HYSTERIA IN A

TIME OF VIRUS

MONEY 9

MARKETS MARCH

HIGHER FOR 3RD DAY

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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MOST OF US LACK SELF LOVE: KIRTI 0 VIVACIT

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY MAY 30, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

More lockdown but fewer curbs likely

Modi, Shah discuss CMs' views: Social distancing must but need to push up economic activities

PNS NEW DELHI

Two days before lockdown 4.0 ends, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday discussed about the views of Chief Ministers on further opening up several sectors of economy with strict social distancing norms if the lockdown were to be continued beyond

May_31 For the past three days, the Home Minister was collecting inputs and suggestions from all Chief Ministers. Highly placed officials say the Centre may give more power to the States to decide on opening up the economic activities and defining containment zones.

Many Chief Ministers have reportedly preferred the continuation of the lockdown, but there is a near consensus on opening up many sectors as well as malls and public trans-

 $T^{\text{he coronavirus-led disruption of Indian economy slowed down the GDP to } 3.1$

per cent in January-March and

to an 11-year low of 4.2 per

cent for the full fiscal 2019-20

amid a drop in consumption

and investment. The slowdown is also result of overall eco-

nomic deceleration even before

the Government imposed a

lockdown to curb the spread of

Covid-19 infections from

continue on the downward

journey and gain speed in the

5.7 per cent in the corre-

sponding quarter of 2018-19,

according to data released by National Statistical Office

QUAKE HITS ROHTAK

TREMORS FELT IN DELHI

New Delhi: A medium intensity earthquake of 4.5 magnitude hit Rohtak in Haryana on Friday,

tremors of which were felt in the

national Capital, the National

takeoff phase of a flight.

DOWN IN DELHI

RAIN BRINGS MERCURY

New Delhi: Light to moderate

rain lashed the national Capital

on Friday, bringing the mercury

several notches below normal

Strong winds swept across the

city and a few areas reported

observatory recorded 3.5 mm

rainfall and a maximum of 37

hailstorm. The Safdarjung

degrees Celsius

The GDP is expected to

The GDP growth stood at

March 25, 2020.

next few quarters.

ports, including metro

urged the Home Minister to speed up economic activities and gradual return of public life, they also expressed their apprehension about being flooded with surge of patients when the country relaxes the strict lockdown norms.

As per sources, two special Covid-19 panels set up by the Centre have submitted their recommendations for the exit strategy. The panels have suggested that the Centre should do away with all lockdown curbs except keeping schools, colleges, movie halls and religious places closed till situation

The panel has also recommended not to reopen inter-State travel and said that the efforts should be directed towards strengthening containment measures in the

Yearly GDP growth rate 11-yr

low; 3.1% in Jan-Mar quarter

At 2011-12 prices

India's GDP Growth 6%

2019-20

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation KBK Infographics

While all Chief Ministers



Migrants shift to a shelter home in a village before leaving for their native places in special buses, arranged by the Rajasthan Government in Jaipur on Friday

worst-hit districts.

The worst-hit 13 districts are: Municipalities of Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi/New Delhi, Ahmadabad, Thane, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata/Howrah, Indore, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu)

and Thiruvallur (Tamil Nadu). These 13 districts are having 70 per cent of the positive

AAP Govt suggests

Centre to keep all

public places shut

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As lockdown 4.0 ends on Sunday, the Delhi

Government recommended to the Union Home Ministry

for lockdown 5.0 as the number of Covid cases in the

national Capital rose by 1,106 with total tally touching 17,387

and 82 people dying on Friday. The Delhi Government

believes that places where large gatherings take place, like cinema halls, should remain closed. "Schools and colleges

should also remain closed," said Health Minister Satyender

wants to speed up all eco-

nomic activities and for this

the Government had allowed

The Delhi Government

the States of these 13 cities have already decided a plan on the geographical definition of containment zones. The Home Minister also

www.dailypioneer.com

apprised the Prime Minister of the outcome of the talks between the Cabinet Secretary Municipal Commissioners and District Magistrates from the sensitive

cities.

The Central Government is expected to announce its decision on the lockdown within the next two days. Prime Minister may speak up on this on May 31 scheduled "Mann Ki Baat", said officials.

At present, the current lockdown rules prohibits opening up of hotels, malls, public

Delhi wants lockdown 5.0 as

Capital sees 82 deaths on Fri

Medics in protective suits carry the body of a Covid-19 casualty for cremation at

keeping social distancing, bus

Chief Minister is reported to

cases in India. The Centre and transports in containments zones. There is expected to be a dilution on this and shops inside the malls and hotels may be allowed to open with limited number of entries.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said all religious places will be allowed to open in the State from June 1 but not more than 10 people can pray at a time.

"Temples, Gurudwaras, Mosques and all religious places in the State are closed. They will open from June 1 but not more than 10 people will be allowed at any given point of time. No assembly would be allowed in religious places," Mamata said.

Continued on Page 2

Modi, US Prez didn't discuss China, India contradicts Trump

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Friday denied that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump recently held a telephonic talk over the issue of . Ladakh and China. This assertion came hours after Trump said he had spoken to Modi and "he is not in a good mood on what is going on in China."

Contradicting the US President's claim, sources said, 'There has been no recent contact between Modi and US President Trump. The last conversation between them was on 4 April, 2020, on the subject of Hydroxychloroquine.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday held a telephonic conversation with his US counterpart Mark T Esper at the latter's request. The two Ministers briefed each other on the respective experience of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic and vowed to continue the excellent bilateral cooperation in this regard, the Defence Ministry said.

The two leaders reviewed progress on various bilateral defence cooperation arrangements and expressed their commitment to further pro-

India, China capable of resolving border issue, Beijing rejects Trump's help offer **PTI** ■ BEIJING

China on Friday rejected US President Donald Trump's offer to "mediate" between India and China to end their border standoff, saying the two countries are capable of properly resolving their differences through dialogue and did not require the help of

a "third party."

Continued on Page 2



Rainath Singh

holds telephonic

conversation with

mote defence partnership. To this end, Singh invited Esper to visit India. Singh also accepted Esper's condolence over lives lost in eastern India during Cyclone Amphan recently, and briefed him on India's relief efforts. The two Ministers also exchanged views on regional developments of shared security interest.

Trump made the remarks about talking to Modi on Thursday while reiterating his offer to mediate between India and China on what he called a "big conflict" going on between the two nations. He was apparently referring to the tension on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh with four stand-offs now on between the

armies of India and China. Continued on Page 2

SUJEET KUMAR | RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh's first Chief Minister Ajit Jogi succumbed to cardiac arrest in a hospital here on Friday at the age of 74, doctors and his fam-

ily members said.

diac arrest around 1.30 pm and doctors battled for over two hours to revive him but were unsuccessful. He breathed his last around 3.30 pm, said a medical bulletin from the Shree

Narayana Hospital. Jogi, who was admitted to the hospital on May 9 after a heart attack, had slipped into coma the next day.

Condolences poured in for the

veteran politician. Continued on Page 2

The Indian economy grew at 4.2 per cent during 2019-20 Continued on Page 2 DTC to resume operations Minister Amit Shah, Delhi Continued on Page 2 India surpasses China in coronavirus cases, deaths

Delhi, Haryana, K'taka, and U'khand report biggest single-day spike, Mumbai reports highest with 2,682 new cases

TOTAL CASE

20,246

17,386

15,944

8.365

7,645

7,445

4,813

3,330

3,359

PNS NEW DELHI

(NSO) on Friday.

India on Friday overtook Centre for Seismology said. **L**China in terms of corona-**LOCUST SWARMS POSE** related fatalities and raced THREAT, SAYS DGCA towards 5,000 death count even New Delhi: Aviation regulato as the number of fresh cases DGCA issued guidelines for saw third straight day of spikes stakeholders like pilots on how with Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, West Bengal, to deal with locust swarms. saying they pose a threat to Uttar Pradesh registering huge aircraft in the critical landing and numbers

India has reported a total of 1,73,458 coronavirus cases and 4,980 deaths till Friday after it reported 8,101 infections and a massive 269 death count from across the country on Friday. China which had reported the first Covid-19 case in December last year has registered over 82,995 cases and around 4,634 deaths.

Data shows 10,652 people have been treated and discharged so far. The recovery

rate stands at 42.89 per cent. According to the Ministry's website, more than 70 per cent of the deaths are due to comor-

as against 6.1 per cent in

bidities On Friday, Delhi, Haryana, Karnatakata, and Uttarakhand reported biggest single day spike as Covid-19 continued to spread

viciously across the country.

CASES: 1,73,458 **DEATHS: 4,980 RECOVERED:** 82,468

Maharashtra continue to remain headache for the health authorities, as it contributed another day of big spike recording 2,682 positive cases on Friday, with Mumbai alone contributing a total of 35,458 cases to the States tally. Coronavirus has infected a total 62,228 people in the financial capital of the

Maharashtra

Tamil Nadu

Madhya Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh

West Bengal

Andhra Padesh

Gujarat

country. The fatalities in the State have shot up to 2,098.

Nigam Bodh Ghat in New Delhi on Friday

station hygiene, sanitisation of

buses, autos and cabs in mind.

metro is pending but the City

Government wants DMRC to

start its operations. During

discussion with Union Home

While the decision on

Tamil Nadu, after slipping to the third position on Thursday, again disturbingly surged ahead on Friday to acquire second slot among the worst hit States. It witnessed high number of coronavirus cases at 874 taking the total

DEATHS

157

15

P's Sambhal

Priest, son found

dead near temple

RECOVERED

26.997

11,313

7,846

8,611

4.855

3.927

4.410

1,775

2,234

1050

count to 20,246 cases on Friday. At least 9 people have died due to coronavirus infection in the State taking the death toll to 157.

have requested for the resump-

has put a request before Centre

for Delhi Metro. The Central

Government will take the call,

a Government official said.

The Delhi Government

tion of Metro services.

Delhi recorded its biggest spike in Covid-19 tally in second consecutive day at 1,106 fresh cases while the number of active coronavirus patients stood at 17,387. It witnessed 82

BENGAL MINISTER TESTS CORONA +VE

Kolkata: West Bengal Fire Services Minister Sujit Bose has tested positive for coronavirus, making it the first such case in the Mamata Banerjee-led State Cabinet, a well-placed source in the Government said on Friday. Bose has been advised to undergo home quarantine after his test results came.

deaths bringing the total fatalities to 357 in the State.

The national Capital had

recorded over 1,000 cases in a day for the first time on Thursday since the outbreak. Continued on Page 2

Bejan Daruwala dies of lung infection

 $R^{\text{enowned astrologer Bejan}}_{\text{Daruwalla died at a private}}$ hospital here on Friday evening, his family said. He was 90.

While speculation was rife that Daruwalla was admitted to Apollo Hospital here a few days ago after he tested posi-

tive for coronavirus, his son Nastur denied it, saying his father was being treated only for pneumonia.

According to his website, Ganesha Speaks, he had pre-dicted that Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Moraji Desai, Narendra Modi will be Prime

Continued on Page 2

Bats die of brain haemorrhage in searing heat in UP, Bihar virus or bacteria — though

Deaths of large number bats due to brain haemorrhage, caused by excessive heat in the last few days in Delhi, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have sparked fears as bats are suspected to be linked to the origin of coronavirus in Wuhan in

The forest department officials suspect that bats are dying due to rise in temperature and non-availability of water as the heat has dried up the lakes and ponds in several parts of the

The post-mortem report of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly said



IVRÍ Director RK Singh

said there were no traces of

coronavirus or rabies in the

dead bats. "The bats have a

high immunity level and are

not affected by any pathogen —

area early this week

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Delhi Government, Ishwar Singh told The Pioneer that severe heatwave could be the reason behind death of bats but due to coronavirus pandemic. The caracass of these bats will be sent for postmortem to know the exact reasons of the death, he said. The Animal Husbandry

they can be carriers of the

virus," he said.

Department of the NDMC has picked up the bat remains from the Motilal Nehru Marg area in Delhi to know the exact reasons of the death. Continued on Page 2 PNS LUCKNOW In yet another sensational incident in Uttar Pradesh, a

priest and his son were found dead outside a temple in Rasoolpur Sarai village under the limits of Nakhasa police station in Sambhal district on The local residents suspected that the two were mur-

dered, but the local police

claimed that investigation

pointed that both the priest and

the son committed suicide due

sent the bodies for postmortem and were waiting for report before heading further with the investigation. Reports said that some

to depression and illness. They

local residents reached the Shiv temple in Rasoolpur Sarai village for darshan on Friday morning when they found the priest missing. As they went nearby to look for him, they were shocked to see both the priest and with his son both were lying dead.

Delhi's exit points jammed as NCR cities seal borders after Covid spike PARVESH SHARMA

GURUGRAM/NEW DELHI

All exit points of Delhi on Friday saw traffic snarls after all adjoining NCR cities, latest being Gurugram, sealed their borders with Delhi following a spike in the coronavirus cases in the national Capital.

Commuters were caught unawares on Delhi-Gurugram border on Friday morning as the Harvana Government on Thursday night decided to seal its border with Delhi. Vehicles were stuck in bumper-tobumper jam for around 3 to 4 km ever since the barricades **Continued on Page 2** were placed around 8 am.



Traffic jam on Delhi-Gurugram road on Friday

Movement of vehicles involved in supply of essential services was allowed after the border was sealed. Those with

passes issued by the

Government were also allowed

Published From

Established 1864

Continued on Page 2

Trump says he likes 'great gentleman' PM Modi

and the good rapport he has with its leader, US President Donald Trump has said that he likes Prime Minister Narendra Modi and termed him a "great gentleman".

Prime Minister Modi is one of the few world leaders, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, with whom President Trump enjoys a close friendly relationship.

They talk with one another frequently, and their conversations normally do not

appear in the public domain. "I like Modi. I like your prime minister a lot. He is a great gentleman. (He is doing a) great job," Trump told White House reporters in an Oval Office exchange on Thursday.

For the second time in less than a fortnight, he confirmed of having spoken to Modi.

Neither the White House nor the Prime Minister's Office has issued readouts of the two telephonic conversations, but from Trump's public remarks, it appears that he and Modi talk to each other regularly.

Responding to a question,
Trump acknowledged that he
knew he was popular in India.
"I know (I am popular in
India). They (people) like me in
India I think they like me in

India. I think they like me in India certainly more than the media likes me in this country,"

From the very start of his presidency, Trump has gone out of his way to show his love and affection for Modi and India.

After the historic "Howdy Modi" event in Houston last September and "Namaste Trump" rally in Ahmedabad this February, Trump has not let any opportunity go without praising Modi.

"I just got back from India, right? I just beat COVID," he

The two leaders like each other a lot, given their frequent conversations and twitter

Same is the case with other members of the president's family, who are genuinely in love with India and the Indian-Americans. Be it First Lady Melania Trump; the president's daughter and senior presidential advisor Ivanka Trump; sonin-law Jarred Kushner, also a presidential advisor, they all frequently tweet on India and Indian-Americans.

The president's son Donald Trump Jr, along with Kimberly Guilfoyle, advisor to Donald Trump for President, Inc. And National Chair of the Trump Victory Finance Committees, also echos Trump's love for India and Indian-Americans.

"So much so, Prime Minister Modi praised Jared Kushner, saying that everything Jared does is positive, while addressing a crowd of 110,000 people at a rally for Trump in India," said Al Mason co-chair of the Trump Victory Indian American Finance N-E DELHI RIOTS —

'Pinjra Tod' activist **Narwal arrested.** booked under UAPA

New Delhi: The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Friday arrested 'Pinjra Tod' activist Natasha Narwal and booked her under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for alleged conspiracy in the northeast Delhi riots in February, police said.

