cancellation of Independence Day reception in Pune, to reduce the expenses of Raj Bhavan.

The Governor issued instructions to the staff at the Raj Bhavan to undertake various measures in the current financial year to reduce the expenditure.

Among other things, the Governor has decided to put on hold undertaking of capital works on the Raj Bhavan premises. “There will not be any new major construction or repairing works in Raj Bhavan. Only ongoing works in progress will be continued and completed,” a Raj Bhavan spokesperson said.

According to the spokesperson, the Independence Day Reception to be held on August 15, 2020 at Raj Bhavan in Pune will be cancelled.

Similarly, Raj Bhavan has deferred the proposal to purchase of new car for its use. “There will be no new regular recruitment in Raj Bhavan

until further orders,” the spokesperson said.

In another austerity measure, the Raj Bhavan has decided to discontinue until further order the practice of offering gifts and mementos to VVIPs. “The practice of welcoming VIP visitors with bouquets will be discontinued. Guest house rooms in Raj Bhavan should not be decorated with vases and flower-pots,” he said.

The Governor would henceforth hold meetings and interactions with Vice-Chancellors and various officers via video conference to avoid any expenses on travel.

“It is estimated that these measures will save nearly 10 to 15 percent of the budget of the Raj Bhavan in the current financial year,” the spokesperson said.

“The Governor has already contributed his one month salary and further pledged 30% of his salary for one year to the PM CARES Fund for COVID – 19,” the spokesperson said.

“In the Governor’s estimation, these austerity measures will be a small but significant contribution to save resources that can be used to reduce the sufferings of the people in the backdrop of the situation arisen because of the Corona Virus Disease,” Raj Bhavan said in a statement issued here.

Tipplers in Kerala get their favourite brand after 2 months

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI



Liquor outlets in Kerala (except those in hotspots) were reopened on Thursday morning and started selling spirits to tipplers who have been without their daily quota of drinks for the last two months.

According to TP Ramakrishnan, the State’s Excise Minister, liquor is being sold through 265 outlets of Kerala State Beverages Corporation (Bevcco), 36 outlets under the Consumerfed, 576 bar hotels, and 291 beer parlours.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told reporters that 2,25,000 persons made use of the BevQ App which went operational on Thursday morning and purchased liquor through on-line mode. “There were some hiccups during initial hours but the Excise Department told me that it has been rectified. A complaint regarding a fake App has been registered and the State police headquarters is probing the allegation. If found genuine, we

will initiate legal proceedings against those responsible for such fake campaign,” said the chief minister.

Customers were asked to book their choice of drinks through BevQ, an App developed by a Kochi-based start up company to streamline and regulate the sale of liquor. The booking was opened from 6 am on Thursday and saw hectic activities, according to Faircode Technologies Pvt Ltd which developed the App.

The two-minutes long trial-run of the BevQ app held on Wednesday saw 20,000 customers placing orders for the drink of their choice. The BevQ became operational at 6 am and would continue till 10 pm every night. The liquor would be sold between 9 am and 5 pm.

With 827 new cases, TN breaches 19,000 mark

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

There was no respite for Tamil Nadu or Chennai on Thursday as the number of persons tested positive for coronavirus in the State reached 19,372.

The State saw 827 persons testing positive for the pandemic and 12 persons succumbing to the disease. The death tally in Tamil Nadu due to coronavirus reached 145 with Chennai alone recording 106 fatalities.

The medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu said there were 8,679 active covid-19 afflicted persons in the State as on Thursday. “Till date, 10, 548 persons have been cured of the pandemic and discharged from hospitals. A total of 4,34 625 persons have been tested till Thursday,” said the bulletin.

Chennai with 12, 762 positive cases topped the table while Chengalpattu (933), Thiruvallur (863), Cuddalore (443) closely followed the capital city. Dr C V Krishnaswamy, south India’s lead physician closely tracking the pandemic said that there was no reason to be panic about the numbers. “Its when the death rate exceeds the prescribed norms we have to be worried. As on date, the death rate in India and tamil Nadu is well below the mandatory figure. Though we are testing many persons positive for the pandemic, we should note that the recovery rate is one of the bests in the world,” said Dr Krishnaswamy.

Tamil Nadu Government despite the covid-19 pandemic succeeded in signing Memorandum of Understanding with some of the global brands like Daimler, Vivid Solaire, Salcomp PLC to set up manufacturing plants /expansion of ongoing operations in the State.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI - 110001.

O.A. No. 809/19 Date : 02.03.2020

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK versus **APPLICANT**

SHRI SHAILENDRA PRASAD & ORS.. RESPONDENT

To, Defendant

1. M/s EMM VEE INFRASTRUCTURES PVT LTD. PLOT NO. 1000M VILLAGE GHAT NEAR DWAARKA HEIGHTS NH-58, VEDVYAS PURI MEERUT-25005

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.58,02,474/- (Rupees FIFTY EIGHT LAKH TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **02.06.2020 At 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL FOR REGISTRAR , DRT-II, Delhi.

Chinese students to fly back to China from Mysuru

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

As the face off continue between Indian and Chinese troops at four points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and Sikkim, around hundred Chinese students studying in Mysore University at Southern city of Mysuru will fly back to China in June as the University has decided to hold examinations for them earlier than scheduled to facilitate their evacuation from India.

These Chinese students are studying Information Technology courses in Mysore University, one of the oldest universities in the country. They are set to leave India following China’s appeal to its citizens to return to their homeland.

In response to an appeal from the collaborative university in Central China for holding examinations early in view of special flights arranged for the evacuation of Chinese citizens from India, the University, which had earlier scheduled the examination from June 10 to 15, agreed to hold it from June 1 to 6. These students are from Central China and studying MS (Information Technology) and MS (Software Engineering) courses specially designed for them as per an MoU and being run since past 10 years.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female **Namely:** Unknown, **W/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 55 years, **Height:** 5' 2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour lower and orange colour shirt with khaki colour jacket, who was found in front of Kothi No. 24, Footpath New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 25-A dated 24.05.2020 has been registered at P.S. DBG Road, Delhi-110005**

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

Sd/- SHO
P.S. DBG Road, Delhi-110005
DP/124/CD/2020
Tel.: 011-23537374, 23613252



Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name :** Unknown **S/o :** Unknown, **R/o :** Unknown, **Age :** 55 Years, **Sex :** Male, **Height :** 5 Ft. 5 Inch, **Complexion :** Fair, **Face :** Oval, **Built :** Slim, **Hair :** Grey Hair and Beard, **Wearing :** Blue Colour Polo T-Shirt, has been found dead on 16.05.2020 In Front of Gate No. 6, GB Pant Hospital, Delhi and dead body preserved in Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital Mortuary, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 31 Dated 16.05.2020 has been lodged at PS. IP Estate, 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 may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
DP/121/CD/2020.
Ph.: 011-23370928, 23232294, 8750870426



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

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 Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: **www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in**. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)	1.	23/Noida/GM(K)/SM-WC-9/ET/2020-21, Name of Work- D/o Village (M/o Drain, road and broken Jaal in Village Nagli Sakhpur) NOIDA, Cost- ₹ 25.16 Lacs
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Which can be uploaded by date 03.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 04.06.2020 at 11.00AM.

General Manager, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Mathura Road, Near Transformer, Okhla Tank, Delhi on 24.05.2020 at 20:08 Hrs. In this regard a **DD No. 27A, Dated 24.05.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Sarita Vihar, Delhi** The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 62 years, **Height:** 163 cms. **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Chocolate Colour Checkdar Shirt, White Colour Payjama and Cherry Colour Shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Sarita Vihar, Delhi
DP/072/SE/2020
Ph.: 011-26825553, 26825554, 8860731325



WESTERN RAILWAY

DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF SCADA AND OHE WORKS

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

S. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. Cost of Work (₹)	EMD (₹)
1	TR-C-9-2020R1 dtd. 28/05/2020	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of SCADA between PRTN-DB-CTD, MYG-SMLA, DB-CDD-Kevadiya Section on BRC Division of Western Railway.	4,70,47,859.60	3.85,200/-
2	TR-C-5-2020 dtd. 28/04/2020	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE between Anand to Khambhat with Borivari to Vadtal Section on Vadodara Division of Western Railway in Connection with Electrification of Existing BG Line.	18,43,51,891.11	10,71,800/-
3	TR-C-6-2020 dtd. 28/04/2020	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE between Vasad - Kathana Section on Vadodara Division of Western Railway in Connection with Electrification of Existing BG Line.	17,71,38,787.34	10,35,700/-

Sr. No. 1. : Date of Submission: 28/05/2020 & Date of Opening: 26/06/2020. Sr. No. 2. : Date of Submission: 28/04/2020 & Date of Opening: 09/06/2020. Sr. No. 3. : Date of Submission: 28/04/2020 & Date of Opening: 09/06/2020. Website Particulars : The tender can be viewed and submitted through website **www.irops.gov.in**

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OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION NO. 1 THANE
STATION ROAD, THANE (W) - 400601

www.mahapwd.com	Fax - (022) 25377240	email-thane1.ee@mahapwd.com
OutWard No. 2145	Tel. Phone - 25369293	Date :- 27/05/2020

E-Tender Corrigendum No. 1 (Time Table)

Subject :- Notice No.1 E-Tender Corrigendum

Ref :- E-Tender Notice No.1 letted Dated No. This Office Letter No.Tender/1959 Date 29/4/2020.

Sr.No.	Tender	Before Publish Date	Now Publish Date
1.	Selling Date	6/5/2020 to 30/5/2020	30/5/2020 to 23/6/2020
2.	Pre bid date	22/5/2020	17/6/2020
3.	Tender Opening Date	2/6/2020	26/6/2020

Sr.No.	Before Publish Information	Now Publish Information
1/2	<p>Work Name</p> <p>ROUTIAN MAINTENANCE WORK TO BHIWANDI ROAD SH-35 KM.69/000 TO 89/000 AND VADPE NIMBAVALI BHINAR ROAD (SH84) BETWEEN KM.50/300 TO 54400 IN TALUKA BHIWANDI DIST.THANE (BEFORE MANSOON)</p>	<p>ROUTIAN MAINTENANCE WORK TO BHIWANDI ROAD SH-35 KM. 69/000 TO 89/000 AND VADPE BHINAR ROAD (SH84) BETWEEN KM.50/10 TO 54/400 IN TALUKA BHIWANDI DIST.THANE</p>
	Estimated cost	45173554

Sd/-
Executive Engineer.
P.W Division No.1, Thane.

DGI/PR/2020-2021/139

Labour woes

While States are redistributing returnee workers, in the long run we need a national database and a pan-India social security net



The reverse exodus of migrants, which according to the Government's admission in the Supreme Court has seen 91 lakh daily wagers and service personnel move out of cities to their home States, may change the labour market forever. Shunted out overnight by contractors and factories following the lockdown and with no savings, quarters or interim relief coming from either their employers or the Government, they trudged back home, risking their lives in the process, exposing themselves to the disease and starvation. And though they may return to the subsistence economy that they once escaped, they are not coming back soon. Rejected by the big cities that they helped build and mistreated like intruders by the Governments they voted for, they would much rather find work in their home States under MGNREGA and infrastructure projects. The vacuum in big cities is already being felt as daily needs servicemen like drivers, cleaners, electricians, handymen, carpenters, plumbers, house helps, gardeners and bricklayers have all fled. And now with several States compiling a data base of returnees with their skill sets, these people are most likely to be rehabilitated in services vacated by migrants from elsewhere. In other words, local sourcing, something that political parties have promised in their manifestoes for a while, may soon become the new rule of engagement in the labour market. Except that the traditional labour-exporting States may be flooded with returnees seeking newer pastures and fall short of accommodating them. Sensing the new labour map, the first off the mark has been Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. With the State having already received 23 lakh migrants by the end of last week, he has fast-tracked moves to absorb returnee workers according to their skill sets and allocate them work zones. Fifteen lakh are already on the database and industrial units have sought contracts for five lakh among them. He has further drawn up a migrant commission to list all workers in the State, provide jobs and issue them a card that would ensure their social security during a crisis. An insurance scheme to secure their lives, too, is on the cards. And though he is reconsidering it, his controversial suggestion that other States hiring labourers from UP would have to go via his Government points to a new trading tool that may just take off unofficially as everybody tries to leverage strengths in a pandemic-hit economy. Such a move is downright unconstitutional as every citizen has a right to migrate to any part of the country in the quest for better prospects. But new regional labour cartels could emerge, peddling a skilled pool of workers and quoting higher prices now in labour-starved zones. Rajasthan has started collecting data of both skilled and unskilled workers from all 33 districts and will release them to factory owners in 18 industrial clusters soon. It has already collected details of 1.2 million unemployed people and will soon launch a portal that will help devise programmes for the labourers, generate quick employment and also meet the demand-supply gap. It will also help design training programmes for workers as per their qualifications and requirements of industries. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh has restarted the Sambal Yojana, which will now cover returnee migrants and provide social security to their family members, including school fees of children and insurance. A workers' database is almost ready. Bihar and Jharkhand are also working on an internal reorganisation map. Punjab and Haryana, States without too much of local labour, were among the first to set up migrant portals to rehire and redirect displaced labour to their various work sites.