Narwal, along with another JNU student Devangana Kalita have already been arrested in another case, being investigated by the Crime branch, related to communal violence in northeast Delhi and are in judicial custody till June The two women are associat-

ed with 'Pinjra Tod' group, a collective of women students and alumni of colleges from across Delhi and are currently lodged in Mandoli jail here. "We had enough evidence against Natasha Narwal in connection with a conspiracy case

associated with the northeast Delhi riots that is being investigated by the special cell. So, we have formally arrested her with the permission from the court," said a senior police officer who did not wish to be identified.

Respect collegium system but can't act as post office: Law Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday asserted that he respects the Supreme Court collegium system but the ministry would not act as a post office and will exercise its role as a stakeholder.

Prasad was delivering the concluding speech during the Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon Memorial Lecture Series organized by Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad on 'Legal & Digital Challenges for India Post Covid'.

Talking about the issue of the entry of all devotees to the Sabarimala Temple, the law minister said Prof. Menon took a very tough stand on Sabarimala.

"He (Menon) said courts should be reluctant to interfere with the faith of people. If the faith is obnoxious, arbitrary, patently unconstitutional, it should go... But if you start being judgemental on faith and that too at the instance of people who have no connection whatsoever

with faith, then you are treading upon roads slippery, Prasad said.

He said Prof Menon was very firm that the collegium system is no more relevant and needs to be replaced as it has outlived its utility.

'We all know that the NDA government came up with the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) for appointment of judges. It was unanimously passed by both houses of parliament and more than 50 per cent of Vidhan Sabhas. Yet the Supreme Court quashed it.

"We respect the SC judgement but one thing I would like to flag and debate about it. The SC has held that in the judicial commission, the law minister is also a member, therefore the appointees from that process may not be fair and objective when litigation comes against the government. But if this is the reasoning then I have serious reservations as a student of law which I have said in the past," Prasad said.

Uttarakhand sees biggest single-day spike of 216 cases, total now 716

Dehradun: Uttarakhand reported the biggest singleday spike of 216 cases on Friday, taking the total number in the state to 716.

Out of the 13 districts in the state, 11 have reported fresh cases with Nainital registering the maximum number of 85 cases, followed by Dehradun where 72 new cases were detected.

Almora reported 21 cases, Bageshwar and Tehri eight each, Udham Singh Nagar, Pauri and Haridwar five each, Uttarkashi four, Rudraprayag two and Pithoragarh one.

Most of the new patients have a travel history outside the state, especially Maharashtra, it

A total of 102 patients have been discharged after being cured. Five people have died of the disease and three have migrated out of the state, However, authorities said

the cause of death of all five of them is not coronavirus. PTI

Mathura admin readying for possible locust attack

Mathura: Insecticides and pesticides will be sprayed on crops and vegetation to prevent a probable attack of desert locusts in the district, an official said on

Nearly 1,500 spray vehicles have been earmarked for the purpose, District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said.

India is currently battling the worst desert locust invasion in more than 20 years. The cropdestroying swarms first attacked Rajasthan and have now spread to Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Though at present the locusts are swarming in pockets of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, their coming to the district can not be ruled out, Mishra said. "A meeting with agriculture officers, agriculture scientists and other officers to discuss how to counter the locust attack was held," he said. He said sufficient stock of insecticides and pesticides has been stored and its sale to other districts has been banned. PTI

India, China capable of resolving border issue, Beijing rejects Trump's help offer

From Page 1

In a surprise move, Trump on Wednesday offered to "mediate or arbitrate" the raging border dispute between India and China, saying he was "ready, willing and able" to ease the tensions, amid the continuing standoff between the armies of the two Asian giants. Reacting for the first time to

the US president's offer, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said, the two countries did not want the "intervention" from a third party to resolve the current military standoff.

"Between China and India we have existing border-related mechanisms and communication channels", Zhao told a media briefing here when asked about Trump's

"We are capable of properly resolving the issues between us through dialogue and consultation. We do not need the intervention of the third party", he 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. Thank you!' Trump tweeted on Wednesday.

He reiterated his offer on Thursday while speaking to reporters at the White House.

Responding to a question his tweet, Trump renewed his offer, saying if called for help, "I would do that (mediate). If they thought it would help" about "mediate or arbitrate, I would do

India on Wednesday said it was engaged with China to peacefully resolve the border row, in a carefully crafted reaction to Trump's offer to arbitrate between

the two Asian giants to settle their decades-old dispute.

"We are engaged with the Chinese side to peacefully resolve it," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, replying to questions at an online media briefing.

President Trump has previously offered to mediate between

India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, a proposal that was rejected by New Delhi. At the Chinese Foreign

Ministry briefing on Friday, the spokesman said "China's position on the China-India boundary question is consistent and clear". "We have been implementing the important consensus reached

by leaders of both the countries, observing the bilateral agreements and have been committed to safeguarding territorial sovereignty and security, stability and peace in the border area", Zhao said. He reiterated his earlier comment that "Now the overall situa-

tion in the China-India border area is stable and controllable", he said, once again indicating a conciliatory tone amidst the tense situation along the border.

On Thursday, an op-ed in a state-run newspaper also reflect-ed Beijing's stand on the offer of mediation by President Trump. The Global Times said China

and India does not need help from the US to resolve their current round frictions at the border, pointing out that the leadership of the two countries successfully solved the Doklam standoff in

"China and India successfully solved their Doklam faceoff with concerted efforts and wisdom. The two informal summits between the leadership of the two sides, one in the Chinese city of Wuhan in 2018 and the other in the Indian city of Chennai in 2019, set the tone to maintain peace and tranquility along the

border," it said.

Several areas along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh and North Sikkim have witnessed major military build-up by both the Indian and Chinese armies recently, in a clear signal of escalating tension and hardening of respective positions by the two sides even two weeks after they were engaged in two separate

India has said the Chinese military was hindering normal patrolling by its troops along the LAC in Ladakh and Sikkim and strongly refuted Beijing's contention that the escalating tension between the two armies was triggered by trespassing of Indian forces across the Chinese side. India has said that all Indian

activities were carried out on its side of the border, asserting that India has always taken a very responsible approach towards border management. At the same time, it said, India was deeply committed to protect its sovereignty and security.

MEA Spokesperson Srivastava on Thursday said India is committed to the objective of maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control and that Indian troops take a very responsible approach towards border management.

The two sides have established mechanisms both at military and diplomatic levels to resolve situations which may arise in border areas peacefully through dialogue and continue to remain engaged an online media briefing. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it. Both sides have been asserting

that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

From Page 1

Religious places have remained shut across the country ever since the nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25 to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has sought the permission of the Centre to open up places of worship, hotels, motels, lodges, and insisted that State's must have authority to check the health status of the people coming from major containment zones At the same time, Goa CM

Pramod Sawant told media that he informed Centre that

the lockdown should continue but the hospitality sector in the State should be permitted to

open up. The Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijyan has expressed apprehension about allowing places of worship to open. After flattening the curve, the State has seen a resurgence of numbers as train and air travel restarted. Many North-Eastern states, where the coronavirus numbers started spiking only after the Centre opened up rail and air travel, have told the Centre for thorough checking of passengers from the containment zones

More lockdown but... | Yearly GDP growth rate 11-yr low; 3.1% in Jan-Mar quarter

From Page 1

The economic growth was the lowest since 2008-09 when the economy had expanded at 3.1 per cent.

The Reserve Bank had earlier pegged the GDP growth for 2019-20 at 5 per cent, as projected by the NSO in its first and second advance estimates released in January and February this year. China's economy contracted 6.8 per cent in January-March 2020, showing the impact of COVID-19. Meanwhile, the CSO revised downwards growth in the previous October-December quarter of 2019-20 to 4.1 per cent from 4.7 per cent. Similarly, the first and second quarter growth figures were revised downwards to 5.2 per cent and 4.4 per cent from 5.6 per

cent and 5.1 per cent, respectively. According to the data, gross value added (GVA) growth in the manufacturing sector contracted by 1.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019-20, from 2.1 per cent expansion year ago. However, farm sector GVA growth was up at 5.9 per cent, compared to 1.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2018-19. Construction sector GVA contracted 2.2 per cent from 6 per cent expansion earlier. Mining sector growth came in at 5.2 per cent, as against a contraction of 4.8 per cent a year ago. Just a week ago, RBI said the impact of Covid-19 is more severe than anticipated and the GDP growth during 2020-21 is likely to remain in the neg-

Bejan Daruwala dies... From Page 1

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani

expressed grief over Daruwalla's death. "Saddened by the demise of renowned Astrologer Shri Bejan Daruwalla. I pray for the departed soul. My con-

dolences. Om Shanti," he tweeted. Senior state Congress leader Ariun

Modhwadia mentioned in his tweet that Daruwalla "died due to Covid-19". "Saddened to hear demise of renowned astrologer Wizard Shri Bejan Daruwalla ji

@Bejan Daruwalla due to Covid19.

Unfathomable loss to the world of Indian Astrology," he said. Though born into a Parsi family, Daruwalla was a Lord Ganesha devotee. It Ganesha who had taught him that ti ing is "everything in astrology and in life", he once said, adding "By timing I mean the

right person at the right place and time". He also said that he combined the principles of Vedic and Western astrology, I-Ching, Tarot, numerology, the Kabalah and even palmistry to make pre-

He wrote for a number of newspapers, magazines and also appeared on TV including on foreign networks.

Ajit Jogi no...

Hospital Director Dr Sunil Khemka said on May 10 that oxygen had not been reaching Jogi's brain for some time, causing brain damage. The condition is called hypoxia. Jogi's neurological activities were almost nil though his heartbeat was normal and blood pressure was controlled by drugs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Shri Ajit Jogi Ji was passionate about public service. This passion made him work hard as a bureaucrat and as a political leader. He strived to bring a poor, especially tribal communities. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family. RIP."

Jogi, who quit the Indian join politics in 1986, was an MLA from the Marwahi assembly seat. He became the first Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh when it was

Bats die of brain... From Page 1

The area is known for fruit bats

and butterflies as former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had developed "a nature trails", house of bats, butterflies and birds at her bungalow 3 Motilal Nehru Marg. Earlier this week, panic gripped Gorakhpur's Belghat area after over

300 bats were found dead in a mango orchard. Even as the authorities rushed to the site to collect carcasses and send it for medical examination rumours on social media linked it with coronovirus outbreak, albeit without any scientific basis. In Bihar, a large number of bats were found dead near Ara in Bhojpur district. The swab samples of the dead birds are being sent to Patna for testing.

Priest, son found dead...

From Page 1

appears to be a case of suicide. "Bodies of priest recovered from a Shiv temple in Rasoolpur Sarai village in Sambhal district. Prima facie it appears to be a case of suicide. Bodies are being sent for post mortem," superintendent Administrative Service (IAS) to of police Yamuna Prasad told reporters after the investigation. He said that information has been received that Amar Singh was sick for the past few days and his son Jaiveer Singh was mentally challenged. "We are investigating the carved out of Madhya Pradesh in matter and further action will be taken accordingly," Prasad said.

They immediately informed police. According to the police, prima facie it

Delhi wants...

Meanwhile, Government on Friday added 82 coronavirus deaths to the overall toll, taking the total to reported in last 24 hours, 69 deaths occurred in the last 34 days. Dy CM Manish Sisodia and Jain stressed on home isolation. "80-90 per cent of infected people are recovering in home quarantine. Not mandatory to be admitted in hospitals for patients with no or mild symptoms," said Sisodia.

7,846 +ve patients have recovered

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice No.-MCF, RBL/Tender/Skin Tensioning & Grinding/2020-21/C58 Dt. 28.05.2020 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of president of India for the following work:

Description of work Approx. Value (₹) Skin Tensioning and Grinding 90,55,200.00 1,81,100.00 of Shells as per scope of work. Cost of Tender document: ₹ 5,000.00 only. Quantity of work :- 1500 Shells Completion period of work: 12 months or earlier Period of submission of tender document- From 04.06.2020 to 18.06.2020

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/She

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Date & time of closing of Tender- 18.06.2020 at 11.45 hrs. • Date & time of

opening of Tender- 18.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in



tender document

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 28.05.2020 at Footpath in front of Moti Cinema, Diwan Hall Road, Bhagirath Place, Chandani Chowk, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 03A dated 28.05.2020 has been

lodged at Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 35 Years, Height: 5'6". Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Multicolour Shirt, Dark Grey Pant and bare If anyone has any information or clue about this

deceased male may kindly be inform undersigned. SHO

Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi DP/241/N/2020(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121

Modi-US Prez didn't discuss China, India...

From Page 1
"I can tell you; I did speak to Prime Minister Modi. He is not in a good mood about what is going on with China," the US President said during an interaction in the White

"They have a big conflict ...India and China. Two countries with 1.4 billion people (each). Two countries with very powerful militaries. India is not happy and probably China is not happy," Trump said when asked f he was worried about the border situation between India and China. The President also said "they like

in this country. And, I like Modi. I like your prime minister a lot. He is a great gentleman." New Delhi rejected the US President's offer to mediate with India and China stating India was

engaged with China on the diplo-

matic level to peacefully resolve the

ne in India. I think they like me in

India more than the media likes me

Efforts are now on at the diplomatic and military level to defuse tension on the LAC in Eastern Ladakh with four stand-offs are now on for the last 25 days. More than seven rounds of talks at the local commander level of the armies have already taken place to find an amicable solution but of no avail.

"Our engagement on the diplo-

matic front continues both in Delhi

as well as in Beijing," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava had said on Thursday, The two nations have signed several protocols on maintaining peace and tranquility at the border and there are many agreements. Asked about the tweet to arbi-

trate, Trump said if called for help, "I would do that (mediate). If they thought it would help" about "mediate or arbitrate, I would do that," he said. The US President's earlier offers to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir were firmly rejected by New Delhi, more than

On the situation in Ladakh, sources said at present, the two armies are in an eyeball-to-eye ball confrontation. Moreover, the Chinese troops have intruded three kms into the Hot Springs area in Galwan valley. Besides building barracks and bunkers, the Chinese have also bolstered their troop strength and increased aerial vigil by helicopters.

India has also ramped up its troops at the four face-offs besides keeping all its advanced landing grounds in readiness to handle additional landings and take-offs of transport planes ferrying soldiers and logistical back up. These measures are in place in the eventuality of a long haul as no breakthrough in the situation is in sight as of now, sources said.

The Army top brass also reviewed during the two-day commanders conference here on Thursday the situation at the LAC in the backdrop of the Chinese aggressiveness.

Delhi's exit points jammed as NCR cities seal borders...

From Page 1

The traffic queues were also witnessed on Delhi-Sonipat border (GT Road) as the Harvana police did not allowed vehicles without passes to cross the borders. The traffic snarls were also seen at Noida and Ghaziabad borders after Uttar Pradesh police allowed only essential services and valid movement pass holder to enter the

Taking to twitter, the Delhi Police issued alert to commuters taking the route to plan their travel accordingly. "Traffic is moving very slow in the carriageway from Delhi towards Haryana due to checking by Haryana Police at Singhu border," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted from its official han-

In another tweet, the Delhi Traffic Police alerted commuters that the UP Police has blocked the route from Ramprastha Red Light to Ghaziabad and asked them to avoid using this route. This is the second time when

the Harvana Government has taken such a decision to curb corona cases in districts like Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonepat and Ihajjar. In the last three days, 121 cases of Covid-19 were reported in Gurugram.

Following this, Gurugram police has put extra barricades along with extra police force deployed at Delhi-Gurugram-Sarhaul border located on NH-48. Mehrauli-Gurugram (MG) road, old Delhi road at Kapashera and other border areas.

been strictly imposed on Gurugram-Delhi borders in view of Covid-19," Gurugram Police tweeted. "All vehicles are being stopped

at the Delhi-Gurugram border and are only being allowed to cross the border those having valid movement passes, vehicle document and identity card. Also, sufficient police personnel were with," said Mohammad Akil, Gurugram Police Commissioner.