While the "vocal for local" mantra has taken a new meaning in the labour market, this could well be short-term. For wages and capacities are lower in States. For example, even if Uttar Pradesh manages to provide jobs to its returning migrants, its per capita income is a little over ₹70,000. Comparatively, it is over ₹2 lakh in Maharashtra and ₹4 lakh in Delhi. So the osmosis will happen once the threat of the pandemic weakens. Besides what do you do with States like Uttarakhand, which do not have enough opportunities to absorb highly-skilled labour? So far over 1.54 lakh migrants have returned to the State and under the Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana, they will get heavily subsidised loans to set up small businesses or shops. Many returnees are from the IT, hospitality and BPO sectors with a particular skill set and experience of working in big cities and are not keen on the entrepreneurial mode. They wouldn't want to erode their revenue-earning ability for the safety of a home that they won't have to pay for. Labour is needed across industries and communities and perhaps a national database and a pan-India social security net should be set up to streamline our demographic edge than pass this on to States as their responsibility. Besides, this protection based on geography will never substitute competence.

The cost of care

SC asks Govt to identify private hospitals which benefitted from past largesse and, therefore, should treat COVID patients free



As Coronavirus cases continue to rise across the country and the Government healthcare infrastructure begins to burst at the seams, the Supreme Court has asked the Centre to identify private hospitals which can treat COVID-19 patients for free or at a minimum cost as many of them have been given land either free or at nominal rates. However, the hospitals are off the hook for now as a policy issue, the Government would need to take a call on it first. At the moment, patients are being treated for free/minimum cost at Government hospitals across the country. However, those who opt for private healthcare facilities end up paying hefty sums as the cost of treatment in general wards is around ₹0.8 lakh in Tier-III towns; ₹1.5 lakh in Tier-II State capitals and ₹2.5 lakh in metro cities. Co-morbidities push up care costs further. What complicates the matter is the fact that the Government cannot put a cap on treatment costs like it did for the Corona tests as that will depend on many factors like the place where the patient is being treated; his/her age; whether the person has any co-morbidities; what stage the virus is in, whether it is in the initial stage or has the infection aggravated. Will the s/he go to the ICU or be on oxygen support or will s/he also need a ventilator? Predictably private hospitals are not very keen to shoulder the COVID burden with the Government because they say their bottomlines have already been hit by a decline in patient footfall, limited OPD operations and suspension of the lucrative medical tourism business. Plus the overheads have shot up as they are spending more on disinfection, sterilisation, infection control, isolation wards, staff rotations and quarantines, responsible waste disposal and comprehensive disinfection. Free treatment won't work even if the hospitals had benefitted from largesse at inception. So while the apex court and the Centre mull how to rope private hospitals in, patients continue to suffer because even having an insurance does not mean that there will be no major out-of-pocket expense. Insurance firms are not paying patients for the PPE, face shields and so on that constitute at least 50 per cent of the total treatment cost for a Corona patient. But what is irking is that while crying about the cost of the PPEs pushing up their expenses, hospitals are glibly glossing over the fact that they are charging all patients for these kits even though one doctor tends to multiple patients wearing one kit. Asking hospitals to lower treatment costs is reasonable but seeking to make it all free will be counter-productive. The larger question right now is how to increase capacities as both public and private facilities are saturated.

Strategic stalemate

The Chinese behaviour along the LAC points to a familiar pattern *vis-a-vis* India. However, it's time for New Delhi to turn a new page in dealing with Beijing



VIVEK MISHRA

After some intense physical showdown between the Indian and Chinese soldiers at the Line of Control (LAC), attempts are now being made by Beijing to dial down the conflict. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said recently that the situation at the border with India is "overall stable and controllable" and that both countries have "proper mechanisms and communication channels" to resolve the issues through "dialogue" and "consultation." China's apparent attempt to de-escalate tensions at the border is as quintessential a leaf from its strategic playbook as its attempt to escalate it in the first place. A few familiar patterns apropos earlier such endeavours cannot be missed.

The timing of the flare-up is, perhaps, the most predictable one. A pandemic-stricken world has been brought down to its knees and India has surpassed China's Coronavirus tally. It has now climbed into the top 10 countries worst-hit by the pandemic. To recall, in 2014, when Chinese troops intruded deep into the Indian territory even as Premier Xi Jinping was on a State visit to India, it baffled many. Why would Beijing do that? If anything, it only harmed the purpose of the ongoing bilateral talks. By now, China's strategic charade of mixing wrong signals with publicly-perceptible good intentions is all too known. Physical assertion with an intention to send a political message that points south, deliberate obfuscation to prevent perception build-up, international grandstanding and the choice of an opportune time — all of this collectively constitute the Middle Kingdom's new approach to heighten tensions. But there is a marked similarity that runs across modern China's strategic behaviour.

In its strategic playbook, it avoids "strength" and attacks "weakness." As the world reels under the Corona pandemic, China seems to have controlled the spread of the virus and has now resorted to practising aggressive behaviour, thus rattling other countries. It has waged conflicts on multiple fronts. Border tension with India along the LAC has escalated; two new municipal districts to control the disputed Parcel and Spratly islands has been declared; military confrontation with Malaysia and Vietnam in the South China Sea, too, has been launched. Besides, China has approved a controversial legislation in Hong Kong to undermine its autonomy. This, in clear violation of the initial terms of agreement between Britain and China that the former's autonomy shall be pre-



served until at least 50 years.

Furthermore, there's an obvious cold war 2.0 on with the US. Wolf warrior diplomacy has been launched world over as a pre-emptive effort to counter criticism and questions of accountability. It is also resisting a global call for an unbiased probe into the origin of the Coronavirus. Above all, Xi has called upon the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to "prepare for war." All such instances have come to test China's strategic transition into a "great power." As countries look inward to deal with their economic, political and strategic problems arising due to the spread of the virus, China considers this as its moment to test the limits of "power transition hypothesis." But in many ways, how China acts during the pandemic will define its future course as a "great power."

In the ongoing standoff with India, too, traits clearly point to the aforementioned test-of-its-power transition. China has opened multiple fronts of conflict along the LAC; at least one of them is a hitherto uncontested region, the Naku La Pass in north Sikkim. There are a few other peculiarities that set the ongoing border flare-up apart from earlier skirmishes. The number of PLA troops camped near the LAC is estimated to be somewhere in between 5,000 and 10,000.

Although India has matched Chinese encampments and numbers, this is perhaps a new high of troop build-up by the latter in the absence of any unilat-

eral aggression by the former. The military build-up and China's refusal to recede is geared towards "political signalling" than to "protect" an apparent incursion into India. This subtle packaging comes at a time when India is scrambling to improve border infrastructure and connectivity in border areas. In the current context, the strategic importance of the Darbuk-Shyok-DBO road, that brings India within an eight kilometre range of the strategically important Karakoram Pass, cannot be overstated.

Steps from either side point to a long-drawn confrontation. While the two sides match in troop numbers that mirror each other, certain factors suggest that neither side will be too quick to withdraw from strategic positions. Chinese troops remain entrenched in bunkers along with a fleet of heavy vehicles and monitoring equipment. Helicopter movement close to the LAC has also been monitored by the Indian side. India, too, scrambled two fighter jets along the LAC in Ladakh. Besides, Army Chief MM Naravane paid a visit to Leh, the headquarters of 14 Corps in Ladakh, for a security review of the sensitive sector amid tensions. Perhaps this suggests that the best way to resolve the present standoff is through established mechanism at the military and governmental level, howsoever ineffective these mechanisms may be.

Chinese behaviour along the LAC points to a familiar pattern *vis-a-vis* India. Just like its

traditional medical practice acupuncture, it is pressing certain points. Its assertions may often be intended to solve a deeper or a different issue. In the present case, unprovoked assertions along the LAC can be linked to a few decisions taken by India in recent times, which may have perturbed China. Among them is the Indian Government's decision to implement three important recommendations relating to border infrastructure that was made by the Shekatkar Committee in 2016. Specifically, the work on the Sela tunnel (connecting Tezpur in Assam to Tawang) is in full swing. Once completed, it will provide all-weather connectivity to an important frontier with China in the Kameng sector. Such projects are also on to connect Zaskar Valley and Ladakh. The Nimu-Padam-Darcha road being constructed across the Sinkunla Pass could have have been points of concern for China, too.

Other factors that could have perturbed Beijing include New Delhi's decision to change FDI norms for countries sharing land border with India. This could potentially impact how China invests in India. The virtual presence of two BJP MPs at the swearing-in ceremony of the Taiwanese leader has also irked Beijing. Lastly, India's support to the global call for a WHO-led probe into the origin of the Coronavirus is a cause, too.

From India's point of view, the transgressions, including ones at previously uncontested patrol areas, like the Naku La

Pass, point towards a wider conflicting arc. To that end, Chinese strategy along the LAC has preferred horizontal to vertical escalation, where scaling up of conflict at the local level has been the preferred strategy.

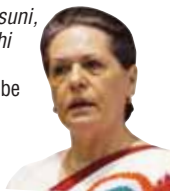
India's options in the current standoff are limited. First, and perhaps the most likely way to resolve the tension, is by repeating the Doklam strategy. It should resolutely wait until both sides decide to de-escalate. However, under no circumstances should India negotiate on settled areas like the Naku La Pass. This will not only increase the possibility for China to horizontally escalate against India but would also dilute India's sacrosanct nature of "sovereignty" apropos a modern state. This is precisely what makes the current standoff different and more fraught than previous ones. Since both sides have laid claim to a new area as their "sovereign part", possibilities of de-escalation are high. India can press other weak points of China to compel desired State behaviour if LAC is too sensitive a matter. Adopting the Indo-Pacific strategy to chart a future strategy in Asia as an emerging global power is a low-hanging fruit. Among other steps, raising a global pitch on China's other interests or decisions that run counter to Indian interests can be considered. It is, perhaps, time to turn a new page in dealing with China.

(The writer is deputy director, KIIPS, Bhubaneswar, and research fellow, ICWA, New Delhi)

SOUND BITE

Unka darr, unki siski, unki peeda desh main sabne suni, par shayad sarkar ne nahi (Everyone saw their pain, heard their cries but may be the Government has not).

Congress leader
—Sonia Gandhi



The best thing I've learned from Saif is being comfortable with myself and not always be running after money, success or fame. He's taught me to love the greater things in life.

Actor
—Kareena Kapoor



The Indian Government, with its arrogant expansionist policies akin to Nazi's Lebensraum (living space), is becoming a threat to its neighbours.

Pakistan Prime Minister
—Imran Khan



MS (Dhoni) is an incredible cricketer. Intelligence, calmness, power, athleticism, speed and a match-winner. This puts him among the greatest sportsmen in the modern era.

Former India coach
—Gary Kirsten



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another threat

Sir — Swarms of locusts have been destroying crops across western and central India. This is the worst such attack in three decades. With a speed of 150 km per day, these creatures have been rampaging farms across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and other States. Concerns about them harming farm output have been raised. The solace is that with the harvest season over, rabi crops have not been affected and most monsoon-fed crops are yet to be sowed. But this does not mean that they are harmless.

Cotton, summer pulses and vegetables have already suffered in some regions. With agriculture fields remaining bare right now, the insects have made their way to urban areas. This poses another set of problems. The Government is using specialised spraying machines and plans are on to deploy 60 specialised insecticide sprayers to kill the swarms. But what is needed is for us to shift to sustainable policies for an equitable future.

Shikha
Via email

Amid crisis, people must act responsibly

With the fourth phase of the lockdown coming to an end and having registered more than 1.5 lakh cases, one feels that the curfew should have been implemented much earlier than in the last week of March. Also, the migrants should have been given at least a week's window to return to their home States. Necessary medical infrastructure, arrangements for poor labourers, who have been rendered jobless due to the spread of the pandemic, too, should have been put in place. There's no disputing the fact that the lockdown was essential, at least to reduce the rate of spread of the infection. At the same time, it cannot continue endlessly, especially for a country like us. If not from the virus, people would die of hunger.

A phased relaxation of the lockdown is inevitable now. However, it is amusing to see how the public has been flouting all lockdown norms. Even days before the lockdown was announced, the ever-busy and overcrowded streets of Kolkata wore a "ghostly" look. Getting into the railway coach seemed like a relaxed stroll in a park. In Central Kolkata, shops were almost devoid of customers. And when the lockdown was imposed, non-market areas remained almost desolate. At milk booths and grocery stores, people meticulously stood in queues, maintaining safe distance from each



Kajal Chatterjee
Kolkata

other and wearing masks religiously. The third phase of the lockdown saw a slew of relaxations for non-hotspot areas. But many people took advantage of the situation and came out of their homes on some pretext or the other. With the Government easing norms, it was obvious that human activities would increase. But how can people act so irresponsibly? It's high time people get accustomed to the new-normal and inculcate behavioural changes and habits. Else India must get ready to brace for alarming days.

said that the Centre "arbitrarily" took the decision to allow domestic flight operations and that "no consultation" was made with the State. Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Ministry has said

that Maharashtra, like all other States, agreed to allow domestic civil aviation operations.

In an email response to the Centre, the Maharashtra Government has said that

restrictions on the movement of people and transport are in place in important cities such as Mumbai and Pune. Political blame games aside, such a big decision should have not been taken by the Centre before consulting the States.

MN Musaeed Jogeshwari
Mumbai

Setting examples

Sir — Bollywood actor Sonu Sood deserves all the praise for arranging buses for the migrant workers so that they reach their home States safely. His team has even set up a toll-free number. In personal capacity, he has been doing what the Government — both Central and States — had promised to do. To see a member of the film fraternity take such decisive steps during the outbreak of a deadly virus is unusual. It is to be seen if his colleagues, many of whom hold immense wealth, follow his example?

Babu Tanda Rampur
Uttar Pradesh

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

(The writer is founder and CEO, Sayfty)

China approves controversial HK security bill

Beijing: China's parliament on Thursday approved a new controversial security law for Hong Kong which would make it a crime to undermine Beijing's authority in the former British territory.

China's annual political season, delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic ended on Thursday with its legislature, much on the expected lines endorsing the new security law for Hong Kong.

The new law, Chinese security agencies can for the first time open their establishment and operate in Hong Kong.

The National People's Congress (NPC), which ended its week-long meeting approved a host of bills on the last day including the new security law for Hong Kong, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The bill now passes to the Standing Committee of the Communist Party and could become law by August.

The full details of the bill are not yet known.

The authorities in Hong Kong insist the law is essential to tackle growing violence and "terrorism", and that the territory's residents have nothing to fear from it.

Critics fear it could lead to Hong Kongers being prosecuted for criticising their or the



Chinese President Xi Jinping, centre, applauds after the passage of a piece of national security legislation concerning Hong Kong during the closing session of China's National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on Thursday

leadership in Beijing, joining protests or exercising their current rights under local laws.

China's move has already sparked a new wave of anti-mainland protest in Hong Kong, a former British colony, which was handed over to Beijing on July 1, 1997.

Clashes broke out again on Wednesday, as Hong Kong's

parliament debated a different proposed law, which would make it a crime to disrespect the Chinese national anthem.

The NPC regarded as the rubber stamp parliament for its routine approval proposals of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) unanimously approved the law which Hong Kong political parties said

would be a death knell to its 'one country two systems' and the autonomy it enjoyed from China.

The law has been denounced by the US, the UK and the EU as a blow to freedom and liberty of Hong Kongers and affect the city's status as an international business hub.

PTI

Hong Kong offenders will not be sent to China for trial: Report

Beijing: Chinese officials have clarified that those facing charges for offences committed in Hong Kong will not be sent to China to face trial under the new security law to firm up Beijing's hold over the former British colony.

China's new national security law will be incorporated into Hong Kong's legal system with built-in protections for offenders, who will not be sent across the border to mainland China to face trial, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted sources as saying.

The new law permits for the first time Chinese security agencies to open their establishments in Hong Kong.

However, the Hong Kong Bar Association has said China's proposed new security law could run into problems in courts as Beijing has no legal authority to enact its national security law for the former British colony.

The association also expressed concern over sug-

gestions that mainland security agencies would be set up to safeguard national security within the city, saying it was "entirely unclear" how that the arrangement would comply with Article 22 of the Basic Law, which stipulates that Beijing departments not to interfere in local affairs.

The new legislation establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security is set to be passed by China's National People's Congress (NPC) on Friday.

The bill is regarded as a political bombshell for the former British colony as China has decided to bypass local Legislative Council to bring about a new security law tailor-made to take control of Hong Kong which has been witnessing mass protests by pro-democracy groups since last year demanding autonomy and freedom from Beijing.

PTI

US, China lock horns over new security laws

United Nations: The US and China clashed over Hong Kong at the UN Security Council, with Washington calling a meeting over the controversial national security law introduced by Beijing to tighten its control on the former British colony.

The UN Mission to the UN on Wednesday said Washington was "deeply concerned by actions taken by the People's Republic of China (PRC) National People's Congress that fundamentally undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and freedoms as guaranteed under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984, which was registered with the UN as a legally binding treaty and the Basic Law (of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region).

"This is a matter of urgent global concern that implicates international peace and security, and warrants the immediate attention of the UN Security Council," the UN Mission said.

The US mission added that the United States had

called for a virtual meeting of the Security Council on Wednesday to discuss these acts and China's proposed national security law that would threaten Hong Kong's democratic institutions and civil liberties. "Such actions confirm the PRC's contempt and complete disregard for its international obligations," it said.

China's Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun hit back at the US, saying Beijing categorically rejects the baseless request of the US for a Security Council meeting. "Legislation on national security for Hong Kong is purely China's internal affairs. It has nothing to do with the mandate of the Security Council," he tweeted.

The Chinese envoy added that "facts prove again and again that the US is the troublemaker of the world."

"It is the US who has violated its commitments under the international law. China urges the US to immediately stop its power politics and bullying practices," the Chinese envoy said.

PTI

Bipartisan Opp leaves surveillance bill in doubt

Washington: Legislation extending surveillance authorities that the FBI sees as vital in fighting terrorism was thrown into doubt as President Donald Trump threatened a veto and Republican leaders and top liberal Democrats said they would oppose it.

House Democratic leaders abruptly adjourned without considering the bill, hours after saying there would be a vote Wednesday evening.

In between, Trump said explicitly for the first time that he would veto the measure. A similar version of the legislation had drawn bipartisan support just weeks ago.

"If the FISA Bill is passed tonight on the House floor, I will quickly VETO it," Trump tweeted, using the acronym for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

"Our Country has just suffered through the greatest political crime in its history. The massive abuse of FISA was a big part of it!"

Trump had suggested Tuesday evening that he would oppose the measure, prompting Republicans who once backed the deal to follow Trump's lead and say Wednesday that they would now vote against it.

The leaders of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which has about 70 Democratic House members, also said they would oppose the legislation, saying it lacked curbs on online surveillance without warrants. Combined with strong GOP opposition, the Democrats' defiance of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., suggested there might be enough dissent to

sink the bill.

It was unclear if Democratic leaders would try again Thursday to hold a vote, or if they would skip a vote and try to negotiate with the Senate on a final compromise.

"We cannot in good conscience vote for legislation that violates Americans' fundamental right to privacy," said the progressive caucus' leaders, Reps. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., and Mark Pocan, D-Wis.

The legislation first passed the House in March with broad bipartisan support after Attorney General William Barr negotiated a deal with Republican and Democratic House leaders.

But that consensus crumbled Wednesday after the Justice Department came out against the bill, which was

amended by the Senate. The Justice Department's statement, by Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd, urged Trump to reject the bill.

Soon after, House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said it was time to take a "pause" on the legislation. The new impasse raised the potential for the surveillance powers to remain expired indefinitely. The provisions, which lapsed in March, allow the FBI to get a court order for business records in national security investigations and to conduct surveillance on a subject without establishing that they're acting on behalf of an international terrorism organization.

They also make it easier for investigators to continue eavesdropping on a subject who has switched cell phone providers

to thwart detection.

Despite the sudden GOP switch, Democratic leaders said they would move forward with a vote anyway, arguing that very little had changed since 126 Republicans, including McCarthy, voted for it in March.

"Your flailing around to find a rationalization for your change of vote is sad," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told Republicans in a heated speech on the floor.

"The only thing that has changed," Hoyer said, "is that Donald Trump has said vote no."

With Republicans opposed, Pelosi needed to keep her caucus together to pass it. But losing the progressives — a group of lawmakers who have long opposed surveillance laws — made that a lot harder.

AP

UK PM's aide made 'minor breach' with lockdown drive: Cops

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's top aide, Dominic Cummings, might be guilty of a "minor breach" of the legal regulation when he took a journey during the coronavirus stay-at-home lockdown last month, UK police concluded on Thursday.

Durham Constabulary found the aide had committed no legal offence when he drove over 400-km from his London home to his father's farm in Durham, north-east England, at the end of March.

However, a second shorter trip to Barnard Castle on April 12, which 48-year-old

Cummings said was to test his eyesight for an eventual longer drive back to London, may fall into the category of a breach but no retrospective action would be taken against him.

"Durham Constabulary have examined the circumstances surrounding the journey to Barnard Castle and have concluded that there might have been a minor breach of the Regulations that would have warranted police intervention. Durham Constabulary view this as minor because there was no apparent breach of social distancing," a Durham police statement said.

Manhunts after hundreds flee quarantine in Zimbabwe, Malawi

Blantyre (Malawi): Manhunts have begun after hundreds of people, some with the coronavirus, fled quarantine centers in Zimbabwe and Malawi while authorities worry they will spread COVID-19 in countries whose health systems can be rapidly overwhelmed.

In Malawi, more than 400 people recently repatriated from South Africa and elsewhere fled a center at a stadium in Blantyre, jumping over a fence or strolling out the gate while police and health workers watched. Police and health workers told reporters they were unable to stop them as they lacked adequate protective gear.

At least 46 escapees had tested positive for the virus.

Some of those who fled told reporters they had bribed police.

And in Zimbabwe, police spokesman Paul Nyathi said

officers were "hunting down" more than 100 people who escaped from centers where a 21-day quarantine is mandatory for those returning from abroad.

"They escape and sneak into the villages ... We are warning people to stop sheltering them. These escapees are becoming 'our source of danger' to communities," Nyathi said.

Nearly all of Zimbabwe's 75 new cases this week came from the centers that hold hundreds of people who have returned, sometimes involuntarily, from neighboring South Africa and Botswana.

The quarantine centers have become "our source of danger," Health Minister Obadiah Moyo told a special parliamentary committee this week.

Both Zimbabwe and Malawi have fewer than 200

confirmed cases but regional power South Africa, where many in both countries go to seek work, has more than 25,000. South Africa has the most cases in Africa, where the continent-wide total is nearly 125,000.

Zimbabwe's information minister, Monica Mutsvangwa, on Wednesday told reporters that the government is increasing security at the schools, colleges and hotels used as quarantine centers.

Government spokesman Nick Mangwana suggested that security officers guarding centers with high walls and razor wire might be receiving bribes to allow people to leave early.

Zimbabwe's government is also worried about people crossing porous borders and failing to report at quarantine centers.

AP

Violent protests rock Minneapolis for 2nd straight night

Minneapolis: Violent protests over the death of a black man in police custody rocked a Minneapolis neighborhood for a second straight night as angry crowds looted stores, set fires and left a path of damage that stretched for miles.