The fresh decision of Haryana government largely affects police personnel of Delhi, besides MCD, DJB and others employed in Delhi but are native of Haryana. A large portion of Delhi Police personnel, around 40,000 are natives of NCR cities falling under Harvana. Gurugram has so far reported 405 positive cases, of which 193 have been cured and discharged.

India surpasses China...

with 50 per cent, said Jain.

From Page 1

In Gujarat, in the last 24 hours, 372 new cases of COVID-19 and 20 deaths were reported. The total tally of positive cases rises to 15,944 including 8,609 cured/discharged, death toll is 980 deaths.

In Karnataka, 248 people have been tested positive for coronavirus on Friday, taking the total number of cases in the state to 2.781 while death toll stands at 48. Similarly in Uttar Pradesh, 275 new Covid-19 cases and four deaths were reported, taking the total number "Traffic restrictions have of cases in the state to 7445.

In States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha the migrant influx has started pushing up Covid numbers. Madhya Pradesh has reported 7453 cases while In Haryana, 217 new Covid-19 cases were reported on Friday, taking the total number of positive cases to 1,721. In Rajasthan, 298 fresh Covid-19 cases have been reported, taking the total number of cases in the state to 8,365 and death toll at 184. With 9 new positive cases for COVID-19 deployed across Gurugram to in Himachal Pradesh - five from Hamirpur and ensure the orders were complied four from Kangra districts, total positive cases in the state rises to 290 including 208 active cases.

> up to 4,813 in West Bengal up by 277 fresh cases while 85 new cases were reported in Andhra Pradesh and 90 in Bihar. Jammu and Kashmir registered 128 cases for a total of 2164, while Odisha added 63 new cases.

The number of COVID-19 cases has gone

Haryana reported its biggest single day of spike, adding 217 new cases for a total of 1,546 coronavirus cases so far while Kerala added 62 new cases for a tally of 1,151 cases. A total of 936 people have been infected with the virus in Assam and 448 in Iharkhand.

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82 die of virus in 24 hours

1,106 new corona cases, total tally reaches 17,387

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Delhi Government on}}_{\text{Friday added 82 coronavirus deaths to the overall toll,}}$ taking the total to 398. While 13 out of 82 have been reported in last 24 hours, 69 deaths occurred in the last 34 days.

Government's reaction came after the allegations on Delhi Government for underreporting fatalities. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Health Minister Satyender Jain stressed on the home isolation.

"80-90% of infected people are recovering in home quarantine. Not mandatory to be admitted in hospitals for patients with no or mild symptoms," said Sisodia. 7,846 corona-infected patients have recovered, Jain said and added that the recoveryrate is now at 50 per cent.

Gambhir's

SUV stolen

from outside

his residence

The Sport Utility Vehice (SUV) of East Delhi's

Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP),

Member of Parliament (MP)

Gautam Gambhir got stolen

from outside his house here in

Central Delhi's Rajinder Nagar.

the Deputy Commissioner of

Police (DĆP), Central district,

Deepak Ghambhir, the father

of the MP, told police that he

owned a Toyota Fortuner car. "On Thursday around 3.30

pm, the car was parked in front of the house. On Friday morn-

ing, it came to know that the car was stolen," said the DCP.

tion of law has been registered.

Further police team is also scanning CCTV cameras in the

area to identify the accused and

to know the crime sequence,'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

number of patients right now.

 \mathbf{I}^{n} order to deal with the rising cases of coronavirus, the Delhi Government is aiming to double the number of beds in the coming days in comparison to the

Addressing the media, Delhi health minister Satyender Jain said that the national capital has more than 5,000 beds for coronavirus treatment. "Of these 1,400 beds are in private hospitals and

3,700 in government hospitals. The number of patients currently on the ventilator is 28 and we have more than 300 dedicated ventilators available currently in Delhi,"

Our aim is to double the number of beds in the coming days in comparison to

Jain also said that there have been 17,386 positive cases up till now in Delhi.

"As many as 1,106 cases of coronavirus

There have been 398 deaths recorded

the number of patients right now, Jain said.

have been reported in the last 24 hours in

Delhi. At least 7,846 people have recovered

so far and 351 of them recovered on

so far in the national capital due to

Covid-19," said Jain. The health minister

also informed that the health bulletin will

reflect 82 new deaths out of which 13 were

said the DCP.

"A case under relevant sec-

According to Sanjay Bhatia,



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday said that 13 deaths reported in the National Capital due to Coronavirus in the past 24

Manish Sisodia said that 69 old corona related deaths have also been added in our health bulletin that occurred in a span of past 34 days.

The coronavirus cases count in the national capital witnessed a record jump of 1,106 in a day, taking the total tally to 17,387 while the death tally has reached 316. 'Fifty two cases were

reported from Safdarjung hospital. The rest were from other hospitals. So the health bulletin will reflect 82 deaths, but out of

Delhi hotels have been attached with hospitals

with an aim to improve health

infrastructure in the ongoing

battle against novel coron-

avirus even as cases recorded

every day have gone above

Government of National

Capital Territory of Delhi (

GNCTD) said that in contin-

uation of previous order dated

May 16,2020 to augment Covid

hospitals facility by 1000 beds, the following hotels - Hotel crown plaza, Okhla phase -2, Surya, New Friends Colony (

NFC), Siddhartha, Rajendra Place, Jivitesh, Pusa Road and

Sheraton , Saket have be requested by District Magistrates and given to

attached hospitals - Batra, IP Apollo, BLK, Sir Ganga Ram

and Max respectively for con-

verting them into extended

On Friday, in a fresh order,

thousand in Delhi.

these- 18 deaths have happened in the last 24 hours and the rest 69 deaths have happened in the course of the last 34 days," he said.

The death cases reported to the Government late so the data updated accordingly, he

Stressing the need to maintain personal hygiene and social distancing to keep Coronavirus at bay, Sisodia said that there is no need to panic as situation is under control.

More than 50 per cent eople in Delhi have recovered and huge portion of corona affected people is recovering through home isolation, he

Advising residents not to panic over rising number of Coronavirus cases, he said "It is important to keep ourselves safe from the disease by wearing masks and practising social distancing and there is no need for us to panic. It is worth mentioning that around 80 to 90 per cent of infected people are recovering in home quaran-

Several hotels turned

Covid hospitals wherein med-

ical services shall be provided

by the attached identified

the attached private hospital is

required to provide sufficient

manpower (nurses & doctors)

also required to provide oxygen

supply, either in the form of

oxygen concentrator or oxygen cylinder, in the extended

COVID Hospital in case a

patient requires oxygen sup-

department official," The

attached hospital shall provide

all consumables like PPE Kit,

N95 Mask, gloves, medicines

and equipment like pulse-

According to Delhi health

port, the order read.

Govt to double Covid beds

According to the order,

The attached hospital is

Covid private hospitals.

as per norms.

into Covid hospitals

Kejriwal releases video on home isolation process, precautions

STAFF REPORTER ■

The Delhi Government on Friday released a video explaining the process of home isolation and the precautions patients, caregivers and neighbours need to take.

The video was introduced on social media by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who said, people need not panic when someone in their neighbourhood is found COVID-19 positive.

The video seeks to build confidence among people who might be neighbouring someone, who is found COVID-19 postive but is not symptomatic. In the short film, a family has been shown and how a

caregiver takes care of a man when he is found Covid-19 positive.

The instructional video also talks about use of sodium hypochlorite for the purpose of sanitisation at home, especially the room in which the asymptomatic patient is staying during the self-isolation period.

It also shows, how a doctor on call provides counselling to patients who are home quar-

Kejriwal earlier in the day had tweeted, "My Delhiites do not worry if you contract corona. Most of you can be treated in home quarantine itself. Still, if you need to be admitted to hospital, we have full preparations for it. I pray to the god for your good health and happi-



"Corona patients who have no or mild symptoms can recover at their home. They need not get admitted to hospital," he tweeted.

His deputy Manish Sisodia

here stands at 4,227, according to Delhi health **bulletin shared** on Thursday during a virtual Press conference in the afternoon also said

patients were home quaran-

Total number of

Covid-19 positive

patients under

home isolation

Total number of Covid-19 positive patients under home isolation here stands at 4,227, according to Delhi health bulletin shared on Thursday.

4 more NDMC staffers test corona +ve, total 13

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With four more staff of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) tested positive on Saturday, the total number of staff in the civic body diagnosed with Coronavirus reached to 13 till now.

concentrator/ cylinder, etc.

They shall also make necessary

arrangements to provide resus-

citation Y services (equipment,

drugs and medical consum-

ables) in the extended COVID

Hospital A in case there is a

rapid deterioration in the clin-

ical condition of the patient."

order came when Covid infect-

ed cases 1106 recorded in past

"The linked private Hospitals are required to take

over full Hotel indicated against

their name as requisitioned by

concerned District Magistrate, Government of NCT of Delhi

under DDMA. The hotel shall

provide regular hotel services

including rooms, housekeeping, disinfection & food for the

patients etc at the price not

greater than Rs 5000/- for Five

star Hotel and Rs 4000/-

Four/Three star hotel per day,"

the order read.

24 hours.

The Delhi Government's

A senior NDMC official said that one accounts of NDMC headquarter Palika Kendra and one beldar working in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place (Gole Market) tested positive.

Incidentally, the civic body had sealed the entire building on Thursday after six COVID-19 positive cases reported in a positive case reported in a positive cases reported in a positive case reported in a positive single day.

The official said that civil engineering department (building maintenance division) and public health department are carrying out an extensive dis-infection 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," he said.

The Covid-19 cell of NDMC is being intimated 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 or employees to observe home quarantine procedure and report to district authority in case they become symptomatic.

Man who thrashed Chinese woman for fostering stray dog in Noida Police net

arrested a man who allegedly thrashed a Chinese woman living in a condominium there for allegedly fostering a stray dog which bit his own pet dog.
"The named accused in

people need not visit hospitals

unless there are symptoms of

this virus infection, and added

80-90 per cent recovery was

registered, among cases where

the case of the Chinese resident of Greater Noida, who was assaulted by a fellow resident of her society over the feeding of stray dogs in the society, has been arrested," the police said.

IANS was the first to report about this incident. Greater Noida Commissioner of Police Rajesh Kumar Singh had told IANS then that the man named Amar Pratap Singh, a resident of ATS Paradiso, misbehaved with the woman after his pet dog was bitten by a stray dog which she used to feed every day.

Describing her plight in an open letter, victim Zou Hui hasd said "I am suffering severe pain in my body due to such inhuman beating and mad-

She had also attached pho-

tos of her injuries which sug-gest the sheer brutality with which she was assaulted. "If anything unnatural happens to us in the future, the accused man Mr Amarpal Singh should be responsible for it," she said.

Singh, the arrested accused has been charged under section 354B (Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

According to the victim, a stray dog which was following her suddenly attacked another resident's dog. Following which the accused man "thrashed" her from behind "with a heavy thick stick more than 10 times.

She added that her hands and hips were injured as a result of the assault. "I was shocked and wasn't aware why he was cruelly beating me," she





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parking



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- It could lead to accidents too Improper parking is a punishable offence
- under Section 122/177 of MVA

Park only at authorized or multi-level parking



Covid welfare cell for policemen Quarantine Facilities and

reported in the last 24 hours while the rest

69 deaths have happened in the course of

of the disease. "We should practice social

distancing, wear masks, and wash our

hands with soap and water. Isolate your-

self in a room to recover if you think you

are infected. Although it takes two weeks

to recover but most of the people are recov-

ering without any medical intervention,"

Jain advised everyone to be cautious

the last 34 days.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Thursday," he said.

In yet another step to prevent its personnel, officers and their families from Covid-19, the Delhi Police Commissioner, SN Shrivastava, has set up 'Covid Welfare Cell' across the 15 districts in National Capital.

According to Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police, a good practice initiated in one of the district of setting up a Covid Welfare Cell has been replicated in all the 15 districts of Delhi Police for a standardized and effective mechanism in order to ensure a positive



feeling of being looked after well by all police families whose members are exposed to risk of infection during performance of duty at Covid Hospitals, Care Centres,

Containment Zones apart from regular policing of investigation and patrolling.

So far more than 25,000 families have been contacted and it is being done on regular basis for reaching out to each family. A Welfare Cell under the direct supervision DCP office has been created for reaching out to all the police families of the personnel who are posted in the districts. The families members are being contacted on telephone to share with them all the preventive steps being taken by the orga-

nization for the safety of their

family members," said Mittal. "Their concerns and issues

"We get a lot of panic calls too. But if

the symptoms are not severe and you are

overall asymptomatic, you should confine

yourself to an isolated room and quaran-

tine yourself. Other family members

should maintain a safe distance and keep

their homes (and self) sanitized," Jain said

letin will reflect 82 deaths out of which 13

were reported in the last 24 hours while

the rest 69 deaths occurred in the course

of the last 34 days.

He also informed that the health bul-

which need intervention are being addressed on regular basis so that there is no fear of corona pandemic and instead each and everyone in the police family is provided with correct information and positive steps to create positive energy in their personal lives," said Mittal.

"Delhi Police is fulfilling its responsibility in ensuring that all men and women in Delhi Police and their families are emotionally stable and professional competent as corona warriors," he added.



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VVIP CHOPPER SCAM

ED attaches ₹385 cr assets of Agusta middleman Rajiv

Enforcement ▲ Directorate (ED) on Friday issued separate Provisional Attachment Orders attaching assets worth USD 50.90 million (equivalent to ₹385.44 crore) of accused Rajiv Saxena under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Agusta Westland chopper scam and Moser Baer Bank Fraud

The attached assets include a villa in upscale Palm Jumeirah, Dubai worth 20 million AED and balances in five Swiss bank accounts amounting to USD 45.55 million of Saxena.

Saxena was deported to India from UAE on January 31 last year for his involvement in the multi-crore VVIP chopper scam and was arrested under

Investigations under PMLA were initiated by ED on the basis of separate FIRs registered by CBI in connection with the Águsta Westland Chopper Scam and Moser Baer Bank Fraud cases.

The CBI had registered the Agusta Westland chopper scam under IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and cheating besides relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act against former Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi and others.

The CBI had registered a separate FIR against Moser Baer India Ltd. and its Directors, unknown public servants and unknown private persons under IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, forgery and cheatings and provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act in a bank fraud case.

"Investigation under PMLA

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian Army's Major Suman Gawani, who served as a

peacekeeper with the United

Nations Mission in South

Sudan (UNMISS) in 2019, has

been selected for the presti-gious "United Nations Military

Gender Advocate of the year

from the UN Secretary General

Antonio Guterres during an

ised at the UN Headquarters,

New York on Friday on the

occasion of international day of

United Nations Peacekeepers,

the Army said here on Friday.

She will be receiving this award

along with a Brazilian Naval

& https://etender.up.nic.in regularly.

Name of Work

Estimate Cost

Last Date of Sale of

Tender Document

Pre-bid Meeting

Last Date of online

opening

Submision of Tender

She will receive the award



Saxena is a Hawala operator and accommodation entry provider who runs the accommodation entry business in Dubai through numerous companies known as Matrix Group companies and has laundered proceeds of crime in the cases of Agusta Westland Chopper Scam and Moser Baer Bank Fraud case," the ED said in a statement.

Saxena created structures for laundering proceeds of crime generated by accused of both cases either for the kickbacks in Agusta Westland case or defrauding banks by mis-utilising the loans given to Moser Baer India Ltd and its subsidiaries. Saxena manages the proceeds of crime and tainted funds of many high profile and high net worth individuals.

In the case of Agusta Westland helicopter scam, Letter of Request to Swiss Confederation was sent to restrain his Swiss bank accounts and ensure that Saxena did not shift/transfer/dispose-off the suspected proceeds of crime. Saxena has admitted to laundering the proceeds of crime not only of Agusta Westland deal but also various other defence

The proceeds of crime have also been transferred to the per-

officer Commander Carla

military observer in UNMISS

from November 2018 to

December 2019 where she was

the principal focal point of con-

tary observers in the mission.

"The officer encouraged par-

ticipation in joint military

patrols to maintain gender bal-

ance, irrespective of the hard-

ships under extreme field con-

ditions," the Army said adding

Project Manager

U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

Notice inviting e-TENDER

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For and on behalf of Managing Director, U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd.

Project Manager, Meerut Unit, Meerut invites online offers in two bids

system from eligible Architectural firms for Providing Architectural

Consultancy services for "Construction of Transit Hostel 04 Tower (G+12)

in Police line, Meerut". Interested eligible Architectural firms may furnish their EOI online, on or before 12-06-2020 by 02.00 PM, other details are

available on web portal https://etender.up.nic.in For any changes/corrigendum please follow UPRNN website www.uprnn.co.in

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Division, Pune - 411001

Phone No. 020/26122485 & 26122414 Fax No. 020/26122485

Web:- www.mahanwd.com & e-mail:- pune.ee@mahapwd.com

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 1 FOR 2020-2021 (Short Period)

Corrigendum No. 3

Corrigendum No. 1 Published in Daily New Paper and any technical

reasons Please read the changes for Work Name, Estimated Cost

and Tender time schedule as mentioned below for Work No. 4.

College, Pune

Rs. 4,51,22,769/-

Period of online Tender :- Dt. 17/06/2020 @ 10.00 hrs. (If Possible)

Dt. 15/06/2020 @ 18.00 hrs

Dt. 15/06/2020 @ 18.00 hrs

- Dt. 09/06/2020 @ 11.00 hrs.

This office e-Tender Notice No. 1 For 2020-2021 and

Providing, Supplying, Installation, Testing &

Commissioning of Fire Fighting & Fire

Detection services & Hot Water System in

addition to Installation of Tensile Fabric roof

and Miscellaneous civil works in G+11

Multistoried Building and Mortuary Building at

Sassoon General Hospital and B. J. Medical

In the Office of The Chief Engineer, P.W.

Region, New Central Building, Pune-1.

Notice no.- 20/T. Hostel/Arch. Tender/RNN/2020 Dated 27-05-2020

Major Gawani served as a

Monteiro de Castro Araujo.

Gender Advocate of the year Award'

sonal accounts of Rajiv Saxena and his wife Shivani Saxena (also an accused in Agusta Westland case).

In Moser Baer Bank fraud case, proceeds of crime belonging to Deepak Puri, amounting to USD 16.33 million have also been attached.

The accounts of Moser Baer India Ltd. were classified as a Non-Performing Asset in the year 2014. "Investigation in the case has revealed that the proceeds of crime generated by Deepak Puri out of bank fraud were received and kept by Rajiv Saxena till 2018 through accounts maintained for Deepak Puri and also equity has been transferred from an undisclosed entity based in Bahamas. From the analysis of digital evidences and accounts of Puri family maintained by Saxena,, it was revealed that the amount of USD 16.33 million is proceeds of crime in the hands of Saxena belonging to Deepak Puri and is parked in the accounts of companies of Matrix Group," the agency said.

Likewise, proceeds of crime belonging to Ratul Puri, nephew of Congress leader Kamal Nath, and transferred to Rajiv Saxena from an undisclosed foreign

entity have also been Major Gawani bags 'United Nations Military

the mission

in the mission

betes in the remaining cases. **Major Gawani served** as a military observer in UNMISS from November 2018 to **December 2019 where** she was the principal focal point of contact for gender issues for military observers in

The presence of microvasshe also strived to integrate cular or macrovascular complanning and military activity bled the risk of death at day seven. Advanced age also sub-She was selected to attend stantially increased the risk of specialised training on death, with the group of Conflict Related Sexual patients aged 75 years and Violence (CRSV) at Nairobi more than 14 times more likeand participated in various ly to die than younger patients aged under 55 years, while demonstrate how a gender perpatients 65-74 years old were three times more likely to die spective can help in protecting civilians, especially from conthan those under 55 years.

The presence of the respiratory condition obstructive sleep apnoea almost tripled the risk of death at 7 days, as did the presence of dyspnoea symptoms (shortness of breath). The study also confirmed that insulin, and indeed all treatments for modifying blood sugar, are not a risk factor for severe forms of Covid-19 and should be continued in patients with diabetes. Encouragingly, there were no deaths in patients under 65 years old with type 1 diabetes, but the authors highlight there were only 39 patients with type 1 diabetes in this study and other work is ongoing to establish the effect of Covid-19

ernment forces on CRSV related aspects. PUBLIC NOTICE

forums

flict related sexual violence, the

Army stated. Later, she also

trained the South Sudan gov-

all unauthorised, unclaimed o abandoned vehicles in Max Hospital premises shall be handed over to the Police within 10 days from the date of this notice. Max Hospital shall not be liable for any inconvenience caused to the vehicle owner or loss or damage to the vehicle pursuant thereto

> Max Hospital, Saket New Delhi

Place: New Delhi Date: 30.05.2020

1 in 10 diabetic corona patients dies within 7 days of hospitalisation

Underlying ailments are already known to have expedited the Covid-19 attack. However, now the researchers have found that one in ten Covid-19 patients suffering with diabetes dies within 7 days of hospital admission, and one in five is intubated and mechanically ventilated.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Age, though, is the biggest determining risk factor for death among those with either form of diabetes who get Covid-19, said the researchers as they found that two-thirds (65%) of Covid-19 patients with diabetes admitted to hospital are men, and the average age of all patients is 70 years.

Under-40s have a very low risk compared with those over 40, and especially compared with older, said the researchers in their study published in Diabetologia (the journal of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes [EASD]).

The findings hold importance for India which is known as diabetes capital of the World There are around 50 million people with diabetes in India whose number is likely to touch to 87 million by 2030, because of various reasons, sedentary lifestyle being the major one.

Professor Bertrand Cariou and Professor Samy Hadjadj, diabetologists at l'institut du thorax, University Hospital Nantes, INSERM, CNRS, and University of Nantes, France, and colleagues in their study said that blood sugar control did not seem to impact a patient's outcome, however the presence of diabetic complications and increasing age increase the risk of death, and increased BMI is associated with both increased risk of needing mechanical ventilation and with increased risk of death.

The study analysed 1,317 patients admitted to 53 French ĥospitals (public & private) between 10 and 31 March. The majority of hospitalised subjects had type 2 diabetes (89%) (caused by sedentary lifestyle) while only 3% had type 1 diabetes (autoimmune factor), with other types of dia-

Microvascular complications (eye, kidney and nerves) were found in 47% of the subjects in the study, while macrovascular complications (arteries of the heart, brain, legs) were present in 41%. Across all patients, by day 7 one in five (20.3%) had been intubated and placed on a ventilator in intensive care, and one in 10 (10.3%) had died. A further 18% had been discharged.

in this specific population. SVCL

S V Creditline Limited CIN: U71290DL1996PLC081376

Head Office: 5th Floor, Tower B, SAS Towers, Medicity, Sec-38, Gurugram, Haryana -122001 Tel: +91-124-4834600, Fax: + 91-124-4679099, E-mail: info@svcl.in, website: www.svcl.in Regd. Office: 815, 8th Floor, Hemkunt Chamber, 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 t has been decided by the Management to close the following branch office f the Company by August 25, 2020

S. No. State Name of the Branch hri, Kochas, Mairwa, Jehanabad, Rajgir, Bihata, Motih Fatuha and Saraiya Bilaspur, Tilda, Jangir Champa, Kondagaon, Raipur, Kharsia Chhattisgarh Surajpur, Manendragarh, Saraipali and Bagbahara Barara, Naraingarh, Singhana and Loharu Shamgarh, Maihar, Parasia, Gadarwara, Kareli, Damoh, Raheli ObedullahGanj, Begumganj and Sehora Ludhiana,Zeera, Barnala, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Ropar, Rajpura Punjab

Patiala and Jalandar Chomu, Kishangarh, Sri Madhopur, Kuchaman, Nimbahera Vijaynagar, Alwar and Behror

Gohaniya, Ramnagar, Chandauli, Handia Pratapgarh, Bharwari, Rasra, Kaptanganj, Lalganj, Belthara, Deoria, Sahjanwa, Sonbarsa, Jhusi, Varanasi, Nakur, Sikandrabad, Tundla, Raya, Meerut, Pilkhuwa, Prem Nagar, Atrauli, Hathras, Khurja Jahangirabad, Joya, Gajraula, Sambhal and Najibabad Haldwani, Chutmalpur and Laksar

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The aforesaid branches are merged with the existing branches details of which are available on the website www.svcl.in For any enquiries, please contact at the customer care number 1800-120-9040 and ca

Persons with IDD more likely to die from virus

PNS NEW DELHI

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are more likely to die from Covid-19 than those without IDD, according to researchers from Syracuse University and SUNY Upstate Medical University. More so, because usually individuals with IDD have a higher prevalence of comorbid circulatory, respiratory, and endocrine diseases.

Published in ScienceDirect's Disability and Health Journal, the study says that the disparity is likely related to a higher prevalence of comorbid diseases among those with IDD, and/or a higher percentage of people with IDD are living in congregate residential settings. IDDs are disorders that

are usually present at birth and that negatively affect the trajectory of the individual's physical, intellectual, and/or emotional development. Many of these conditions affect multiple body parts or systems..

The study, "Intellectual and Developmental Disability and Covid-19 Case-Fatality Trends: TriNetX Analysis," included 30,282 people who were identified as Covid-19 positive in the TriNetX Covid-19 Research Network Platform. "More attention is needed

to this vulnerable health population in order to ensure their safety and well-being during this pandemic, including careful attention to the impact of public policies such as PPE prioritisation and funding streams on the abili-

ty of residential service providers to guarantee quality care during this time," said researcher Scott Landes. He is an associate profes-

sor of sociology at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and a research affiliate for the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion. The study was conducted

by Landes and three researchers from SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, N.Y.: Dr. Margaret professor physical medicine and rehabilitation; Dr. Margaret Formica, associate professor of public health and preventative medicine and associate professor of urology; and Katherine Goss from the Disability & Health Research

Every individual in this study had Covid-19, so rates are case-fatality rates that gave the researchers an idea of the severity of the disease among both groups. Among ages 0-17, for every 100 individuals with Covid-19, 1.6 with IDD died and less than one without IDD died. Among ages 18-74, for every 100 individuals with Covid-19, 4.5 with IDD died compared to 2.7 without IDD. Rates were similar for those 75 and over - for every 100 individuals with Covid-19, 21.1 with IDD died and 20.7 with out IDD died.

The researchers also found that individuals with IDD had a higher prevalence of comorbid circulatory, respiratory, and endocrine diseases across all age groups.

Pandemic hits Indian pvt healthcare sector hard

PNS NEW DELHI

Tn just two months since the lockdown was imposed to contain the Covid-19 infection, the pandemic has left the Indian private healthcare sector gasping for survival, a survey said on Friday adding that the healthcare facilities in the country have witnessed at least 80 per cent fall in average rev-

The survey was conducted healthcare industry body NATHEALTH in 251 healthcare facilities across 9 states and 69 cities to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the domestic healthcare industry especially among small and medium-sized hospitals, which are now facing

existential challenges post the lockdown from March 4, 2020. The findings showed that 90

per cent of the surveyed healthcare facilities are facing financial challenges with 21 per cent facilities facing an existential According to the survey, hospitals in tier 1 and tier 2 cities are experiencing a 78 per cent reduction in OPD footfalls, and

patient admissions. The study found that 90 per cent of organisations require some form of financial assis-

a drop of 79 per cent in in-

The findings indicated that even after the lockdown lift, the situation will remain difficult for as patients will hesitate from visiting hospitals. Dr Sudarshan Ballal,

President NATHEALTH, said there is a need to address the ongoing challenges faced by the Indian Healthcare industry. "Low financial performance, shutdown of OPDs, prohibition on elective surgeries, and ban on international travel have led to low footfalls from national and international patients in the last

three months," he said.. Besides this, Covid-19 outbreak has significantly impacted cash flow in all organizations. There is a need for a stimulus package to revive the Indian healthcare industry These measures will be crucial to implethe hospitals and nursing homes ment to provide much needed

relief to the healthcare sector which is the frontline defense in this fight against Covid, sug-gested Ballal.

The survey findings indicate that even after the lockdown lift, the situation will remain difficult for the hospitals and nursing homes as patients will hesitate from visiting hospitals. Hospitals are working towards adapting to modern healthcare techniques and are providing consultation through telemedicine, but the problem related to OPD footfall will remain for some time. "The other challenge of increase in cost of operations is also a major concern given more stringent hygiene and containment requirements post Covid," said the NATHEALTH President.

कार्यालय उप निदेशक (वि0/याँ०) 🍥 राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उ०प्र०,

संगम प्लेंस दसवाँ तल, सिविल लाइन, प्रयागराज। पत्रांक : वि०/यां०/निविदा-64/2020-54

-: ई-निविदा सूचना :-

निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु वित्तीय रूप से सुदृढ़ मूल निर्माता कम्पनी Two Bid System i.e. (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) के माध्यम से निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है। दिनॉक. 23.6.2020 को अपरांह 1.00 बजे से Technical Bid ई-टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से एवं दिनॉक : 24.6.2020 को अपरांह 1.00 बजे से Financial Bid ई—टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से आनलाइन कार्यालय उप निदेशक (विo/यां०), राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, प्रयागराज में खोली जायेगी। उक्त ई-निविदाये (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) दिनॉक : 22.6.2020 अपरांह 1.00 बजे तक वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर ऑन लाइन भरकर अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदादाता Technical Bid & Financial Bid को दिनांक 22. 6.2020 को अपरांह 5.00 बजे तक समस्त बिड डाक्यूमेंट एवं सम्बन्धित समस्त आवश्यक प्रपत्र सहित कार्यालय उप निदेशक (वि०/यां०), राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, प्रयागराज में जमा करना अनिवार्य है।

₹io	200 March 200 Ma	मूल्य जी.एस.टी. सहित (रु० में)	अनुमानित लागत (रु० में)	धनराशि (लाख में)	पूर्ण करने की अवधि	
1	नवीन मण्डी स्थल प्रतापगढ़। 01 नग आउटडोर फुल एल.ई.डी टिकर बोर्ड साइज 3840mmx2880mm 05 वर्षो तक वारन्टी सहित की आपूर्ति/स्थापना/टेस्टिंग /किमशनिंग एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य।	1180.00	2260357.49	2.27	4 माह	अनुभवी / निर्माता

निविदा कार्य की घरोहर कार्य श्रेणी

नवीन मण्डी स्थल वाराणसी। 1180.00 2260357.49 2.27 4 माह 01 नग आउटडोर फुल एल.ई. डी टिकर बोर्ड साइज 3840 mmx2880mm 05 वर्षों तक वारन्टी सहित की आपूर्ति/ स्थापना / टेस्टिंग / कमिशनिंग एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य। Tender id. 2020 RKUMP 476574-1

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4	नवीन मण्डी स्थल चन्दौली। 01 नग आउटडोर फुल एल.ई. डी टिकर बोर्ड साइज 3840 mmx2880mm 05 वर्षों तक वारन्टी सहित की आपूर्ति/ स्थापना/टेस्टिंग/किमशनिंग एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य।	1180.00	2260357.49	2.27	4 माह	अनुभवा / निर्माता