The protests that began late Wednesday and stretched into Thursday morning were the most destructive yet since the death of George Floyd, who was seen on video gasping for breath during an arrest in which an officer knelt on his neck for almost eight minutes. In the footage, George pleads that he cannot breathe before he slowly stops talking and moving.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey appealed to the governor to activate the National Guard and asked for calm. "Please, Minneapolis, we cannot let tragedy beget more tragedy," he said on Twitter.

Protests also spread to other US cities. In California,



hundreds of people protesting Floyd's death blocked a Los Angeles freeway and shattered windows of California Highway Patrol cruisers.

Pockets of looting continued Thursday at Minneapolis stores where windows and doors were smashed. Television station KSTP reported some fires at businesses burned with no firefighters on the scene. A liquor store employee displayed a gun as he stood among the debris of broken bottles and beer cans inside the business.

Amid the violence, a man

was found fatally shot Wednesday night near a pawn shop, possibly by the owner, authorities said.

Protesters began gathering Wednesday afternoon near the city's 3rd Precinct station, in the southern part of the city, where the 46-year-old Floyd died on Memorial Day as police arrested him outside a convenience store on a report of a counterfeit bill being passed. Protesters also skirmished with officers, who fired rubber bullets and tear gas in a repeat of Tuesday night's confrontation.

AP

Officer who put knee on man's neck should be charged: Mayor

Minneapolis (US): The mayor of Minneapolis called Wednesday for criminal charges against the white police officer seen on video kneeling against the neck of a handcuffed black man who complained that he could not breathe and died in police custody.

Based on the video, Mayor Jacob Frey said officer Derek Chauvin should be charged in the death of George Floyd. The footage recorded by a bystander shows Chauvin with his knee on Floyd's neck as Floyd gasps for breath on the ground with his face against the pavement. The officer does not move for at least 8 minutes, even after Floyd stops speaking and moving.

Around the Globe

Dhaka: Bangladesh on Thursday issued an order allowing restricted reopening of the offices and transport services from May 31 despite fears of the intensified coronavirus onslaughts as the country recorded 2029 new COVID-19 cases - the highest number of infections in a single day.

Kathmandu: Nepal on Thursday registered its highest single-day surge in the coronavirus cases with 156 new infections, taking the COVID-19 tally in the Himalayan nation to 1,042, the health ministry said.

Seoul: South Korea on Thursday reported its biggest jump in coronavirus cases in more than 50 days, a huge setback that could erase some of its hard-won gains.

Ankara: Intercity train service resumed on a limited basis Thursday in Turkey as the government eases restrictions imposed to curb the coronavirus.

Islamabad: Pakistan on Thursday crossed the 61,000-mark with 2,076 new coronavirus cases reported in the last 24 hours, the health ministry said. As many as 36 more patients died of the deadly viral infection, bringing the total death toll in the country to 1,260.

Moscow: Russia is continuing to see high numbers of new coronavirus cases even though its far-flung regions have increasingly moved to reopen the economy. The government's anti-coronavirus task force reported 8,371 new infections Thursday, about the same as in the previous day and lower than the peak levels of more than 11,000 cases earlier this month.

Beijing: China has reported two new confirmed coronavirus cases, both from abroad and 23 asymptomatic ones, majority of them from COVID-19 epicentre Wuhan, health officials said on Thursday. According to the China's National Health Commission (NHC), two imported cases - one in Shanghai and the other in Fujian were reported on Wednesday, while no cases of domestic transmission were reported.

PTI

DANIEL PEARL MURDER CASE Pakistan SC to hear appeal against acquittal of accused on June 1

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday fixed the hearing of the Daniel Pearl murder case for June 1, a month after the American journalist's family filed an appeal against the acquittal of the prime accused and British-born top al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and three others in the case.

Pearl, the 38-year-old South Asia bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal, was abducted and beheaded while he was in Pakistan investigating a story in 2002 on the alleged links between the country's powerful spy agency ISI and al-Qaeda.

An anti-terrorism court awarded death sentence to Sheikh and life imprisonment to three others.

PTI

US Congress approves China sanctions over ethnic crackdown

Washington: Congress has voted to toughen the US response to a brutal Chinese crackdown on ethnic minorities, adding another factor to the increasingly stormy relationship between the two countries.

The House passed a bipartisan bill on Wednesday that would impose sanctions on Chinese officials involved in the mass surveillance and detention of Uighurs and other ethnic groups in the western Xinjiang region, a campaign that has drawn muted international response because of China's influence around the world.

The measure already passed the Senate and needs a signature from President Donald Trump, who said this week he'll "very strongly" consider it amid U.S. anger over China's handling of the Covid outbreak and tension over a Chinese plan to restrict civil liberties in Hong Kong.

Both issues emerged, along

with other sore points in the China-U.S. Relationship, as Republican and Democratic members of Congress spoke in support of the bill. No one spoke against it, and it passed by a 413-1 vote. "Beijing's barbarous actions targeting the Uighur people are an outrage to the collective conscience of the world," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a floor speech in support of the bill. It was the first bill in history to pass with proxy votes after House Democrats, over Republican objections, adopted a measure allowing such votes in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Congress late last year voted to condemn the crackdown in Xinjiang, where Chinese authorities have detained more than a million people — from mostly Muslim ethnic groups that include Uighurs, Kazakhs and Kyrgyz — in a vast network of detention centers.

AP

Pak crash: Foreign experts recover missing cockpit voice recorder

Karachi: A team of foreign experts on Thursday recovered the missing cockpit voice recorder from the debris of the crashed Pakistan International Airlines plane, nearly a week after one of the worst aviation disasters in the country's history.

The domestic flight from Lahore to Karachi crashed in a residential area near the Jinnah International Airport here last Friday, killing 97 people on board. Two passengers miraculously survived the crash.

The Airbus A320 aircraft of the national carrier had 91 passengers and a crew of eight when it crashed into the Jinnah Garden area near Model Colony in Malir on Friday, minutes before its landing. Eleven people on the ground were also injured.

PTI

Sensex extends gains, reclaims 32,000-mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices defied gravity for the second straight session on Thursday as expiry of May series derivatives contracts triggered across-the-board buying amid firm global cues.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 595.37 points or 1.88 per cent to finish at 32,200.59. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 175.15 points or 1.88 per cent to 9,490.10.

L&T was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 6.17 per cent, followed by Hero MotoCorp, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, Maruti, HDFC, Tata Steel and ICICI Bank.

ITC, SBI and Bharti Airtel were the only laggards, slipping up to 0.83 per cent.

Benchmarks witnessed a broad-based rally on account of short-covering by market participants as May series futures and options (F&O) contracts expired at the end of the session, analysts said.

Further, domestic investors took positive cues from most global markets amid optimism over the reopening of major economies across the world. “A huge EU stimulus plan provided a boost to European



shares while Asian shares were affected by the US-China diplomatic issues. Indian markets are banking on continued resumption of economic activities, inspite of still high number of new infections.

“Further stimulus measures are also expected to boost demand in the economy and help the most impacted sectors to recover.

Market is rising on the back of expectations while there has been little change in ground realities,” said Vinod

Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

All sectoral indices ended on a positive note, with BSE capital goods index surging 5.11 per cent, followed by auto, industrials, finance, realty, bankex and metal.

Broadser BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices rallied up to 1.42 per cent. Global equities remained buoyant on economic recovery hopes, with US’ Dow Jones closing above the 25,000-level for the first time since March.

LIC of India launches Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

New Delhi: The Government of India has introduced Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana (Modified -2020), with modified rate of pension for citizens aged 60 years and above. LIC of India is solely authorised to operate this scheme. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (Modified-2020) is a Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Pension Scheme subsidised by the Govt of India. This plan will be available for sale commencing from 26/05/2020 for three financial years i.e. upto 31st March, 2023.

Wheat procurement by Govt agencies surpasses last year figures

New Delhi: Despite fortnight delay due to COVID, procurement touches 341.56 LMT surpassing last year’s total by 25,000 tons Procurement of wheat by the Govt agencies surpassed last year’s figures of 341.31Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) to touch 341.56LMT on 24.05.2020.

Surmounting all impediments created due to the spread of Covid-19 virus and the country wide lockdown.

Wheat harvesting generally starts towards end of March and procurement commences in the first week of April every year.

Western Rly preparing inhouse mask, sanitisers

New Delhi: Western Railway is taking all best possible efforts to prevent the spread of Covid 19 pandemic.

The real fight against Corona pandemic is being ensured at various fronts over Western railway in the form of transportation of essential commodities through parcel special & goods trains, carrying lakhs of migrant labourers to their native States through shramik special trains.

Operation of special trains for general passengers, mission food distribution for free meals to needy & helpless persons & inhouse preparation of Masks, sanitizers, PPEs etc.

In order to step up preventive measures against the coronavirus infection, masks and sanitisers are prepared inhouse at all the six divisions of WR.

These masks and sanitisers are used by not just railway officials and RPF who are involved in the day to day working of the freight and passengers movements

But are also used by the labourers, who are involved in loading and unloading of goods and parcel trains.

71% Indians think Govt’s stimulus package will lead to economic recovery: Study

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Around 71 per cent of Indians believe the Government’s over ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package will lead to economic recovery, a study said.

The Centre earlier this month announced a mega relief package to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis. A vast majority (71 per cent) of Indians either agree or strongly agree that the relief package will lead to economic recovery, the study by global market research and data company YouGov said.

The survey was done online by YouGov Omnibus among 1,005 respondents in India between May 19-22, 2020. It found that respondents from tier-III cities are more likely to view this package favourably (76 per cent) than those from tier-I cities (67 per cent).

Further, only 15 per cent seem unhappy with the package. Dissatisfaction is the highest among people from the south (21 per cent) as compared to the other regional residents, the survey said. Similarly, tier-I residents (21 per cent) seem unhappier with the offered benefits compared to tier-II (14 per cent) and tier-III (10 per cent) residents.

Even though a majority support the economic package, fewer than half see it benefiting them personally. From the various schemes, four in 10 urban Indians (43 per cent) feel they are most likely to benefit from the ‘increased public expenditure on healthcare’ and the ‘reduction of TDS/TCS rates for non-salaried section’ (40 per cent). One in three (33 per cent) see themselves benefiting from the ‘extension of credit linked subsidy scheme for middle-income groups’, ‘starting of online courses by top 100 universities’ (31 per

cent) and ‘interest subsidy for small business under Mudra-Sishu loans’ (30%), it added.

Asked about the provisions that could benefit the underprivileged (migrants and poor, among others), majority of respondents (61 per cent) believed ‘distribution of free food grains’ is most likely to work to their advantage.

More than half (53 per cent) were in support of ‘one nation one ration card’ provision under which the government has allowed inter-state portability of ration cards.

Although the Government believes the economic package will go a long way in realising the idea of a self-reliant India, only one-third (33 per cent) of urban Indians think so, it said.

Some think this package will create new job opportunities (21 per cent), while others see it giving a boost to the smaller businesses (20 per cent) or the rural economy (17 per cent), the study added.

Nissan plans to shut Indonesia, Barcelona plants

SILENT ON INDIA

IANAS ■ CHENNAI

Japanese automobile major Nissan Motor Company on Thursday said closure of Indonesian and Barcelona plants; reducing the number of models; rationalising production capacities; cutting down fixed costs by 300 billion Yen are some of the measures planned to achieve sustainable growth, financial stability and profitability by the end of fiscal 2023.Company also said it will be exiting South Korea, the Datsun business in Russia and streamlining operations in some markets in ASEAN. In a statement the company said the scalable plan will shift the company’s strategy from its past focus on inflated expansion.

US layoffs climb to 41 million despite business reopenings

AP ■ WASHINGTON

An estimated 2.1 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week despite the gradual reopening of businesses around the country, bringing the running total since the coronavirus shutdowns took hold in mid-March to about 41 million, the government said Thursday.

The figures underscored the continuing damage to businesses and livelihoods from the outbreak that has now killed at least 100,000 people in the U.S., more than the number of Americans lost in the Vietnam and Korean wars combined, and more than 33 times the death toll on 9/11. The U.S. unemployment rate was 14.7% in April, the highest since the Great Depression.

COVID-19 Mumbai facing ‘disastrous consequences’ due to high population density: Gadkari

PTI ■ MUMBAI

are rotting as well.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said there is a need to decongest the financial capital as the densely populated city is facing “disastrous consequences”, referring to mounting coronavirus cases.

Gadkari, the road transport minister, also offered to allocate plots for Dharavi’s tanneries along the upcoming Mumbai-Delhi express highway.In comments that came amid reports that many including migrants battling hunger due to the pandemic, Gadkari also said that food warehouses are overflowing and grains

It can be noted that the financial capital is the most affected in terms of number of virus cases, accounting for over a fifth of the overall COVID-19 infections in the country.

At present, there are reports of the medical facilities being close to being overwhelmed, even as the number of patients continues rising fast in some localities like the Dharavi slum, which alone has reported over 1,600 cases. “There is a need to decongest Mumbai, look at the disastrous consequences that we are facing. The population is very dense, which leads to a lot of problems,” Gadkari said speak-

ing at a webinar organised by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank Federation.Gadkari, who handles the MSME portfolio as well, said there are 1.5 lakh people in Dharavi who work exclusively in the tanneries or leather trade and offered them space next to the upcoming Mumbai-New Delhi Expressway being executed by the Central Government.

Stressing that decentralisation and decongesting is the need of the hour, he said the Maharashtra Government should approach the Centre for having a leather works cluster along the expressway within the State.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI - 110001.
O.A. NO. 807/19 Date : 02.03.2020
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK **APPLICANT**
SHRI BADAL PANWAR & ORS.. **RESPONDENT**
To, Defendant
1. MIS EMM VEE INFRASTRUCTURES PVT LTD. PLOT NO. 1000M VILLAGE GHAT NEAR DWAARKA HEIGHTS NH-58, VEDVYAS PURI MEERUT-25005

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.59,03,835/- (Rupees FIFTY NINE LAKH THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **02.06.2020 At 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL FOR REGISTRAR , DRT-II, Delhi.

Govt. of Bihar
BIHAR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER FOR
Khagaria I&D and STP Project
NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA (NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME)
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
National Competitive Bidding
No: BUIDCo/Yo-998/19-158

The Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., (BUIDCo), Patna for and on behalf of the Owner in the State of Bihar, India invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the works comprising TO (I) DESIGN AND BUILD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OF INSTALLED CAPACITY 4.5 MLD INCLUDING 6.5 MLD MPS AND ALL APPURTENANT STRUCTURES AND ALLIED WORKS INCLUDING UV DISINFECTION AND DISPOSAL OF TREATED EFFLUENT ;(II) SURVEY, NECESSARY, AND BUILD NEW CONSTRUCTION OF INTERCEPTION & DIVERSION WORKS ALONG WITH INTERMEDIATE PUMPING STATION AT JNKT COLLEGE, WITH 2 KM RISING MAIN;(III) SCADA AND ONLINE MONITORING SYSTEM, (IV) PROVISION FOR DEDICATED FEEDER MAIN FOR UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY TO STP/PUMPING STATIONS & DG SETS FOR POWER BACKUP (V) OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT INCLUDING MPS AND INTERCEPTION & DIVERSION WORKS FOR A PERIOD OF 15 YEARS IN KHAGARIA TOWN , STATE OF BIHAR, INDIA. Period for design/ redesign, build, test and commissioning is 12 months and operation and maintenance period is 15 Years.
1. Detailed Invitation for Bid which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in website and in BUIDCO's Website www.buidco.in. Bidding Documents will be available with effect from date of publication.
2. The last date & time of bid submission in procurement portal i.e; on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in is **04.07.2020 up to 03:00 PM**.The last date and time for submission of hard copy of bid (Bid document cost, EMD, All Affidavits, Undertaking) is on **07.07.2020 up to 03:30 PM**.The bids will be opened on the same day at **4:00 PM**.
3. The interested eligible bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the bidding documents.

Chief Engineer
Design, Planning, Monitoring, BUIDCo, Patna

Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation, Near Rajapur Pul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-800001
(Tel: 0612-2558412, Email: mdbuidco@gmail.com)

PR. No. 001564 (Ni Ni) 2020-21
नोबल कोरेना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु **Toll Free No.: 104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
ख़ाद सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
अभियंता के सहयोग एवं सहयता हेतु श्रम संसाधन विभाग का Toll Free No.: 18003456138

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sarita D/o Sajjan Kumar R/o H.No. B-30, Deepak Vihar, Chander Vihar, Delhi,** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 14.03.2020. In this regard, a case vide **FIR No. 186/20 u/s 363 IPC Dated 18.03.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** The description of the missing girl is as under.
Age: 15 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5' 3", Face: Round, Wearing: Chocolate colour Kurta-Pajama and hawai chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-2594 6700
DP/117/OD/2020

SARITA

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a Male namely **Vishnu S/o Ram Singh, R/o Plot No. 11-B, Ground Floor, Vikas Nagar, Panchshel Enclave, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, Age : 23 yrs., Height : 5'8", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Oval, Wearing : Black Colour Shirt, Black Colour Pant, Green Colour Jersey and Black Colour Shoes in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since **13.02.2020** with his son namely : **Jatin, Age : 2 months,** from the area of P.S. Ranhola. In this regard a case **DD. No. 23-A dated 14.02.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped Male but no clue has come to light so far. if anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped Male please inform undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax.: 011-24368639
SHO PS. Ranhola, Delhi Ph.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003
DP/166/OD/2020.

Vishnu

Jatin

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE
General public is here by informed that one female **Namely: Moni** with her Daughter **Vashvavi (Age:4years), W/o Neeraj, H/o: S-3/27, Swaran Park, Mangal Bazar, Nangloi, Delhi, Age: 25 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Orange Sari-Red Shawl and Green Hawai** Chapple in feet has been Missing since 07.02.2020 from the area of P.S. Nangloi. In this regard a DD No. 17-A dated 09.02.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. 011-25949470, 25947225
Fax: 011-24368639 DP/150/OD/2020

WESTERN RAILWAY				
VARIOUS WORKS IN CHURCHGATE - VIRAR SECTION				
S. N.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. Cost of Work (₹)	EMD (₹)
1	BCT/20-21/121 dtd. 27/05/2020	Churchgate - Virar Section - Providing 11 Tool Room cum Rest Rooms for Trackmen under Sr. DEN (S) BCT Section.	76,60,882.96	1,53,200/-
2	BCT/20-21/123 dtd. 27/05/2020	Churchgate - Virar Section - Repair Work at CPWI Office & Store Room at ADH and Providing of Channel Crossing for Cables through Subway No. 40.	94,15,045.02	1,88,300/-
3	BCT/20-21/122 dtd. 27/05/2020	Churchgate - Virar Section - Providing Retaining Wall / Ballast Wall in Churchgate - Virar Section. (12550 Rm)	11,73,02,358.70	7,36,500/-
Sr. No. 1 & 2 : Date and Time of Submission & Opening of Tender: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 26/06/2020 and Opening at 15.30 hrs. on the Same day. Sr. No. 3 : Date and Time of Submission & Opening of Tender: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 30/06/2020 and Opening at 15.30 hrs. on the Same day. Note: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.				
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly				

GOVT.OF MAHARASHTRA
P.W.Division,Chiplun
Phone No. 02355/252806
Web-www.mahapwd.com& e-mail-chiplun.ee@mahapwd.com
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 01 FOR 2020-2021 Open ONLINE
Online "B-1" e-tenders for the following works are invited be the Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Chiplun Dist. Ratnagiri

Sr No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work (Rs.) Lakhs	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time Limit (Month)	Type & Cost of blank e-tender form fee (Non Refundable)
1.	Proposed Development For Rehabilitation Of Village Tiware In S.NO. 104 H.NO. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 1415 And S.NO. 105 4, 5, 6, 7+9, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 At Village Alore, Tal. Chiplun Dist. Ratnagiri. 1 To 12 Home (For 12 Unit)	1,79,52,991/-	90,000/-	12 Months	B-1 Rs.2000/-
2.	Proposed Development For Rehabilitation of Village Tiware In S.NO. 104 H.NO. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,12, 13A, 13B, 1415 And S.NO. 105 4, 5, 6, 7+9, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 At Village Alore, Tal. Chiplun Dist. Ratnagiri. 13 To 24 Home (For 12 Unit)	1,79,52,991/-	90,000/-	12 Months	B-1 Rs.2000/-

E-tender time table	
1. Download & Bid Preparation Period of online Tender	Dt 04.06.2020 at 10.00 a.m. to Dt 29.06.2020 at 18.00 p.m.
2. Pri bids Meeting Date Time & Place	In the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D Circle Ratnagiri. Dt. 22.06.2020, 11.00 AM
3. Bid Prparation last date	Dt. 29.06.2020 at 18.30 p.m.
4. Place, Date and timing of opening Technical-bid and Financial bid.	In the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D Circle Ratnagiri. Technical Bid - dt 30.06.2020 at 10.00 a.m. Financial Bid - dt 01.07..2020 at 10.00 a.m. (If possible)

Note :-

- All eligible/interested contractors who want to participate in tendering process should compulsory get enrolled on e-tendering portal "**<http://mahatenders.gov.in>**" the appropriate category applicable to them.
- Contractors details for difficulties in submission of online tenders if any. NIC (National Informatics Center on 18002337315 (Toll free)
- It is compulsory for all participates to submit all documents online.
- Other term and condition displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved.
- Above Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D website **www.mahapwd.com**.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Chiplun P.W. Division, Chiplun

DGIPR/2020-2021/137

Trend Blazer

Malaika shares her morning ritual

Actor **MALAIKA ARORA** has shared her daily morning ritual, which is all about soaking in the sun.

She took to Instagram to share her morning routine through a video.

“My every morning ritual — stand in the sun and get my share of vitamin D, which I think is so essential. Don’t forget, just get that morning sun,” she said in the video.

In the clip, Malaika is seen flaunting healthy glowing skin with her hair tied in a bun. She is wearing a navy blue, round neck t-shirt and is standing in her balcony against the backdrop of a sunny sky.



‘We all are going through a tough time due to this pandemic and lockdown. But the situation

also demands us to think beyond normal and explore new ways to reach out to the music lovers. I like it is one such attempt by me to offer something entertaining to the audience.’

—Palash Sen

Amid the lockdown, actor

SHRADDHA KAPOOR

stepped out to buy essential groceries with her brother Siddhanth, and described it as an adventurous experience.

She took to Instagram to share a picture with her brother at a supermarket. “Groceries adventure with my *bhaiya* @siddhanthkapoor,” Shraddha wrote along with the picture.

Meanwhile, Shraddha has been urging fans to not abandon pets amid the lockdown. Recently, she shared a poem from the perspective of a caged animal, talking about freedom and life outside of zoos.

India on Reese’s mind?

Actor **REESE WITHERSPOON** and her son Tennessee are dreaming of travelling to India. Her recent Instagram post underlines the fact.

In the post, the mother-son duo can be seen engrossed in an activity book on India.

In the image, Tennessee holds a pen while Witherspoon is seen pointing to a page with ‘India’ written on it. There is also a brochure of India lying nearby on the table along with a fake passport meant for a play.

“Dreaming of the places we will go. Where do you dream of travelling to?” she wrote along with the picture.



Students without seat partners, attending school in shifts while wearing masks, and carrying sanitisers along with books, combining online education with physical and a focus on keeping safe... Is this what schools in the recent future, whenever they reopen, look like? Since the world is all set to change with new normal in every industry be it fashion, travel or education, the question is — what is the way forward? Educationists share that COVID-19 is likely to change the face of education in the forthcoming years and it will pave the way for new learning trends.

Some of the suggestions that have come forth from educationists include frequent health checks, temperature screenings, staggered arrivals and limiting visitors on campus

But there is also the emotional aspect to be looked after. The bond that children make in school, while being away from their parents, family or any kind of intervention, make them understand different aspects of life while making them emotionally strong. So social need is one domain which every school caters as it plays a very important role in shaping a child’s character, believes Shivani Gupta, a primary teacher of Gems Modern Academy, Gurgaon. She says, “Multi-sensory experiences for a child are a very strong force. S/he learns best not in a class, but over time with real life experiences. I feel the focus still remains the same, just the strategies have changed because of what is happening in the world. Now these values are being taught using technology.”