Telluel Iu. 2020 N

स्थापना / टेस्टिंग / कमिशनिंग

एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य।

क्र0 कार्य का नाम

- ई--निविदा आमंत्रण तिथि 23.6.2020 को यदि कोई सार्वजनिक अवक. ाश घोषित होता है तो ई-निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली
- ई-निविदा के मूल्य का भुगतान RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से उपनिदेशक (वि0 / यॉ०) राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, प्रयागराज के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक खाता सं0-30396130263 (IFS Code -SBIN 0018245) में जमाकर बैंक से प्राप्त UTR No. की प्राप्ति जमा

- धरोहर धनराशि का भुगतान RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से उपनिदेशक (वि०/यॉ०) राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, प्रयागराज के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक खाता सं0-30396136753 IFS Code -SBIN 0018245) में जमाकर बैंक से प्राप्त UTR No. की प्राप्ति जम करना अनिवार्य है। निविदादाताओं द्वारा दी गयी ई-निविदा की दरें 90 दिन तक मान्य
- रू० 100.00 का स्टाम्प पेपर जो ट्रेजरी कार्यालय से जारी हुआ हो
- के साथ रू० 1.00 का रेवेन्यू टिकट लगाकर अपलोड करना अनिवार्य ई-निविदा उन्हीं फर्मो की मान्य होगी जो जी०एस०टी० में रजिस्टर्ड
- होंगी। उपरोक्त का रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रमाण-पत्र प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य होगा। अन्यथा निविदा मान्य नहीं होगी। जी०एस०टी० एवं श्रम विभाग के नियमों के अनुसार कटौती ठेकेदार
- के देयको से की जायेगी। ई-निविदादाता बार काउन्सिल का सदस्य नहीं होना चाहिए ऐसे
- निविदादाता को निविदा डालने की अनुमति नहीं होगी जिनके सगे सम्बन्धी प्रथम ब्लड रिलेटेड) मण्डी परिषद में कार्यरत होगा। वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड किये गये फार्म
- में किसी भी तरह की भिन्नता की स्थिति में कार्यालय में अनुपरिथत निविदा फार्म की मूल प्रति ही मान्य होगा। 10 एक या समस्त ई-निविदायें बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का
- पूर्ण अधिकार उपनिदेशक (वि0/यां0), राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, प्रयागराज को होगा। 11 ऐसे राजपत्रित अभियन्ता/अधिकारी, जिनको राज्य सरकार अथवा
- केन्द सरकार की सेवा से सेवा निवृत्त हुए दो वर्ष से कम अवधि हुई हो को ई-निविदा डालने का अधिकार नहीं होगा। 12 टिकर बोर्ड पर रेट प्रदर्शित करने के लिये टिकर बोर्ड को मण्डी की
- वेब-साइट से कनेक्ट करना होगा अर्थात इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करनी होगी कि लगाया गया टिकर बोर्ड मण्डी परिषद की वेब-साइट से दरें प्राप्त कर प्रदर्शित करें, इस हेतु आवश्यक साफ्टवेयर / हार्डवेयर, इन्टरनेट / सिम इत्यादि का प्रबन्ध फर्म को अपने व्यय पर करना
- 13 ई-निविदा मूल निर्माता कम्पनी की ही मान्य होगी। इस हेतु ओ०ई०एम०का प्रमाण-पत्र प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य होगा। अन्यथा निविदा मान्य नहीं होगी।
- 14 फर्म के सुपरवाइजर / कर्मचारी द्वारा मण्डी परिषद के किसी भी मशीन एवं उपकरण को क्षतिग्रस्त करने की स्थित में क्षति की प्रतिपूर्ति फर्म के देयक से अथवा जमानत धनराशि से कटौती करके की जायेगी
- 15 नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (NGT) के निर्देशों के क्रम में कान्स्ट्रक्शन एवं डिमोलेशन रुल्स 2016 के अनुरुप समस्त मानको का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित किया जायेगा तथा इस हेतु प्रमाण-पत्र भी प्रस्तुत करना
- 16 फर्म को एल0ई0डी0 टिकर बोर्ड की 05 साल तक अवधि की वारन्टी
- 17 जी0एस0टी0 विभाग द्वारा नियमानुसार अलग से देय होगी
- 18 फर्म को कार्य पूर्ण होने के एक वर्ष के पश्चात जमानत धनराशि क 50% दो वर्ष के पश्चात धरोहर धनराशि का 20% तथा तीन, चार एवं पाँच वर्ष के पश्चात कमशः 10-10% की दर से धनराशि अवमुक्त
- 19 फर्म द्वारा मण्डी समिति के आपरेटर को प्रशिक्षित किया जायेगा अधिकतम् ०३ माह में प्रशिक्षण देना अनिवार्य होगा।
- 20 फर्म द्वारा फैक्ट्री (निर्माण कार्यशाला) में एल0ई0डी0 टिकर बोर्ड का निरीक्षण मण्डी परिषद के अभियन्ता से कराना होगा एवं MTC उपलब्ध कराना अनिवार्य होगा।
- 21 फर्म द्वारा टिकर बोर्ड के संचालन में बाधा / ब्रेकडाउन की स्थिति मे 48 घण्टे (दो दिन) के अन्दर उपस्थित होकर प्रत्येक दशा में 04 दिवस में संचालन सुचारु रुप में करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- 22 ई-निविदा उन्ही फर्मों की मान्य होगी जिनके पास सरकारी / अर्द / सरकारी संस्था में एल0ई0डी0 टिकर बोर्ड लगाने का अनुभव होगा। इस आशय का प्रमाण-पत्र भी प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य 23 फर्म द्वारा प्रयोग में लाये जाने वाले एल0ई0डी0 पैनल IS:13252
- (part I): 2010 एवं संबंधित IS में दिये गये मानकों / विशिष्टियों के अनुरूप होने एवं एल0ई0डी0 पैनल का BIS एकीडेट लेब से परीक्षण कराकर इस आशय का प्रमाण-पत्र / टेस्ट रिर्पोट प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य

उपनिदेशक (वि०/यां०) मण्डी परिषद, प्रयागराज।



TN crosses 20K mark, Uncertainty over Amarnath yatra as cases rise in J&K 874 more afflicted

62 test +ve in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

With 874 persons testing positive on Friday, the number of persons afflicted with coronavirus in Tamil Nadu reached 20,246. The only consolation for the authorities is the number of patients discharged from various hospitals in the State. Friday saw 765 persons getting cured and discharged from hospitals and this made the total number of active cases in the State as

Nine persons were declared dead on Friday and the fatalities reached 154 all over the State. The efforts by the Government to contain the pandemic continued without

ries were working round-theclock to test the samples. According to the medical bulletin issued by the Tamil Nadu Government, 11, 334 persons were tested on Friday which took the total number of persons tested till date to 4,66, 550.

Chennai continued to be the epicenter of covid-19 in Tamil Nadu with 13,662 persons testing positive till date. There are 6,353 active cases in the district which is closely followed by Chengalpattu (545). There are districts like Namakkal, Nilgiris and Perambalur which do not have even a single coronavirus patient. Dharmapuri, which succeeded in containing the pandemic reported three cases

62 persons tested positive mission in the State.

Friday, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Speaking to reporters at Thiruvananthapuram, the chief minister said that the hike in coronavirus cases was mainly due to expatriates and persons from other States who returned to Kerala.

"Out of the 62 tested positive today, 33 were from foreign countries, and 23 from other States. Number of hotspots in the State increased to 101," said the Chief Minister. But he had some news of comfort to the people of the State. The instances of virus in every 100 tests done in Kerala is 1.7 per cent and this is the best in the country," claimed Vijayan. He also ruled out the possibility of community/social trans-

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

While the Jammu & Kashmir Government is still contemplating whether to allow pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine for a shorter duration in the second week of July this year, the total number of coronavirus cases are spiraling up without showing any declining trend, especially in Kashmir valley.

The Government, which is tied up with containment efforts to check the further spread of deadly virus, is already under pressure from several quarters to allow annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine for a limited period of atleast

The final decision in this regard is expected to be taken during next week by the Chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board after holding threadbare discussions with members of the board and taking in to account the feed128 new cases in State, 36 from Jammu and 92 from Kashmir

back from the Union Home Ministry.

Earlier, Shri Amaranth Shrine board authorities had decided to suspend the yatra this year but later recalled their decision claiming the final decision would be taken after taking a fresh review of the prevailing circumstances.

Due to heightened security concerns, the authorities in Jammu & Kashmir cannot take a unilateral decision as it has to ensure safety and security of the pilgrims during the yatra

Secondly, till the time lockdown guidelines are relaxed and smooth movement of pilgrims is permitted the pilgrimage cannot take place even for a limited period of time. A senior government functionary said, "we are waiting for the centre to take a final call on the issue of holding annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave

"Once we receive a green signal, other yatra logistics, clearing yatra track, setting up temporary shelter points, arranging refreshment, registration of pilgrims as per the guidelines initiated".

On the other hand, anoth-

er famous shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi is also awaiting final nod from the union govt to restart yatra for local pilgrims. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra was suspended on March 18, 2020 ahead of the nation lockdown from

Meanwhile, on Friday, one more patient died due to to Covid-19 in Srinagar while 128 new cases were detected in

the total tally to 2164 cases. Out of these, the total number of active cases are 1261, 332 in Jammu division and 929 in Kashmir division.

According to the media bulletin, out of 128 new positive cases, 36 were reported from Jammu division and 92 from Kashmir division.

All the 36 cases from Jammu were returnees. Highest number of 14 cases were reported from the border district of Poonch while seven cases were reported from Jammu, and six each from Kathua and Rajouri districts.

In Kashmir valley, the highest number of 27 cases were reported from Srinagar, followed by 19 cases from Kulgam, and 18 from Kupwara. According to media bulletin, 76 percent active cases in Kashmir valley are localised in only four districts of Srinagar, Kulgam, Anantnag and

No respite from domestic returnees in Karnataka

IANS BENGALURU

There is no respite from domestic returnees with respect to Covid-19 in Karnataka. As many as 92 per cent of the 178 cases in the past 19 hours were returnees, mostly from Maharashtra, raising the State's tally to 2,711, an official said on Friday.

"New cases reported from Thursday 5 p.m. to Friday noon, 178," said a health official. Among the 164 domestic returnees, 156 or 95 per cent returned from Maharashtra, India's largest COVID suffer-

Recently, Karnataka saw a major spike in cases in Udupi, Yadgir, Bengaluru Urban, Kalaburagi and Raichur.

Raichur suffered 62 infections and Yadgir, 60, both constituting 69 per cent of the cases in the past 19 hours.

A 35-year-old man from Bengaluru is suffering from Influenza Like Illness (ILI).

A 68-year-old woman from Davangere is also suffering from condition.

One more patient, a 32year-old man from Chikkaballapura, is also suffering from ILI. Ă 68-year-old man from

the same place is suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI).

were discharged in the past 19 hours, 30 from Hassan, three from Uttara Kannada and one each from Chikkamagaluru

active, 869 discharges and 47

Religious places, offices to open from June 1 in Bengal

mid eyebrows raising in Athe medical fraternity and the opposition circles the Bengal Government has decided to safeguard "Jaan" and operationalise "Jahan" even as Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Friday declared that the State will be fully functional from the first week of June with the opening of both religious places and pub-

"While temples, mosques, churches and gurudwaras will open from June 1, the public and private sector will become fully functional from June 8," entry in religious places.

Public and private sector offices too will begin work with full staff strength, she said allowing public transport to ferry passengers to their full capacity. Buses which were allowed to carry only 20 people earlier will now be able to ferry passengers to its full sitting strength, she said reminding, "no standing person will be

Tea gardens and jute mills too will start functioning with full capacity from June 8, she said. When asked if sudden opening of the system will neutralize the good effects of the 68-day lockdown a fuming

Chief Minister said if the Railways could send in "Corona Expresses" (read trains bringing infected migrant workers) packed with people then where was there a harm in opening the State. "We have reports that the Railways is sending trains, heaving with migrant workers. In one seat, three-four persons are travelling for 48 hours, 72 hours. So I thought then what is the harm in opening up religious places.

She however said that "no mass congregation or no big festival would be allowed to be organized" in the State till fur-

From June 1, religious sites and

places can open up in Bengal."

"Already Bengal has received 5-6 lakh migrant workers many of who already have come via road. And the Railways have sent another 75 thousand of them in trains ... many of these people are carrying corona infection... so much so that the people have started running away when a train is entering the Howrah station saying look Corona Express is coming," she said.

She said that but for the irresponsible attitude of the Railways which too have a "social responsibility towards the citizens of the country" Bengal Government had been successfully controlled the proliferation of the virus

"We were successful in controlling the spread of corona virus in the last two months, but now it is increasing as a lot of people are coming from outside. The Railways is sending migrants in crowded compartments. In the name of Shramik Special trains they are running 'corona express' trains," she said.

The decision to open up the State came amid rising number of cases and a lot of frown both from the medical and political fraternity.

Senior doctors wondered whether social distancing norms could be followed in case of a full relaxation of lockdown norms and said "the entire good effects of the lock down would be compromised if we open up now." Another senior virologist

predicted "a massive increase in the number of cases in the coming weeks and Bengal will find it difficult to burry its dead people if the decision is not changed right away." CPI(M)'s Md Sal;im said, "it seems Mamata Banjeree is competing with the Modi Government in haphazard implementation of plans. While on one hand the sudden imposition of the lockdown brought great miseries to the poor people of the country now its sudden lifting will finish the advantages of the lock-

people will be transported to their offices and back at a time when the local trains are closed. And if the local trains are started where is a guarantee of social distancing?" State BJP president Dilip Ghosh attacked Banerjee for

He also asked "how the

taking knee-jerk decisions even as he asked "for reasons did we implement the lockdown for the past two months. Was it because we will sacrifice its good effects? Will the Chief Minister be able to control the rising cases if they start to multiply in the coming weeks? and Mandya. Who will take the responsibility of the families that will

Meanwhile, 35 patients

Among the cases, 1,793 are

Masood relative involved in foiled Pulwama like attack

Investigating teams of Jammu & Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have identified owner of the Santro car which was likely to be used by the suicide bomber to target a security convoy or any other vital installation in Kashmir valley.

The car was believed to have been fabricated by an IED expert, identified as Mohd Ismail alias Fauji Bhai of Jaish-e-Mohammad terror outfit. He is believed to be a close relative of Jaishe-Mohammad Chief, Maulana Masood Azhar. His name had also fig-Pulwama terror attack. Police is currently working on the vital leads to track down the footprints of active Over Ground workers who may have provided logistics support to the IED expert Fauji Bhai while fabricating the vehicle borne IED.

Though, no formal statement was issued by the Jammu and Kashmir police but officers privy to ongoing investigations revealed the owner of the explosives-laden car which was intercepted in Rajpora area of Pulwama on Thursday, has been identified as Hidayatullah Malik.

According to police officers, Malik is a resident of Shopian and had joined the Pakistan-backed terror group Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in July 2019. Some of the close relatives of Malik have also been detained by the police to piece together the details of the conspiracy hatched by the top commanders of different terror outfits in

Kashmir valley. Meanwhile, DG CRPF, Dr A.P Maheshwari, Friday commended the role of CRPF in foiling a major terrorist attack in Pulwama, and has also announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh for the CRPF team involved in the CRPF, DG CRPF also announced award of Commendation Disc and certificates to the deserving CRPF Officers and Men involved in the Operation.

According to CRPF spokesman, DG CRPF appreciated the synergy amongst the Forces in handling the security situation in Kashmir.