Children are being prepared to deal with the new normal. Short videos, PPTs and online discussions are being conducted

A NEW LEARNING

AYUSHI SHARMA talks to the experts to find out the way forward for schools and education as social distancing changes the method of instruction

ed to make them aware of the current situation. Their inputs are asked on topics like: What do they think can be done to stay safe? How important is it to maintain social distancing? Is there any need to change the way we think? What should be changed — our thinking or our actions? “Such topics ignite their critical thinking and give them a chance to introspect their views. Once they believe in what they do, it becomes their habit,” Shivani tells us.

Group learning, which was widely adopted before this pandemic, should now be replaced with a more engaging approach, shares Beas Dev Ralhan, co-founder and CEO of Next Education India Pvt Ltd. “Schools should introduce individual activities and project-based learning so that students can explore their interests and learn at their own pace. Further, to make bonding among students and teachers, online discussions, debates and extempores should be conducted so that they can interact, present their views and stay connected. This, in turn, will ensure that learning and holistic development doesn’t stop no matter what,” says he.



What is a crisis worth if you don’t learn something from it? Well, Anju Wal, principal of Shiv Nadar School, Faridabad, shares that schools are re-imagining the teaching-learning process. At this moment, it is more important to do empathetic teaching than transact lessons online. She says, “An expression of love and care is

Phygital is the way forward’

BALBIR SINGH DHILLON, Audi India’s head, hopes that the sales will bounce back in the country powered by the YOLO mentality of customers

As the country limps back to a sense of normalcy, I spoke with Balbir Singh Dhillon, Audi India’s boss about how he believes the luxury car market in India will proceed. To start with, over two-thirds of Audi’s workshops are open as are half of the showrooms that are following all social distancing norms. But Dhillon says that there are challenges, not just social distancing, inside showrooms, but other norms such as the rule in Chennai that car showrooms cannot use air-conditioners. “There are some unique challenges in some states,” he says.

But what about car sales? Not a single unit was sold in April. In fact, one mustn’t forget that no cars could even undergo routine servicing. Audi India, like several other manufacturers, found itself in a slightly piquant situation. “Well, each one of our workshops had customer vehicles undergoing service and repairs. Our first priority is ensuring that those get back to their owners as soon as possible as we restart operations.” At the same time, Audi India ran a special service scheme for ‘Covid Warriors’ to ensure that Audi vehicles owned by those on the frontlines of facing the virus that originated in Wuhan are serviced or repaired on a priority basis.

As for sales, since all Audis, even those assembled in India, are made from parts shipped from abroad, Dhillon said that customs authorities are being slightly cautious and understandably so. And despite some showrooms opening up, several states are just figuring out how to tackle the lockdown now. This, Dhillon believes, will lead to ever increasing levels of digitisation in the selling process. “Customers have been digital, but they initially researched the cars they wanted to buy and read reviews online. An average customer and his or her family spends around 100 hours buying a car. Earlier, maybe a third of



the time was spent online and then there were visits to the showroom. Now that will go up to over half, maybe even two-thirds. We are enabling that with things like the Audi ‘Virtual Showroom’ as well. Yet, digital will not replace physical, that is why I believe the way forward is ‘phygital’, where digital showrooms and experiences will enhance the physical buying process.”

But can the market recover from the virus-hit first few months of 2020? Dhillon reckons, it will be tough, as the industry already dealt with a challenging 2019, where volumes fell 15 per cent. “The first quarter of the calendar year 2020 saw volumes continue to decline,” he admits. But he maintains a positive spin on things going forward. “I believe the thought process will change, people will start thinking on the lines of ‘YOLO’ (You Only Live Once) and will want to splurge on a luxury vehicle for driving getaways.” He added that the supply-side interventions by the government, might not have any imme-

diated impact on sales but will have a long-term positive effect.

“It would have been nice if the government made some demand-side interventions such as a reduction of GST rates, which are still far too high in India. Rates between 43-48 per cent coupled with registration charges ranging from 10-20 per cent have meant that the luxury segment is just one percent of the overall car market. Even a slight reduction in these rates could have proven to be a booster to growth, but we must accept this and move on. We have to continue to do what we do best, that is selling emotions, dreams and positivity,” Dhillon told this columnist, which is why he continues to believe in inculcating brand loyalty for Audi early on.

However, the higher charges on luxury cars has proven to be a hindrance for the government’s ambitious ‘Make in India’ project. While 90 per cent of the Audis sold in India, such as the best-selling A3 and A4 sedans and the Q5 SUVs are assembled in India, Dhillon admitted that localisa-

tion levels are low. “With more proactive policies we could have reached 1,00,000 units easily but the system has to work together for that. Such numbers would not only have meant more manufacturing and localisation in India, but also newer technologies and products for us.”

The lockdown might be winding down but the economy and sales are in tatters, Audi is not going to hold back from its previously planned launch schedule for 2020. “Sure, there will be short-term adjustments such as a launch getting delayed by a month or two, but there are no changes in plans.” And in other markets, as restrictions lift, sales have seen a bounce. In China, for example, the country where all the troubles began, sales have stabilised to nearly the levels they were before everything went haywire. Dhillon and his colleagues at Audi India are hoping the same will happen here as well.

One thing is certain that education institutions have made the most of the situation. With e-learning, schools have learned not put disproportionate focus on facts, figures and bookish learning. What Meenal Arora, founder-director of Shemford Group of Futuristic Schools, feels is that this chaotic time is teaching us that a curriculum must be grounded in students’ realities and cultivate empathy, creative and flexible thinking in students. “Teachers are trying to help children think about their relationship with the world around them through various activities. Parents have important roles to play and their active participation is indispensable,” says she.

Educational needs of children are changing at a very high pace. Subjecting them to mathematical tables, mugging up poems and memorising the names of colours is not going to help anymore. They need to be exposed to ‘experiences’ no matter how trivial. But with the current scenario and online education becoming the trend, this isn’t an option. So how can one focus on learning through real experiences in an untouchable world? Shivani finds the optimistic viewpoint in a negative situation as well. She feels that we can still do a lot more than what we could do before the ‘stay-at-home’ orders. “Earlier, we were getting away from all the pleasures of life, from family and happiness because of our fast-paced lives. Right now, we are actually saving that time and energy, which can be used in various other pursuits. This untouchable time has actually brought us closer to our families and has given time to focus on the real experiences. As a teacher, I ask my students to connect with their grandparents as they can offer endless stories and a huge amount of patience to answer all those ‘why?’ questions and help their mothers as psychology suggests that children learn and imitate behaviours by watching and listening, which means they can learn character traits such as resilience, determination and perseverance from mother,” shares she.

Anju tells us that even in these lockdown days, when they are digitally connecting with the children, they are looking at the home as the laboratory of learning and the parents as their co-partners in the journey of teaching and learning. Even agrees with Shivani and says, “There has been no option but to deepen connects with our parents and orient them seamlessly and consistently to own our pedagogy. We partner with them and use homegrown resources to bring real-time experiences in this learning from home situation.”

The global health crisis has also redirected the pedagogical approach towards digital learning tools and e-learning plat-

forms that offer learning experiences close to real experiences. “Subject learning must be reshaped and amalgamated with short videos, DIY activities, audio-visual content and more. Students must be encouraged to explore and browse subject-related queries online, actively participate in discussions with subject experts and attend webinars,” says Ralhan.

Pankaj Kumar Singh, Managing Director of the Cambridge Montessori preschool and day care pvt ltd, has a few more ways through which children can be exposed to real experiences. He says, “Design activities that integrate online interactions with physical movement like going on a scavenger hunt, group stories, singing or music. Provide children with a choice of activities so that they can be empowered in making decisions over the week, while ensuring a balance of activities across curriculum learning areas. For instance, using a rubric to self-monitor progress, apply techniques of the flipped classroom. It’s where children engage in learning experiences by collecting information, items, experimenting and then share through online format.”

Once the schools reopen, a few precautionary measures will be taken and we can still be on the path of learning. So how can the children be taught about social distancing in schools and no-touch culture? Rohan Parikh, director of The Green Acres Academy, explains that children are naturally curious and are always looking to explore and interact with their environment. “The more practical solutions will be to create a shift system so we have less children in the building at one time. Keep separate groups to contain any spread. There will be a huge burden on schools to manage and keep to these measures. Teachers will have to look for ways to create experiences within classrooms that are meaningful and impart knowledge. Such creativity and working with limited resources have been the way of teachers for many years. I trust we will find the solution,” says he.

Undoubtedly, the process has its own challenges but “a lot of training sessions and workshops for everyone — teachers, students and even parents, can help a bit,” shares Meenal. “Using fun interactive activities, children can be taught to maintain social distance. With constant counselling, we will be able to achieve a no-touch culture at school. It can be done by instilling discipline and making children understand how they have to conduct themselves in the ‘new normal’ world. This may impact learning through real life experiences a bit but we must remember — difficult times don’t last forever. This, too, shall pass soon,” she adds.

The future of education is all set to change. And it’s true that nothing can replace the physical touch and its impact on one’s memory. But as they say, the only constant in life is change. The ones who do not want to change will succumb and the ones who maintain their sanity, stay calm and are willing to adapt this change will survive this pandemic.

Theatre helped me grow: Shreyas Talpade

Shreyas Talpade’s first role was that of Sita for a School play. The next year he played Draupadi in the school version of the *Mahabharata*. This was, perhaps, the first sign of how versatile actor he would be in later years. From school dramas, street plays to monologues and mimes — Shreyas wanted to learn and be a part of everything.

“From 1990 till 2005, I did nearly 2,500 shows in various languages and of different productions. My love for the stage was such that I didn’t want to miss a single chance to be under the arc lights. Whatever I am today is because of theatre. It grows you and betters your craft like no other medium. Whatever little appreciation I get in my films today is all because of it,” reminisces Talpade.

The actor switched from theatre to television, and later films. But in the midst of all his other work commitments, he was inspired to return to the stage with Zee Theatre’s teleplay *Typecaste*. “I love the format of a teleplay and that’s the reason why I said yes to it. I think teleplay is a great experiment where we get rid of the proverbial fourth wall. It’s almost like shooting for a film in an enclosed studio. These formats are challenging but they need to be explored a lot more,” says he.

Typecaste is an adaptation of a Marathi play called *Pahije Jatiche* by the famous playwright Vijay Tendulkar. The play is set in the 70s when the caste system was not just prevalent but rigidly enforced in India. However, it shows how the context of the story is relevant even today. Shreyas plays the role of Mahipat Babruvahan, who becomes the first from his caste and village to complete his master’s degree. Mahipat has a dream of becoming a professor and the play showcases all he does to achieve his dream including how he manages his love interest.

“The script is layered, entertaining and has a strong social message. I have always believed you can say a lot with humour,” says Shreyas.

The teleplay is available on Tata Sky and Airtel Digital TV Spotlight. It also stars Atul Mathur, Aaditi Pohankar and Utkarsh



LITTLE VICTORY GARDENS

While most super foods are perceived to be exotic, expensive and difficult to find, this is not really true, says nutritionist ISHI KHOSLA

Evolving consumer demands based on health needs and changing lifestyles have resulted in changes in the food industry in recent years. To meet growing and changing consumer demands driven by health and well-being, the food industry is forced to come up with new, innovative concepts and food products that are driven by the use of new raw materials. These are emerging out of super foods, which gained the attention of the consumers over the last few years.

The increasing popularity of super foods can be understood from the fact that these raw materials match with diet trends like “organic”, “all-raw”, “free-from”, “vegan”, “gluten free” and an increasing desire to stay healthy. These new raw materials might play a role in meeting the new health needs in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic along with existing epidemics of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, auto-immune disorders and cancers. These merit particular attention when immune systems are challenged and there is rising awareness about their importance. The properties that qualify a food as super are that it should possess special health benefits which go beyond its nutritional benefits. While most super foods are perceived to be exotic, expensive and difficult to find, this is not really true. Actually they are all around us in legumes (*soya*, black beans), spices and herbs (turmeric, basil), vegetables (ginger, garlic, broccoli, kale, mushrooms, avocado), fruits (berries, *amla*, olives), grains (quinoa, millets). Some of the unsung Indian super foods are fox nuts (*makhana*), *kokum*, *morenga*, Sea Buckthorn, flax, soursop, basil seeds, and in-fact our entire spice box.

It is only when a food gets recommendations by health professionals based on research or other factors that it acquires a premium status and is then positioned as a super food. As a matter of fact, the concept which was meant only to describe foods with higher polyphenols and anti-oxidants has been revoked and has become questionable.

In 2012 USDA has withdrawn this term and does not support claims of super foods. The goal is to eat a variety, include all the food groups, in the right amount as a part of a healthy diet. Rising consumer awareness about the health benefits being offered is leading the industry to boost its demand.



Growing health consciousness among the consumers and rising number of new products are some of the major factors contributing to growth in this industry. For example leading multinational food companies are serving turmeric ginger laced beverages. Such trends are only expected to grow. Currently global super foods market is dominated by North America, with a growth rate of 9 per cent followed by Europe and Asia-Pacific region.

Consumption in Asia-Pacific is driven by the growing affluence of the middle-class population and rising health consciousness among consumers coupled with increasing acceptance of nutritious products. However, the high prices of such products restrain the growth of their demand. High rate of urbanisation has radically changed the lifestyle and resultant changing diets of people are expected to have a positive impact on this growing market.

To cope with increased demands and the growing popularity of these foods, there is a need to increase agricultural pro-



duction and productivity with more environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Until then,

it is likely that the demand may exceed the supply and the prices will go up making them assume a

further premium status on super market shelves. With the adoption of new ground breaking innovations, it is possible to add value in the areas of health, nutrition, consumption, and overall well-being. Organic, bio-dynamic cultivation, hydroponics and many more advancements are some the future agricultural practises which will not only be good for our health but the entire ecosystem.

The combination of suitable raw materials and inspiring food technologies may guide and shape the food sector of the future. Meanwhile the best practices that emerge to enjoy these high value foods is to go back in post world war times and grow your own vegetables, herbs and spices. Victory gardens (vegetable, fruit, and herb gardens planted at private residences and public parks) supplied 40 percent of fruits and vegetables at one point in the US after the war in 1919. Fruits of the war on COVID could be the little victory gardens with super foods all across the country and may pave the way to victory on the virus by building our very own immunity.

Beat the heat

Here are some drinks with a refreshing twist to keep you hydrated during summer. By TEAM VIVA

Now that summers are here, ways to stay hydrated will take centrestage. Water, for obvious reasons is the first choice. Apart from that, one can try other drinks, salads, more carbs, coconut water and more to remain hydrated.

Here are some drinks with a refreshing twist.

The Oberoi has come up with *Green Rush* by combining spinach leaves, green apple, celery sticks, cucumber and lemon juice. You need to blend all the ingredients until smooth, add crushed ice, garnish with a celery stick and serve chilled.

It has several nutritional benefits. Cucumber is a great source of antioxidants and provides hydration to the body. Celery contains a plant compound called apigenin, which is anti inflammatory, antibacterial, antiviral and an antioxidant. Spinach is a great source of iron and vitamin A and green apple provides both vitamins A and C to the body.

Another drink that it has to offer is *Banana Spice Smoothie*. Mix banana, moringa leaves, coconut milk, ginger, cardamom and cinnamon. Blend the spinach and coconut milk until smooth, add the bananas, ginger, cinnamon, and cardamom and blend again. Ginger helps in reducing inflammation, aids digestion and helps the body detoxify naturally. Moringa helps in balancing digestive system and in improving eye sight. Banana is high in anti-oxidants and helps in moderating blood sugar levels. It is a rich source of fibre and helps in weight loss.

Chef Anshu Raj, Caterspoint suggests *Watermelon Basil Coconut Limeade* to up your health game. Combine ripe watermelon, fresh basil leaf or soaked basil seeds with fresh lime, roasted cumin and coconut water. Don't forget the ice cubes.

First take the watermelon, wash it thoroughly, peel and chop in about half inches cubes. Now take fresh coconut water and pour in mixer. Then add lime juice, basil leaves or soaked basil seeds and stir well along with six to eight ice cubes. Now add watermelon cubes. For an Indian flavour, you can add roasted cumin seeds which go very well with the mix. If you have a sweet tooth, you can add honey to your limeade.

He shares another summer favourite to beat the heat — *Watermelon Mojito Cooler*. Add Sprite or sparkling water, mojito



syrup, lime juice and ice cubes in ripe watermelon.

Take watermelon, wash it thoroughly, peel the skin and cut into half inches cubes. Then take a mixer, add Sprite or soda, lime juice and mojito syrup. If you don't have mojito syrup you can make it at home with sugar, lime juice and crushed mint leaves. Add that to your cooler. Now add ice cubes in a mixer and stir before adding watermelon. Pour the mixture in a tall glass and garnish with fresh mints .

Apart from keeping you hydrated, it helps you to fight heart problems, is good for hair, skin and your digestive system.

Vinayak Gupta, chef and partner at Beep, Agra shares an immune booster elixir which keeps one hydrated too. It can be made by combining wheat grass, apple, carrot, celery stick, lemon, chopped ginger, garlic clove (optional) and turmeric. Put all ingredients in a jar, juice them and drink immediately. If you prefer the drink to be chilled, place all ingredients in the fridge for at least half an hour before processing

All these refreshing drinks will certainly leave you wanting for more.

RECIPES

BOHRI MALAI KHAJA

WHAT YOU NEED

For covering:

- Refined flour: 2 cups
- *Ghee*: 2 tbsp

For layering:

- Refined flour: 1 tbsp
- *Ghee*: 1 tbsp

For stuffing:

- *Khoya*: 1 cup
- California walnut powder: 1/2 cup
- Sugar (powdered): 1 cup
- Green cardamom powder: 1 tsp
- Saffron water: 1 tsp
- Oil for frying



METHOD

- Roast the *khoya* and California walnut powder on low flame for 10 minutes.

- Cool and mix sugar, cardamom powder. Keep aside.
- Knead refined flour and *ghee* with little water to form a stiff

dough. Make into orange-sized balls.

- Roll each ball to a thin disc nine-inches in diameter. Smear *ghee* and sprinkle refined flour all over.

- Roll into a thin cylinder, twist it and spiral it up. Chill for 10 minutes.

- Roll the chilled spiral ball into a four-inch disc and add in a scoop of the cooled filing.

- Bring the ends together and roll into a ball again.

Give it a smear of saffron water and cool for 15 minutes.

- Deep fry over low flame.
- Garnish with powdered sugar.

Courtesy: California Walnuts.

ALMOND & ROSE KULFI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Milk, full cream: 4 cup
- Sugar: 1/2 cup
- Saffron: 1/4 tsp
- Almond meal: ½ cup
- Dried rose petals: ¼ cup

METHOD

- In a pan, add milk and heat it on low flame. Keep stirring. Do not let the milk burn.
- Let milk start to



thicken.

- Once it becomes half the volume, add the almond meal and sugar and mix well.

- Strain the mixture.

- Add the dried rose petals and saffron strands. Mix well.

- Allow the *kulfi* mixture to cool, pour it into *kulfi* moulds or small bowls and freeze them.

- Demould the *kulfi* and serve it garnished with roasted almond flakes.

Courtesy: Chef Manish Mehrotra, Almond Board of California.

SMOKED ALMOND RAITA

WHAT YOU NEED

- Almond flakes: ¼ cup
- Yoghurt: 1cup
- Dry roasted *jeera* powder: ¼ tsp
- Black pepper powder: ¼ tsp
- Salt to taste
- Black salt: ¼ tsp
- Chopped garlic: 2 tsp
- Chopped coriander leaves: 1 tsp
- Sunflower oil: 2 tsp
- Hot coal: 2-3 pieces
- *Ghee*: 1 tbsp

METHOD

- In a heavy bottom pan, heat the oil. Roast the chopped garlic until golden.

- In a bowl, add the yoghurt and whisk it well.
- Add the *jeera* powder,



black pepper powder, salt, black salt, roasted garlic as per taste. Mix gently.

- Take the almond flakes in a bowl.

- Make a small bowl-like structure out of the aluminum foil, and place it in the center of the bowl with almond

flakes.

- Place two to three small pieces of hot coal in the aluminum foil.

- Pour some *ghee* on top of it.

- Cover the almond bowl immediately with aluminum foil and keep it covered for 10-15 minutes. The almonds should be smoked.

- Remove the foil and the coal from the almonds and add these smoked almonds to the *raita* and mix gently.

- Serve the *raita* topped with chopped fresh coriander leaves and smoked almond flakes.

Courtesy: Chef Manish Mehrotra, Almond Board of California.

PATELI KE KEBAB

WHAT YOU NEED

- Boneless mutton (cut in half inch bits): 800 gm
- Ginger garlic paste: 50 gm
- Raw papaya paste: 150 gm
- White onion paste: 100 gm
- Brown onion paste: 100 gm
- *Desi ghee*: 150 gm
- Yellow chilli powder: 25 gm
- Coriander powder: 25 gm
- *Garam masala*: 25 gm.
- Black pepper powder: 10 gm
- Roasted *chana* powder: 50 gm
- Curd: 100 gm
- Saffron: 1 gm
- Poppy seeds paste: 30 gm
- Cashew paste: 10 gm
- *Chiroli* paste: 10 gm
- Desiccated coconut powder: 10 gm
- *Kewra*: 2 ml
- Clove: 4 pcs



- Green cardamom: 6 pcs
- Salt to taste

METHOD

- Take a bowl, put washed

mutton, add ginger garlic paste, raw papaya paste, white onion paste, curd, coriander powder, yellow chilli powder, *garam masala*, black peeper powder,

salt and brown onion.

- Blend well and keep in a cool place for two hours.

- Take a *pateli*, heat it and add *ghee*, clove and cardamom. After roasting put the entire marinated mutton, add some amount of water, roasted *chana* powder and stir vigorously. Put on medium flame, cover it for almost 15 minutes.

- Remove lid when the mutton is almost done. Now add cashew, almond, *chironji* paste, desiccated coconut powder, and poppy paste. Again blend it with a ladle and cook until it turns oily.

- Now add saffron and *kewra* water, stir two to three times, close the lid and remove from the flame immediately.

- Garnish with coriander leaves. Have it with *romali roti* or *paratha*.

Courtesy: Chef Mohammad Shaem Quraishi.

ICC defers decision on WT20 postponement till June 10

NEW DELHI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board on Thursday deferred a decision on the fate of this year's T20 World Cup in Australia till June 10 as it continued exploring contingency plans amid a raging pandemic.

The ICC also launched an inquiry into concerns over the "confidentiality" of its functioning, which the Board felt has been breached in the past few days.

"The Board also requested the ICC management continue with their discussions with stakeholders in exploring various contingency options in light of the rapidly changing public health situation caused by the Covid-19 virus," the ICC said in a statement after the Board's teleconference.

It is learnt that most of the discussion on the day was pertaining to classified information, including internal e-mails, being leaked, an issue that outgoing chairman Shashank Manohar as well as board members addressed.

"A number of Board members had raised their concerns over this issue recently and felt it required immediate attention to ensure the sanctity and confidentiality of Board matters in line with the highest standards of governance," the ICC release stated.

In fact, the ICC's Ethics Officer will be probing the media leaks.

"There was unanimous

agreement to immediately initiate an independent investigation led by the ICC's Ethics Officer and supported by global experts. The Board will be updated on this by the ICC CEO at its next meeting on 10 June 2020," it further stated.

It is understood that ICC board discussed all options with regards to the World Cup but there was no unanimity on whether to go ahead with the World T20 as per schedule or postpone it to 2021 or possibly 2022, which for many is a practical solution.

With Cricket Australia announcing their itinerary on the day, which included T20 matches in October, there are questions as to why the World T20 cannot go ahead in such a scenario.

"If you look at the Australian itinerary, India's T20 games are scheduled in mid-October before the start of World T20. If you can play T20 games in mid-October, why is it not safe to play World T20," a source told PTI.

But having a World T20 is not only a health concern but also about commercial viability.

If BCCI is unable to organise the IPL in this window, it stands to lose ₹4000 crore, which certainly would be a big blow.