Zulfiquar Hasan, Special DG J&K Zone, CRPF met with the CRPF team of officers and men involved in the operations, presented the cash reward on behalf of the DG and lauded the exemplary efforts put in by the

JMB terrorist Abdul arrested in Bengal

 Γ he Special Task Force of Kolkata Police had a major success on Friday when it arrested Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh terrorist Abdul alias Boro Karim. He was hiding near Suti town of Murshidabad district bordering Bangladesh, the STF which carried out a joint operation with Murshidabad Police said. Karim was allegedly involved in a 2018 blast

at Bodh Gaya in Bihar sources said without ruling out his involvement in the Khagragarh blast at Burdwan district of Bengal too. The Khagragarh blast killing two JMB militants had occurred on October 2, 2014. The Bodh Gaya blast had taken place near the Mahabodi Temple on January 19, 2018, hours after

"He had provided shelter to JMB leaders from Bangladesh, who were directly involved in the Bodh Gaya blast. He was arrested this morning from Suti police station area of Murshidabad district," a senior officer said adding a number of doc-

uments and other things have been recovered from "He is among the top three JMB operatives wanted in India. We have been looking for him for quite some time. He will be produced before a local court today and we will seek his police custody," an official said adding, the terrorist had earlier given the cops a slip but this time they could manage to arrest him.

NC rejects J&K delimitation commission, won't take part

Speaker Om Birla had nominated the Associate Members of Delimitation Commission for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, one of the leading mainstream political party in Kashmir valley, National Conference on Friday rejected the entire process saying that the party's three members of Parliament will not participate in

MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh and Members of Parliament, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Hasnain Masoodi and Jugal Kishore Sharma were nominated as the Lok Sabha Speaker.

In a statement, the NC, spokesman said: "With reference to the recently announced Delimitation Commission announced by the Government of India, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference today rejects this process and its three members of Parliament will not par-

ticipate in the said commission. The party added: "This delimitation commission is a product of the J&K Re-organisation Act 2019, which the JKNC is challenging in and outside the Supreme Court. Participating will be tantamount to accepting the events of 5th August 2019, which the NC is unwilling to do." "According to the Constitution of

J&K, the constituencies of J&K were to be delimited in 2026 with the rest of the country. The constituencies in the State were last delimited in the '90s. Thereafter, an amendment was made in the constitution of J&K unanimously passed in the State Assembly in which all the regional parties, Congress and BJP voted for this amendment to go with the delimitation with rest of the country of the delimitation commission is unwarranted," the statement

The commission has been constituted to delimit the constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation

According to section 60 of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall be increased from 107 to 114.

Land acquisition to be made easier in UP Lucknow: Continuing his efforts to promote indus-

trialisation in the state, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has now issued directions to amend the revenue code which will make it easier to acquire land in the state. The amended code will make it possible to lease

agricultural land for industrial units and industrial parks. The Land Acquisition Act of 2013 will also be amended to simplify the procedure for acquiring land within a distance of 1 km on either side of an expressway. This will also provide for additional means of revenue generation for the industrial development authorities. According to a government spokesperson, the state government will also develop an electronic city near the Jewar International Airport for which a large land parcel will be acquired.

"At a meeting between the Chief Minister and of closed public sector units. A legal verification the land will have to be carried out for the purpose," he said. If a revenue village comes under an industrial development authority, it has been decided that the public land in these gram sabhas will be vested with he respective authority

Under the Industrial Development Zone Act, allotment of a plot will be cancelled if a unit is not set up there after a stipulated period of time.

Meanwhile, it has also been decided that land of closed units under the Industrial Development Department and plots allotted to closed units of other departments, such as sugar mills and Central government undertakings, will be acquired for the land

Veerendrakumar, RS member & Mathrubhumi MD passes away

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

 M^{P} Veerendrakumar, member of Rajya Sabha and leader of Lok Tantrik Janata Dal breathed his last late Thursday night. The most colourful politician who never compromised on his stance against the Sangh Parivar and the kind of politics practiced by the BJP, was given a State funeral at the sprawling Puliyarmala Estate compound, his ancestral home in Wynadu district.

Veeran , as he was known, was 84 and is survived by his wife and four children. He was also the chairman and managing director of Mathrubhumi, a popular Malayalam daily and owned the satellite news channel

The Rajya Sabha member, though shared power in the State in company of the Congress and the CPI(M), stood for socialism, secularism and liberalism in synch with the kind of education he received from abroad. Son of a planter by name Padmaprabha Gowder, Veeran is described as Raja by the people of Wynadu district. He was twice member of the Lok Sabha and a was a minister of state for company affairs in the government headed by Deve Gowda.

Author of more than a dozen books ranging from politics to ecology to spirituality, Veerendrakumar was instrumental in encouraging journalists to travel wide across the country as his mission to make the youth understand the nook and corner of India. He has won a number of honours like Sahitya academy award and "Vayalar Award", Kerala's highest literary prize. Veerendrakumar had established through his book "Sorrow of Rama" that there ever existed any Ram temple in Ayodhya. "He stood for socialism and secularism and never could get along with the BJP and Sangh Parivar brand of politics. We will miss him very badly," said Chioef Minister Vijayan, a long time friend of the late parliamentarian.

FAMOUS PALKHI TRADITION =

Maha Govt to fly or take palkhis by bus to Pandharpur

Having cancelled the traditional annual "Palkhis" (palanquin processions) from Alandi and Dehu in Pune district to Pandharpur owing to the Covid-19, the Maharashtra Government on Friday decided to take the holy 'Padukas" (foot prints) notably of Sant Dnyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram from Warkari sect directly to the temple town in Solapur district in western Maharashtra.

At a meeting held between Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and the organising committee in Pune on Friday, it was decided that there would not be palanquin processions from Alandi and Dehu Pune district to the Vithobha-Rukhmani temple in Pandharpur in view of the continued spread of coronavirus in many parts the state.

In the past, palanquin processions would begin from Alandi and Dehu and go through Pune, Sangli, Satara & Solapur districts. The whole pilgrimage would take 21 days. Numerous palakhis join the main Tukaram and Dnyaneshwar palakhis along the way. Devotees from from all over

Maharashtra and nearby areas would

set out for Pandharpur, wearing holi

basil beads and sing the glories of Vithoba and songs like "Gyanba

Tukaram", commemorating the saints. Upon reaching Pandharpur on the auspicous Ashadhi Ekadashi day, the devotees would take a holy dip in the sacred Chandrabhaga river or Bhima river before offering prayers at the the Vithoba-Rukobai Temple.

In consultations with the deputy Chief Minister, the organisers decided to discontinue the "Palkhis" (palanquin processions) which would in the past see more than at least four lakh Ŵarkaris, the people who would under annual pilgrimage (wari) from Alandi and Dehu to the temple town of Pandharpur in Solapur district.

During the meeting, Pawar assured the organisers that the State Government would ensure the 'palkhis" would be taken to Pandharpur on the day of Dashmi either via Helicopter or via State-run MSRTC buses. This is for the first time in the

nearly 800-year-old tradition of Palkhis,palanquin processions will not be taken by foot from the twin temple towns of Alandi and Dehu to Pandharpur.

As part of the decision taken by the State Government, palkhis of Sant Dnyaneshwar, Sant Tukaram, Sant Nivrutinath, Sant Sopankaka, Sant Muktabai and Sant Namdeo will be taken directly by either road or air on the dashmi day.

Maha sees record 116 deaths, 2,682 more cases

 $M^{
m aharashtra,\ which\ is\ the\ worst}_{
m coronavirus-affected\ State\ in\ the}$ country, notched another dubious feat on Friday, as a record 116 people died of pandemic and 2,682 others tested positive, taking the total number deaths to 2,098 and infected cases jumped to 62,228 in the State.

The corornavirus displayed its ferocious face on the fourth consecutive day, as it claimed 116 deaths and left 2,682 others infected in various parts of the There have been a total of 403 deaths

On May 26 (Tuesday) the state had witnessed 97 deaths, while there were 105 deaths on Wednesday and 85 deaths on Thursday. Friday's death toll is With the latest fatalities, the death toll crossed 2,000 mark to reach 2,098.

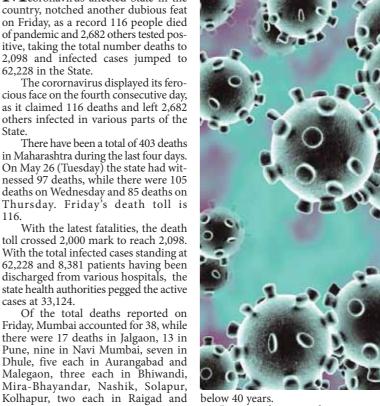
With the total infected cases standing at 62,228 and 8,381 patients having been discharged from various hospitals, the state health authorities pegged the active cases at 33,124. Of the total deaths reported on Friday, Mumbai accounted for 38, while

there were 17 deaths in Jalgaon, 13 in Pune, nine in Navi Mumbai, seven in Dhule, five each in Aurangabad and Malegaon, three each in Bhiwandi, Mira-Bhayandar, Nashik, Solapur, Kolhapur, two each in Raigad and Of the dead, 77 were men while 39

were women. Forty eight of them were

aged over 60 years, 55 were from the age

group 40 to 59 years and 13 were aged



"Seventy five out of 116 patients (65%) had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes hypertension, heart disease, etc," a State health bulletin

Out of the total deaths reported today, 46 deaths occurred in the last two days and the rest are from the period May 16 to May 26 2020.

With new fatalities and infections, the total number of deaths increased to 1173 and infected cases rose to 36932 in Mumbai.

Out of 4,33,557 laboratory samples tested, 62,228 were positive for Covid-

19 until Friday. There are 2941 active containment zones in the State currently. Total 17,600 surveillance squads worked across the state on Friday and surveillance of 67.68 lakh people.

According to the key observations made in the report on Fridasy, patient doubling time for the state is now 15.7 days from 11 days in the last week. The recovery rate in the state is 43.38 per

The mortality rate in the state: 3.37 per cent. Currently, 5,35,467 people are in home quarantine and 35,967 people are in institutional quarantine

Meanwhile, considering that the monsoon is around the corner, prevalence of other epidemic diseases other than Covid-19 also will possibly increase. On this background, the health department has started its preparation. For Malaria, insecticide spraying has

been planned in sensitive districts and swachhta surveillance is going on in the state for water quality. Considering the increasing number

of Covid-19 patients, the bed capacity is being increased as per the requirement in the three-tier system of Covid-19 health facilities.

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Balancing act

India was quick to brush off US mediation on Ladakh. Besides, we can't afford to rub China the wrong way in the pandemic era



India finds itself in a peculiar situation, caught between the US and China over border tensions In Ladakh. While its strategic proximity to the first is a source of deep discontent for a hegemonic Asian power, the maverick support from US President Donald Trump, who offered to mediate in the crisis, has meant double trouble. Trump has made many mediation efforts on India's behalf at international for abefore but the timing of this one in a post-pandemic world is different. More than India, it is a message to China. The US, which has made no bones about China fudging the scale and

potency of the Wuhan contagion and is in a punishing mood, threatening to boycott it economically, is building an international coalition of opinion against the Middle Kingdom. It is, therefore, drawing India to be a part of this anti-China narrative, knowing full well that we could end up being among the top worst-hit nations and would have much to be suspicious about our eastern neighbour. In that sense, the US is feeding off India's weakened position, courtesy its plunging economy and a soaring public health crisis, as much as China is. The heightened tension at Ladakh is China's way of reminding India that it could light up the Himalayan border easily if we fell into the US trap of building a global campaign against it or block trade and investment here. In fact, given that we cannot end our import dependence on China overnight considering its manufacturing edge over ours, particularly when the pandemic has paralysed our economy, we just have to engage with China one on one. India, therefore, has rightly distanced itself, maintaining that it would solve issues with its neighbours through dialogue and diplomatic mechanisms rather than external intervention. China, too, which is used to speaking in a forked tongue, has already indicated diplomacy as a way around the impasse. India is well familiar with this blow-hot-blow-cold intimidatory tactic though the escalation this time is in sync with Chinese depredations in the region against neighbours. Clearly, Xi Jinping wants to justify the need for his muscular leadership by positing the world as an enemy out to finish China as he faces a fall in GDP, about 25 per cent unemployment, a plunging economy and the suppressed rage of a people, who will never know the damage the virus has done to them.

So what should India do? As Doklam has taught us, standing down is not always the way. Indian troops are now favourably placed in many positions and border infrastructure has been fairly ramped up over the last decade. Improved road corridors mean that we can now service requirements and replenish supplies even better. This is what has been exasperating the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which realises that its edge in the region is gradually being blunted and thinks that India might have ambitions in the Aksai Chin. So India should remain firm on legitimate positions. At the same time, it must step up diplomacy and keep at it rather than diverting itself to scaled up military conflicts as China is still a powerful neighbour. In fact, diplomacy, though requiring high-level intervention, may just work as the tussle this time is over areas that are not really disputed since 1962 and quite distant from the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Of course, this doesn't mean that China won't attempt transgressions and territorial intimidation to armtwist us during crises. At the same time, if China rakes up the long Himalayan boundaries, we should pose a counter-weight by tying up with Southeast Asian nations and build pressure against Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea. We should discuss shared threats in the Indian Ocean region with Vietnam, Philippines, Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia. Diplomatically, we could circle China by galvanising the threat perception from it in the region and strengthening a security alliance. One can do this with increased diplomatic engagement without appearing too aggressive and risking a Chinese hitback. In fact, we must be prepared for more hostilities as India builds self-sufficiencies. India has stalled it from ambushing our economy by amending its foreign direct investment (FDI) rules to mandate Government approval for all investments from "border" countries and prevent hostile takeovers. We have already cancelled orders for Chinese test kits as they were faulty and have switched to South Korea and other nations. We are supporting a global impartial probe into the Wuhan contagion and though "vocal for local" may not have any scale now, China will not sit easy with the discomfort over 5G trials and a future shrinkage of its market in India

Hell before healing

The dismal conditions at quarantine centres across the country are more killing than the disease itself



he word "guarantine centre" has become the colonial equivalent of "kaala paani" or confinement in the dreaded prison on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where our freedom fighters were condemned to die in pitiable conditions. Now we are condemning COVID-19 patients as untouchables and leaving them to their fate if the horror stories of conditions at isolation zones are anything to go by. According to the Government's guidelines, each quarantine centre must have rooms/dormitories separated from one another with water, food, telephone, laundry and

sanitation services. But the reality is so different that the Allahabad High Court actually took suo motu cognisance of the unhygienic and inhuman conditions at various guarantine centres in Uttar Pradesh after an engineer succumbed to the infection at one but not before apprising his wife of his plight. More lives could have been saved had the conditions enabled recovery than worsening the health of patients. This is not an isolated case. There are reports coming in from across the country of unhygienic conditions, soiled sheets, a few dirty toilets for scores of people, no social distancing, no privacy, shortage of food leading to people fighting over it, flies, mosquitoes, snakebites, staff behaving in a rude manner, treating people like untouchables and throwing food packets at them, lack of medicines for those who have diseases like diabetes and heart ailments and disinterested doctors ignoring their duty. No wonder then that there have been reports of people trying to flee quarantine centres, not reporting their conditions and committing suicide. Even doctors have been up in arms about the sorry state of affairs. With the Government exiting the lockdown in a graded manner and the country seeing a surge in cases coupled with increasing testing, the pressure on these centres is bound to increase. How then will it deal with the situation?