Also *Star*, which is broadcast partner of both the ICC and BCCI, will also need to be taken into confidence with regards to rejigging of the calendar. **PNS**

Dates set for series Down Under

Virat & Co will travel Australia for T20, Test & ODI series in the last quarter of 2020 with Adelaide to host D/N Test

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Ending weeks of speculation, Cricket Australia on Thursday confirmed that India will make the trip Down Under starting October this year for a financially critical assignment comprising four Tests, ODIs as well as T20 Internationals.

Cricket Australia announced the much-anticipated resumption of the game after the Covid-19 pandemic with a six-month home summer schedule, which will begin with a tour by Zimbabwe for a three-match ODI series from August 9.

India will tour the country for a T20 series, which will begin on October 11 at Brisbane followed by matches on October 14 (Canberra) and October 17 (Adelaide), the CA posted on its official website.

This is to be followed by the T20 World Cup, the likelihood of which going ahead is slim owing to the pandemic. The CA did not even mention the event in its official schedule unveiled on Thursday.

After the T20s, Virat Kohli's men will return for a four-Test series, beginning on December 3 at Brisbane. India are then scheduled to play a Day/Night Test, as committed by BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, from December 11 to 15 in Adelaide.

The third and fourth Tests will be held in Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 3 to 7).

The ODI series is scheduled to begin with a match on January 12 in Perth and it will be followed by contests on January 15 (Melbourne) and



January 17 (Sydney).

"We are working closely with the BCCI to deliver the eagerly anticipated men's and women's tours, and we are looking forward to staging the important series against both the men's and women's New Zealand sides," Kevin Roberts, Cricket Australia CEO, said in a statement.

The India women's team will also travel to Australia for an ODI series with matches scheduled in Canberra (January 22), St Kilda (January 25) and Hobart (January 17).

Roberts hinted that if circumstances dictate, there could be changes

in the schedule which also features series against New Zealand (both men and women), West Indies and a one-off Test against Afghanistan (November 21-25).

"...But we'll be doing everything we can to get as much international cricket in as possible this summer. We will communicate any changes to the schedule if or when they are required," he added.

Cricket Australia also said that it will continue to act in accordance with public health advice and Government protocols to ensure the safety of the public, players and sup-

WACA chief lashes out at CA for India series snub

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA) chief Christina Matthews has lashed out at Cricket Australia for choosing Brisbane over Perth as one of the venues for the high-profile Test series against India in the summer.

Matthews said the newly built Optus Stadium is better than the Gabba in every way. Instead, Perth will be hosting the low profile one-off Test against Afghanistan in November.

"All the metrics associated with cricket over the last two years see us surpass Brisbane in every area, whether that's crowds, broadcast ratings, even better rainfall at that time of year, more corporate seats — just so many indicators — and a brand new stadium," Matthews was quoted as saying by *Fox Sports* on Thursday.

"When Australian cricket's primary objective is fans first, it is astounding that the 10,000 members who pay money to support cricket year after year in this state are not afforded the number one Test team to tour this year.

"The last time (India tour of 2014), we were told it was because our venue wasn't good enough and if we supported a new stadium, this would never happen again. And here we are again," Matthews said referring to the old WACA stadium.

India played in Perth when they toured last year (December 2018) with Australia winning the second Test by 146 runs to level the series.

The reinstatement of the Gabba comes after support from none other than Australia captain Tim Paine. Australia have not lost there in more than 30 years.

port staff.

"Australian cricket will survive and thrive after the coronavirus pandemic dissipates, just as we have after world wars, depressions, recessions and the many other challenges that have confronted us over the past 140-plus years," he added.

AUS SCHEDULE AGAINST INDIA

Men's T20I Series

First T20: October 11, the Gabba, Brisbane

Second T20: October 14, Manuka

Oval, Canberra

Third T20: October 17, Adelaide Oval

Men's Test Series

First Test: December 3-7, the Gabba, Brisbane

Second Test: December 11-15, Adelaide Oval (day-night)

Third Test: December 26-30, MCG

Fourth Test: January 3-7, SCG

Men's ODI Series

First ODI: January 12, Perth Stadium

Second ODI: January 15, MCG

Third ODI: January 17, SCG.



Sakshi Singh @SakshiSRawat

Its only rumours ! I understand Lockdown has made people mentally unstable ! #DhoniRetires .. Get a life !

11:57 PM · May 27, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

MS Dhoni's wife Sakshi has once again rubbished the rumours of the former Indian skipper's retirement from International cricket. On Wednesday, certain users on Twitter started to spread rumours of Dhoni's retirement with hashtag #DhoniRetires. Sakshi took note of the trend and lashed out at those spreading these rumours. However, just a few minutes after posting the tweet, she deleted it.

PL to restart on June 17



AFP ■ LONDON

The Premier League season is set to restart on June 17, three months after it was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, British media reported on Thursday.

No matches have been played since Leicester's 4-0 win over Aston Villa on March 9, with Liverpool just two wins away from securing the title.

Top-flight clubs voted unanimously on Wednesday to return to contact training and were meeting again on Thursday to discuss issues such as the restart date and the rebate to broadcasters.

The *BBC* reported that the first two matches would be Aston Villa vs Sheffield United and Manchester City vs Arsenal. Those matches are the two games in hand.

A full fixture list would then be played on the weekend of June 19-21.



Leipzig drop more points

LEIPZIG: Julian Nagelsman slammed 10-man RB Leipzig for defending like "a school team" in Wednesday's 2-2 draw at home to Hertha Berlin behind closed doors which cost them the chance to go second in the Bundesliga.

Hertha forward Krzysztof Piatek equalised with a late penalty to seal the draw and save the blushes of goalkeeper Rune Jarstein who had made a blunder for Leipzig's second goal.

However, Nagelsmann was furious that Leipzig conceded a weak goal from a corner with only nine minutes gone when Hertha midfielder Marko Grujic, on loan from Liverpool, fired home unmarked.

"We started well, but fell behind because we defend a set piece like a school team," fumed Nagelsmann.

"We simply did nothing, everyone is standing in position, yet he (Grujic) could finish with his foot, in the box.

"This is the second time in a row in a home game that we conceded from a set piece," said Nagelsmann whose team drew 1-1 against Freiburg in their last home game.

"We have to blame ourselves for this. We're happy that we scored another point, but I'm not happy at all."

The result leaves Leipzig third in the table, two points behind Dortmund. **AFP**



ers and coaches now feel that the use of external substances should be

Bharat bats for use of external substance to shine ball

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The use of saliva to shine the ball is a "difficult habit" to get over but India's bowling coach Bharath Arun says he won't mind an "external substance" at its expense if it is used across teams.

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, ICC Cricket Committee has decided to ban the use of saliva as a part of health safety protocol.

A lot of premier play-

allowed to shine the ball in order to maintain a balance between the bat and ball.

"As far as use of external substance is concerned, as long as it is same and uniform for all the teams, why not try it," Arun said.

"Use of saliva will be a very difficult habit to get over but we will make a conscious effort during our training and practice sessions to get rid of this habit," he added.

Kumble optimistic of IPL this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain and Kings XI Punjab head coach Anil Kumble is hopeful of the IPL happening this year and is not averse to the idea of conducting the cash-rich event without spectators due to the Covid-19 threat.

"Yes we are hopeful and optimistic that there is still a possibility (to hold IPL this year) if we can cram in the schedule," Kumble said on *Star Sports* show *Cricket Connected*.

"If we are going to have a stadium without spectators, then probably have 3 or 4 venues; there's still a possibility, we are all optimistic," said the former spinner, who is also the chairman of ICC's Cricket Committee.



Bradburn, Saqlain get high performance roles in PCB

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan fielding coach Grant Bradburn and spin great Saqlain Mushtaq were on Thursday appointed as PCB's Head of High Performance Coaching and Head of International Player Development, respectively, as part of a restructuring of its premier training facility.

Bradburn is presently the fielding coach of the Pakistan men's national team, a role he took in September 2018 following a successful coaching stint

with the Scotland national team.

He will be responsible for raising the overall standard of player support personnel across all the high performance centres of the country.

Saqlain played international cricket between 1995 and 2004 and will be responsible for identifying, developing and preparing players so that they can go on to become world-class cricketers.

S a q l a i n , known for intro-

ducing the *Doosra*, in his first full year (1996) with the Pakistan team established a record for the most ODI wickets in a calendar year (65).

He then did even better the following year, setting a mark (69) that still stands.

Saqlain has previously worked as a spin bowling coach with Bangladesh, West Indies and England, apart from serving as a consultant for PCB, Cricket Australia and New Zealand Cricket.

"It is an honour and a privilege to represent Pakistan...I am delighted to have been offered this exciting opportunity to work on skilful and exciting young cricketers and help them grow in their careers.

"I am confident I will be able to translate all my knowledge and experience in the High Performance Centre and help the PCB raise the bar and set new benchmarks," said Saqlain.

The PCB will announce Bradburn's replacement in the national team in due course.

National Games postponed indefinitely

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The much-delayed 36th National Games, scheduled for October-November in Goa, was on Thursday postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) recently asked the Goa Government to host the National Games as scheduled from October 20 to November 4 this year.

However, a spurt in the number of novel coronavirus cases has led to a postponement.

"The National Games organising committee has decided to postpone National Games due to Covid-19 pandemic," Goa's deputy Chief Minister Manohar (Babu)

Ajgaonkar, who also holds the sports portfolio, was quoted as saying in a statement shared by IOA President Narinder Batra.

"... Committee to hold meeting in September end and decide on fixing dates for National Games." (Goa) Government to take advice from Union Sports Ministry, need four months advance notice to organise games," Ajgaonkar's statement added.

The previous edition of the Games was held back in 2015 in Kerala.

The upcoming Games, facing uncertainty for long, was originally scheduled for November 2018 but was postponed to April 2019. However, due to the general election, the Government of Goa ordered another cancellation.

With the Games infrastructure nearing completion, the postponement is set to bring in big losses to the state Government.

Last month, it had sought clarification from the Indian Olympic Association over the fate of the Games in the wake of the pandemic.

And there was hope for the Games to go ahead as scheduled as the state was marked in the green zone for quite a while.

But a sudden spurt has proved to be decisive.

Goa has so far reported 68 confirmed cases for the novel coronavirus.

There were concerns about athletes coming here from other states, including the ones badly affected by the pandemic.

Roland Garros planning for fans

AFP ■ LONDON

Roland Garros chiefs insisted on Wednesday the French Open, delayed until September due to the coronavirus pandemic, will have fans attending even if they still have to abide by social distancing rules.

"In the autumn, we will play Roland Garros with an optimum spectator capacity which allows fans to respect social distancing," Jean-Francois Vilotte, the director-general of the French Tennis Federation (FFT), told *AFP*.

"The aim is that there will be spectators but we will have the capacity to organise Roland Garros whatever the option decided, including behind closed doors."

If fans are to be welcome at



the rescheduled tournament, then tickets would have to go on resale.

"We have set ourselves a deadline (for resale) ... but you will not know it," added Vilotte.

"It will be an exceptional tournament anyway," he said, adding the organisation was working on holding a "postponed tournament" and not a "downgraded" version.

In other words, juniors, singles, doubles and wheelchair tennis events will still be staged.

Top players say no to TTFI training camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) will make a fresh attempt to organise a training camp at the end of June but top players including Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan are not ready to travel anytime soon as the situation remains "unsafe".

After the Government allowed sports complexes to open without spectators earlier this month, the TTFI had written to the players to assemble for a camp in the first week of June.

However, none of the top players was keen to travel and their response will be on similar lines when they receive the federation's letter for the second time.

"We should be looking at



July if at all. It is still too early to travel and things are not settling down. The cases continue to rise. Let there be some stability, until then we can keep training the way we have been at home," India's highest-ranked

player at 31, Sharath said.

World number 32 G Sathiyan, who is based in Chennai like Sharath, is happy training in his home city under personal coach S Raman.

Asked the need for a training camp at this juncture, TTFI secretary general M P Singh said they are only acting on Government's direction and checking players' availability for June end.

"If the players think it is unsafe for June end also, it is their choice and we respect that. But we are only acting as per Government's direction," Singh said.

The plan is to have 16 players (8 men and 8 women) training under one roof and the venue options are Delhi, Sonepat and Patiala.