The Government should increasingly consider home quarantining people as the public healthcare infrastructure is obviously overwhelmed. Plus, it can also think of roping in the private sector healthcare providers or hotels, which can be turned into quarantine centres for those who can afford to pay. There can be different budgets to suit different pockets. This will free up Government facilities and money for the millions who cannot afford to pay. Desperate times call for desperate measures and it is time we began looking for out-of-the-box solutions to deal with this unprecedented situation. Corporates can be asked to foot the bills of the centres and make the expense part of their CSR. The Government should have created the infrastructure during the lockdown period. The fact that it could not reflects poorly on it.

opanion

Hysteria in a time of virus

The Corona pandemic has been killing far fewer people compared to road accidents and other causes. It has indeed brought out the best and the worst in humanity



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

tching the public's and the Union and State Governments' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating progress of the cyclone Amphan, I was reminded of Charles Dickens' famous sentence in A Tale of Two Cities, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

There are parts of the sentence that are generally relevant to the times we live in India but not to the specific context we are talking about. Some parts do apply. For example, it is "the best of times" in terms of the courage, compassion and generosity shown by a number of people to help migrant workers, rendered unemployed by the lockdown. One of them is Pappan Singh Gehlot, a mushroom farmer in Delhi's Tigipur village, who has bought air tickets worth ₹68,000 to enable his migrant workers to return to their village in Bihar. He has also given each of them a cash advance of ₹3,000 so that they do not face any hardship on return, besides getting them medical certificates needed to fly. According to reports, Gehlot, who has been taking care of their food and accommodation since the lockdown began on March 25, did not want them to walk home given the risks, including those of accidents, involved. Interestingly, one of the reports has quoted him as saying that he had made several attempts to send them back to their home States by a Shramik Special train but could not manage to do so.

Another shining example is that of Akshay Kothawale, a 30-year-old auto driver in Pune, who is spending the ₹200,000 he had saved for his wedding to feed migrant workers and those in distress in the streets. With the help of his friends who have chipped in, he is feeding 400 people every day besides ferrying senior citizens and pregnant women

Another example is that of the alumni association of the Bengalurubased National Law School raising funds to charter an Air Asia Boeing A-320 aircraft to send 169 migrant workers and five children home from Mumbai to Ranchi in Jharkhand. According to Sheyl Trehan, one of those involved in the

the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of IIT, Mumbai.

There are many other examples of individuals and NGOs going out of their ways to help migrant labourers and urban poor. They, however, constitute a small slice of the population. The overwhelming majority could not care less or are hostile. The indifference is manifest even in the case of the havoc wrought by the super-cyclone Amphan, which has devastated huge tracts in West Bengal and parts of Odisha. West Bengal bore the brunt of it. There were not more than 86 deaths thanks to the State Government's excellent work in evacuating people. The physical damage has been crippling. The Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a wildlife sanctuary, has virtually been destroyed. Hundreds and thousands of people have been rendered homeless. Crops over thousands of square kilometres have been lost. Municipal Corporation, over 5,000 trees have been uprooted in the city — the figure may have been as high as 10,000 if the adjacent areas are included. Hundreds of lamp posts have been destroyed. Yet, having satisfied their voyeuristic instincts West Bengal and Odisha is now obsessed with COVID-19 and the threat the pandemic poses to

And this despite the fact that COVID-19, the first case of which was reported in India on January 30, 2020, has been killing far fewer people compared to road accidents and other causes. Thus, according to the latest figures, there have been over 166,000 cases, 71,196 cures and 4,706 deaths. This means, on a rough average, over 36 deaths per day since January 30. In sharp contrast, there are on an average 1,214 traffic accidents and 377 deaths from such mishaps, every day. There were 5.45 crore cases of. and 28 lakh cases of deaths from cardiovascular diseases in India

It is this hysteria worked up over the COVID-19 pandemic which is one of the main reasons making this "the worst of times" in terms of the cruelty arising therefrom, and also the match between official expressions of concern for migrant workers and their inhuman treatment on the ground. It is not just the fiasco of the efforts to take them home by special trains earmarked exclusively for them. It is also the widely

fering of migrant workers on highways, roads, airports, railway stations and inter-State borders — and regarding them as untouchables to be consigned to the peripheries of their villages or neighbourhood by locals fearing them spreading infection. And this despite wide dissemination through media of the fact that COVID-19 infects one only through close personal contact and home quarantine is good enough. Even single women and children are not spared! The basic reason is fear and,

in its fundamental sub-stratum, that of death. This is understandable. There is neither cure nor as yet a vaccine for COVID-19. Exaggerated fear, in the teeth of the availability of information, which shows its lack of basis, is, however, irrational and unwarranted. Like all fears, it should have been countered by an application of will. This has not happened. Instead, the majority of people in this a wild terror that has had the better of their humane instincts and rationality.

This leads to two other segments of Dickens' observation, "It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness," and "it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." It is the age of wisdom in the sense that the people are beginning to realise that what many had taken for granted — that humans are the masters of the universe — is not true and that rationality is a fragile attribute. It is the age of foolishness in that the majority cannot still apply reason in a time of crisis. The hope lies in the shining conduct of a minority and the compassion and courage shown by even people from the most disprivileged sections, the despair from the selfishness and worse of the majority and the attitude of the Union and most of the State Governments to the plight of

migrant workers. It is a remarkable commentary on the state of affairs that the Supreme Court, on Thursday, had to forbid the railways and the State Governments from extracting train or bus fares from stranded migrant waiting to return home. The railways had to provide them with food and water during train journeys, while were boarding would have to take care of their meals and water during bus journeys. One only wishes the order came ear-

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and

venture, it was carried out in in front of television sets, the manifested attitude of not being cooperation with Priya Sharma overwhelming majority outside sympathetic to the terrible suf-

UNDBITE

the border situation with China is fueling massive speculation and uncertainty at a time of crisis. It must come clean and tell

—Rahul Gandhi



This pandemic has reminded us that not everyone has the luxury to stay at home and we have to be mindful and try helping in whatever way possible.

–Huma S Qureshi



Have a big conflict ... India and China. Two countries with 1.4 billion people (each). Two nations with very powerful militaries. India is not happy and probably China is not happy.

US President



At this stage, we cannot say that there is community spread of COVID-19 in Kerala But, we are on the brink of community spread as cases have gone up.

Kerala CM —Pinaravi Viiavan

LETTERS

NFSA. Further, as per Section 10

of the Act, most States have evolved

their own exclusion/inclusion cri-

terion under targetted Public

attempting to highlight the prob-

lems in PDS but not noticing the

technology-driven reforms and

solutions already implemented by

the Centre in collaboration with all

State/UT Governments. They sur-

prisingly miss out on the following

facts regarding PDS reform:

The authors are seemingly

Distribution System (PDS).

Reforms in PDS

Sir — This refers to the article, "Pandemic and PDS" (May 28) by Santosh Biswal and Uttam Chakraborty. It needs to be clarified that the exercise of State-wise coverage within the overall national coverage of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) was done by Planning erstwhile Commission using 68th round of NSSO Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2011-12).

The estimation took into account the monthly per capita expenditure of States and the inter-State price differentials to arrive at the consumption cut-offs for rural and urban areas for each State/UT. This was thereafter used to arrive at the percentage of persons falling below that cut-off level of expenditure separately for rural and urban areas. These percentages were then applied on the 2011 population Census to arrive at the number of persons in each State/UT both in rural and urban areas. This yielded the eligible population in the rural and urban eas in each State/UT.

The Planning Commission methodology is such that the coverage under NFSA is higher for those States/UTs, where the size of

At least the private hospitals can waive consultation, laboratory and ward charges for patients. The cost of medicines can be borne by them, too. In Government hospitals, too, at least 25 per cent of the cost of treatment and medicines should be borne by the patients. Then people will be careful enough to stay away from infected people. Since the Government has been bearing the treatment cost, some people are not following

the population below the cut-off

level of expenditure is relatively

large in proportion to their total

population vis-à-vis those States

where the proportion was smaller.

Thus, while the all-India coverage

is up to 75 per cent of the rural and

up to 50 per cent of the urban pop-

ulation, this percentage is much

higher for the less developed

States/UTs. For instance, in Assam

84.17 per cent of the rural popu-

lation and 60.35 per cent of the

urban population is covered under

where COVID patients can be treated free of cost.



the guidelines. In many places, COVID warriors have also been attacked. Also, it is unfair to expect private hospitals to attend only to COVID patients. Those suffering from other diseases should not be neglected. As things stand now, other patients have been badly neglected with some fatalities as well

KV Seetharamaiah

■ Coverage of 67 per cent beneficiaries under NFSA is not a distant dream. Around 81 crore people are already covered under the Act to receive subsidised food-grains through PDS on a monthly basis. ■ Ration cards/beneficiaries data

in all States/UTs have been completely digitised and available on respective State/UT portals. Foodgrains are also being distributed through electronic Point of Sale devices in most of the

Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). Further, distribution is also under progress. ■ Also, the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" is being implemented to reach out to all such people who may not have NFSA or State ration cardS, including migrants/strand-

■ "One nation, one ration card" is

already enabled in 17 States/UTs.

■ So far, 146 LMT foodgrains have

been delivered to NFSA beneficia-

ries during April and May 2020 under regular NFSA and Pradhan

ed migrants but are in need for temporary ration. A proper review of the above

initiatives on a factual basis should have been done before naming some States as "doubly disadvantaged." This is a lack of proper understanding of facts and ongoing reforms, which often leads to unsubstantiated criticism of the PDS of having imaginary in-built inequity. The Government always welcomes further improvement in the system and is open to any constructive criticism as it helps in improvement of the system for the benefit of the poor.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Build cyber resilience

As cyber attacks soar, a data recovery plan must be fully integrated within the business and align with its cloud strategy



uring these extraordinary times, when the world is fighting against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, other threats like the danger of catastrophic cyber attacks have fast mushroomed alongside. As business leaders come face to face with rising cases across the world and in India, the need to be prepared with better data security solutions arises. The World Economic Forum's *Global Risks Report, 2020* ranks cyber attacks as the second risk of greatest concern to businesses in the coming decade. As the tools of the Darknet become more sophisticated and accessible, cyber attacks are becoming increasingly borderless — taking advantage of jurisdictional constraints of regional

According to an industry research by Frost & Sullivan, 46 per cent of Indian organisations that are in the process of digital transformation have encountered a security incident in 2019. In fact, as per another industry report released recently, India witnessed a two to three-fold increase in the number of cyber attack incidents during the ongoing lockdown that began on March 25.

As it is, cybercrime constitutes a serious problem for India even outside of crisis periods. India was among the top five most targetted countries in the world by cyber criminals in recent years, reflecting the significant amount of work still outstanding in strengthening the nation's cyber defences. Though it is a positive development that more than 550 million Indians have connected to the Internet in recent years, fuelled by rural growth, this comes with its own set of problems. The rapid proliferation of Internet users and of the Internet of Things (IoT) has also left the country's public and private sectors vulnerable. We are seeing more and more large-scale data loss and the rise of ransomware attacks — so business resilience planning is key to survival.

Why medium-sized businesses must act now: Reacting in real time to a cyber attack is already too late. Managing the risk requires agility, meticulous alignment across the business and testing to maintain awareness. It is all about being proactive rather than reactive. Cyber resilience is more important than ever as medium-sized businesses assess their risk of being attacked, whether at the hands of criminals or as collateral damage in cyber warfare. Any data loss can put the nails in the coffin for unprepared businesses. While today's business leaders may hope to evade the hit-list, it is a matter of "when" not "if" an attack hap-

Defending against catastrophic data loss: Defending a medium-sized business from the worst-case scenario and missioncritical data loss requires cyber security expertise and a holistic approach to resilience. Awareness needs to be built across the business —this is not just a technical problem. Synergy between technology and business processes is where true resilience is attained. Leaning on cyber experts when it comes to planning and implementation will help businesses identify key applications, recovery times and objectives.

Every arm of the business needs to understand where its most sensitive data and services are parked and the level of risk around them. To understand the level of risk, an agile approach is needed because risk changes along with the business landscape. For this reason, regular scans and analysis of the internal landscape are essential to understand these changes and the impact.

Protecting a huge portfolio of assets is not easy, especially as it expands. But every business must understand what its DNA is — that's the critical 10-15 per cent of data that must be protected at all costs. This is the lifeblood of an organisation and, in the event of a cyber-attack, is the difference between its life and death. It is business-critical and must be decided upon with a holistic view. For some organisations, this can often lead to analysis paralysis — the desire to save it all. In the same way that we would only carry our most essential belongings from a burning home, businesses must decide upon their most prized data so that it can be protected and used to recover the business in the aftermath.

There is a cure: The good news is this process can be simplified by data protection and cyber-security services that enable organisations to establish policy-driven automated workflows to move business-critical data into an isolated environment and lock it down in less than five steps. This is called a cyber-vault, the ultimate protection for a business' DNA

In the event of an attack, this data will help businesses to recover. When responding to cyber incidents and working to bring critical systems and data back online, accuracy and simplicity matter. A cyber recovery plan must be fully integrated within the business and align with its cloud strategy.

Businesses are increasingly aware of the dangers of a cyber attack but they need to truly invest in cyber resilience in order to shore up the gaps in the ever-changing work environment. And cyber security expertise is vital. The clock is ticking, it's not a matter of "if" but "when" and businesses need to be prepared.

(The writer is Director and General Manager, Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE CAN'T ALLOW SOME PLATFORMS TO HAND-PICK THE SPEECH THAT AMERICANS MAY ACCESS. THIS WILL BE A **BIG DAY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AND FAIRNESS.**

> **—US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP**





THE PRESIDENT IS TRAMPLING THE FIRST AMENDMENT BY THREATENING THE FUNDAMENTAL FREE SPEECH RIGHTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

—PRESIDENT OF NETCHOICE

The perfect blend

Blended finance combines public sector and philanthropic monies as catalytic capital to raise multiples of private sector monies, which help scale up the flow of funding to sustainable projects



SOURAJIT

AIYER

SANDEEP **BHATTACHARYA**

s sustainability becomes mainstream, it is becoming a well-acknowledged fact that the planet just does not possess the resources required for us to maintain our current consumption patterns and emulate the aspirational lifestyles of the West. The estimated growth in global population to 10 billion in the not too distant future is an added headwind. This situation has meant that driving efficiencies in resource usage is fast that driving efficiencies in resource usage is fast coming into public discourse to reduce the carbon footprint. This is translating into necessary assets that would need funding. Such examples abound, like fuel-efficient cars, migration of public transport to e-vehicles, high-speed rail in place of airlines, urban Mass Rapid Transit trains substituting fuel-run vehicles micro grids for farsubstituting fuel-run vehicles, micro grids for farflung communities instead of diesel generators and

While these assets, which are typically part of large-scale transformational projects, are funded either by the Government or by concessional loans from development financial institutions, public capital is not going to fulfil the need for the trillions of dollars of investment the planet requires to scale up projects that would usher in the desired

However, the biggest challenge to bringing private capital at scale is the fact that most projects do not offer commercially-viable returns, owing to high upfront costs, long payback, remote location of some projects, nascent technologies and in certain cases, political uncertainties, weak institutional frameworks and so on.

This is where blended finance has come up as a solution in this context. It combines public as a solution in this context. It combines public sector and philanthropic monies as catalytic capital to raise multiples of private sector monies, which help scale up the flow of funding to sutainable projects, while yielding substantial economic benefits to all stakeholders.

The blended finance structure addresses the projects' perceived risks, thereby helping increase the size and number of funding opportunities. It

the size and number of funding opportunities. It comprises funding, which may or may not be concessionary, supported with one or more elements like guarantees, political risk insurance, performance insurance, outcome-based funding, intercurrency hedging, project preparation grants and

This combination makes the projects' terms viable for private sector capital and for the project developer, who otherwise may not have met the criteria without the assistance these supporting mechanisms bring in.

Among the emerging markets, India is leading the way by developing successful blended finance models. These are worth emulating in other markets that have a similar development profile as India in order to bring blended finance to

In India, the Government's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) model is one such success-story. Launched in 2004, it supports projects under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mechanism. VGF grants were made essentially for infrastructure projects where private sector sponsors were selected via competitive bidding. The grant was disbursed at the construction stage after the private sector developer made an equity contribution towards the project. This grant is typically 20 per cent of the project's capital cost and is allocated from the Government's budget.

The Government then went a step ahead by defining the norms of how VGF would apply to utility-scale renewable energy projects, specifying



IN THE END,
COMPULSIONS LIKE
CLIMATE CHANGE,
GREENHOUSE
GAS EMISSIONS,
SUBSTITUTING THE
IMPORT COST OF FOSSIL FUELS AND DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH

'GREEN SECTORS' WILL NECESSITATE AN URGENT SCALE-UP IN SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS. TO ACHIEVE THIS, INNOVATIVE MECHANISMS TO RAISE DEDICATED GREEN CAPITAL WILL HOLD THE KEY, ESPECIALLY AS INDIAN BANKS

CANNOT ALWAYS FUND THE LONG MATURITIES THAT SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS ENTAIL. WHILE BLENDED FINANCE CANNOT SOLVE ALL THE ISSUES, IT CAN CERTAINLY ADDRESS SOME OF THE BARRIERS

the role of the Solar Energy Corporation of India in terms of evaluation, disburse-

ment and monitoring.

Another example is that of cKers Finance and Rockefeller Foundation. Inked in 2018, their partnership involves an investment by Rockefeller in the Delhi-based sustainable energy Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to build a \$50 million asset financing portfolio for scaling up India's decentralised renewable energy segment (DRE).

The Rockefeller investment would

help cKers provide funding access at reasonable rates and terms to build the sussonable rates and terms to build the sustainable energy portfolio about 10 per cent of which would be in mini-grids. While the national grid has reached almost all places in India, the quality of supply remains erratic and thus DRE solutions like micro and mini-grids hold value.

Then there is the US-India Clean Energy Finance (USICEF) programme, which supports distributed solar power projects through grants specifically for Managed by the Climate Policy Initiative, it is a partnership between India's renewable energy ministry, the US' Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and others. Developers apply to the USICEF, which maintains an empanelled list of service providers (legal and professional services consultancies and so on) and engages them with the grant. The project preparation support

makes these developers investmentready to raise funding from OPIC and other like-minded firms. The average grant is only about \$0.1 million or so but this is a significant challenge for the developers given their small scale and the limitations they face in resources and talent acquisition.

This programme, with a total \$3.5 million grant committed so far, has supported several rooftop solar, small ground-mounted and solar home system projects across more than a dozen Indian States. Last is the "pay for success" outcome funder model. Grameen Impact Investment, a Mumbai-based impact NBFC, launched social impact bonds addressing women's livelihood and empowerment, youths' skill-development and clean energy. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending by organisations in India has risen exponentially in recent years, mostly towards health and education. However, India's Human Development Index score, which includes mostly health and education indicators, has hardly improved.

While CSR is only one component of India's social sector spending, this does give some indication that actual achieve-ment of outcomes is perhaps found wanting at times. The outcome funder model ing at times. The outcome funder model attempts to close this gap. The predefined outcome metrics are independently verified by third-party evaluators for on-ground achievement, only upon which the outcome funder (a philanthropy or CSR fund) would meet the enterprise's interest and/or principle obligations — thus "pay for success."

This ensures that the philanthropic

This ensures that the philanthropic resources are leveraged in a manner that will help achieve outcomes far more than what direct spending could possibly do.

ally, each of which can potentially be replicated in India. The US-India Catalytic Solar Finance Facility used catalytic, first-loss capital to create risk-mitigation facilities. The Grid Solar Fund, which funds off-grid solar companies, raised \$10 million in political risk insurance from OPIC to attract investments from the private sector.

Climate Investor One Fund raised blended capital at about 1.7 times multiple with a tiered-structure, which bifurcates capital into first-loss, subordinated equity and debt with credit guarantee to make lenders comfortable. Denmark's Climate Investment Fund raised blended capital at over 1.7 times multiple, by using a preferential model where losses are shared equally by public and private investors but the latter enjoy a preferential return and a catch-

At the same time, a preferential model based on share classes was less effective. The Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund, which paid principal and interest in batches between its A and B share classes, could raise

blended capital only at about 0.8 times multiple.

Models apart, another merit of

blended finance is that it can cover areas traditionally unserved by conventional funding, like US' Prime Coalition, which invests in early-stage clean energy technologies, the Africa Clean Energy Facility, which focusses on project preparation and expects to raise a multiple of about 20 times its grants and IFC-GEF's China Utility Energy Efficiency Programme, which helped local banks lend for energy efficiency.

Blended finance can also mobilise

commercial bank participation as seen in Dutch bank FMO's Guarantco that grants partial credit guarantees to local banks, Indonesia's Sarulla geothermal project that used a political risk guaran-tee from Japan's JBIC and a guarantee let-ter from the Indonesian Government to bring in commercial bank funding, German KfW and ResponsAbility's Global Climate Partnership Fund that refinances green lending schemes of local Facility for Energy Inclusion that combines commercial capital for small-scale energy access projects.

In the end, compulsions like climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, substituting the import cost of fossil fuels and driving economic growth through "green sectors" will necessitate an urgent scale-up in sustainability projects. To achieve this, innovative mechanisms to raise dedicated green capital will hold the key, especially as Indian banks cannot always fund the long maturities that sustainability projects entail. While blended finance cannot solve all the issues, it can certainly address some of the barriers. The models discussed in this article have already shown demonstrable value which makes them worth emulating. Most of them can be potentially replicated and scaled up further to fund India's multitude sustainability challenges. Emerging markets with similar challenges to India should also take note. (Aiver is Consultant, South Asia

Fast Track Sustainability Communications and Bhattacharya is India Projects Manager, Climate Bonds Initiative)

Climate change lessons from the Corona crisis

We clearly need to speed up research and testing of the various potential techniques for geo-engineering now



GWYNNE DYER

uman beings respond well to a familiar crisis, especially if it is also imminent. They don't do nearly as well when the threat is unfamiliar and still apparently quite distant. Consider our response to the current Coronavirus threat. Countries in East Asia with recent experience of similar viruses like SARS and so on immediately responded with "test, track and isolate" drills, plus instant lockdowns if the virus had already

gained a foothold in the population. Other countries, just as rich and well-educated, had the same information but they waited several months before taking emergency measures that upset the comfortable routine of their lives. So the US, UK and France all ended up with death rates per million more than 50 times higher than China, Korea and Japan.

The same applies to global heating, except that in this case we are all Americans. None of us has prior experience of a genuine climate crisis and although we have known enough about what's going to happen to justify urgent action for 30 years now, we have done nothing decisive about it. We have lots of "clean" technology but total demand for energy has grown so fast that we are still getting a steady 80 per cent of our energy from fossil fuels. Realistically, this is not going to change much. We are who we are,

shaped by millions of years of evolution and our ancestors didn't do long-term planning; they had to concentrate on acute short-term problems. A truly serious response to the climate threat will, therefore, come only when it is starting to hurt. Unfortunately, by then it will probably be too late. The Earth system — the bios-

phere, atmosphere, the oceans, the rocks, all the components that govern the climate — plays by its own rules. It will absorb new inputs like warming for a long time while changing as little as possible: It is a "homeostatic" system. We are still benefiting from this feature now: A full degree Celsius of warming already and not much to show for it except hotter summers, shorter winters and bigger storms. But when the pressure on the climate system gets too great — reaches a tipping point — it is liable to charge off in

unpredictable directions at high speed. "Non-linear change", they call it and we won't like it a bit. Hundreds of millions, maybe billions, will start to die. Then we will be ready to make great changes to save ourselves but it will be too late. Human systems will be collapsing under the impact of famines, wars and endless waves of refugees. And besides, once the climate hits non-linear change, it is almost impossible to bring it back. We're stuck with wherever it ends up, whether that new state will support a

large human civilisation or not. How far ahead is this calamity? We probably have at least a decade or two. Will we end all our greenhouse gas emissions in that time? Probably not. Cutting our emissions isn't enough. We have to stop all of our emissions before we push the climate system over the edge and we don't even know precisely where the edge

is. Every bit of emissions we can cut now gives us a little more time before we reach the edge, but the global population will still be going up and people in the poorer countries will still be increasing their energy use. (It's their turn and you can't deny them that.)

So, the crisis almost certainly will arrive and then we will finally be willing to make radical changes. What we will desperately need at that point is more time. That's why we will need geo-engineering. This is not a cure; it is a way of temporarily counteracting the warming caused by our emissions of greenhouse gases by reflecting a small part of the incoming sunlight in one way or another. In fact, you could say that it is "positive" geo-engineering, as opposed to the large-scale "negative" geo-engineering we have been doing for the last two centuries by dumping huge amounts of warming gases into the atmosphere.

When we are finally ready to act decisively on global warming, we will need a window of time to make the changes that are required to preserve this global civilisation and the biosphere it now dominates. Only geoengineering can create that window. We don't need to start geo-engineering now. It would be wonderful if we never have to do it but that would take a miracle. We cannot know how long we would have to go on doing it, either: Long enough to get the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere back down to a safe level, certainly, which would be at least a matter of decades. But even without knowing the answers to these questions, we clearly need to speed up research and testing of the various potential techniques for geoengineering now.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.')





LOW SPIRITS ON THE HIGH STREET

Shops shutting, jobs lost, massive commercial landlords wiped out. The future of our community hubs looks bleak. Building a replacement will require more public intervention and tax breaks for firms which employ and procure supplies locally. It won't be easy but it is an opportunity. (The Guardian editorial)

WESTERN COUNTRIES WARNED

Hong Kong internal matter, don't interfere: China

Beijing: China has lodged diplomatic protests with the US, the UK, Canada and Australia for "interfering" in its internal matters by criticising its new security law for Hong Kong and also warned America of countermeasures if it did not stop the "frivolous" political manipulation over the issue.

China's parliament on Thursday overwhelmingly approved a new controversial security law for Hong Kong, a move that critics say threatens the fundamental political freedoms and civil liberties in the semi-autonomous territory, also a major global trading hub.

The security legislation bans secession, subversion of state power, terrorism, foreign intervention and allows mainland China's state security agencies to operate in Hong Kong.

"China's decision to impose the new national security law on Hong Kong lies in direct conflict with its international obligations under the principles of the legally binding, UN-registered Sino-British Joint Declaration," the joint statement released by the four countries said.

The proposed Chinese law would undermine the "one statement, referring to the arrangement under which Hong Kong, a former British colony, was handed back to China in 1997.

Reacting to the four countries' statement, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian told a media briefing on Friday that China has lodged diplomatic protests with the four countries.

Hong Kong is part of China and the central government has the right to establish a national-level legal system to implement 'one country, two systems', Zhao said.

It is China's internal affair and no foreign country has the fright to interfere, he said.

Separately, the Trump administration informed the US Congress that Hong Kong was deemed no longer suitably autonomous from China.

The assessment by the US State Department is a crucial step in deciding whether the city will continue to receive preferential economic and trade treatment from the US as spelt out by the 1992 US-Hong Kong Policy Act.

country, two systems" frame- Donald Trump's plans to

impose sanctions on Hong Kong, Zhao reminded Washington about its extensive trade and commercial interest in the city and said China would retaliate with countermeasures.

Hong Kong after returning to China fully leveraged its position as an international business hub.

"It is a financial trade and shipping hub. It is an important area for US investments," Zhao said. The US has 85,000 nationals in Hong Kong and has over 1,300 companies in the city. American firms have over 300 regional headquarters and 400 regional offices in Hong Kong, he said.

In the past decade, the US trade surplus to Hong Kong reached USD 297 billion, he

"Safe, sound and stable Hong Kong serves the interest of the US. We welcome US business communities to continue making more progress and success in Hong Kong.

"The US should see clearly and stop interfering in Hong Kong. If the US insists on intervening, China will take all About US President necessary countermeasures,

Hong Kong: Dozens of people protested in a mall in Hong Kong on Friday following a vote by China's ceremonial parliament to approve legisla-tion that could severely restrict opposition political activity and civil society in the Asian financial center.

The protesters chanted slogans in the main atrium of the mall in the high-end Central district, some draping banners over the balconies with slogans such as "Independence for Hong Kong.'

Police waited in vans parked prominently outside the mall but did not attempt to break up the gathering. Hundreds of people have been arrested during recent demonstrations that seek to revive the momentum of protests that shut down large parts of the city during the second half of last

China's National People's Congress on Thursday voted to approve the bill that will now be sent to its standing committee for final approval. Details of the final version

of the law aren't known, but

aratist activities and actions that might threaten the Communist Party's monopoly on political power in mainland

Beijing and its supporters in Hong Kong are defending the legislative move against criticism from foreign coun-tries, including the U.S., which has threatened to revoke special trade privileges granted to the former British colony when it was handed over to China in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" framework in which it was guaranteed its own political, legal, social and legal institutions for 50 years.

In Beijing, foreign ministry okesperson Zhao Lijian said China would not tolerate any interference in what it considers a strictly internal matter. "We advise the U.S. Side to

have a correct understanding of the situation and stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs. If the U.S. Insists on jeopardizing China's interests, China will definitely take all necessary Foreign Secretary Dominic measures to fight back." AP

Protest in Hong Kong UK to extend visa rights for HK unless China 'steps back'

London: The UK government has said that it is open to extending the visa rights of British National Overseas (BNO) passport holders in Status. And we will remove that status and allow the status and status Hong Kong to offer them a path to the country's citizenship unless China "steps back" from a new security law in the former British territory.

China's parliament on Thursday approved the new law which would make it a crime to undermine Beijing's authority in Hong Kong. An estimated 300,000 BNO

passport holders in Hong Kong currently have the right to visit the UK for up to six months without a visa. These passports were issued by the UK to people in the region before the transfer of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

"In relation to BNO passport holders, currently they only have the right to come to the UK for 6 months," said UK

those BNO passport holders to come to the UK and to apply to work and study for extendable periods of 12 months and that will itself provide a pathway to future citizenship," he said.

According to reports, the proposal has the backing of Indian-origin Home Secretary Priti Patel, with details yet to be fleshed out.

Some British MPs want the UK government to go further and offer automatic citizenship to BNO holders in Hong Kong. Conservative Party MP Tom Tugendhat, chairman of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said BNO holders should have an automatic right to live and work in the UK.

"We must move faster in recognising the rights of the most entrepreneurial people in

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's for-

mer Prime Minister Mahathir

Mohamad has been ousted

from his ethnic Malay political

intense political wrangling led

Mahathir to resign the pre-

miership in February and the

his replacement despite

Mahathir had since challenged

Muhyiddin as party president in

a vote that's been postponed by

without valid reason is due to

his own fears in facing party

elections as well as his unsafe

position as the most unstable

prime minister in the history of

the country's administration," a

joint statement by Mahathir

Bersatu with Muhyiddin in

2016, and the party joined an

alliance that won a stunning vic-

tory in 2018 polls, leading to the

former government, which has

The ruling alliance col-

Mahathir co-founded

and the four others read.

since independence.

the coronavirus pandemic.

Mahathir's son Mukhriz

"The unilateral action by

Mahathir's objections.

Asia, and speak out for those who we know so well back in the region. We should also build partnerships that can defend the rule of law worldwide," he said.

Raab's intervention followed a strongly-worded joint statement by the UK, US, Australia and Canada condemning Beijing's proposed new law.

"China's decision to impose the new national security law on Hong Kong lies in direct conflict with its international obligations under the principles of the legally-binding, UN-registered Sino-British Joint Declaration," the joint statement said.

"As Hong Kong's stability and prosperity are jeopardised by the new imposition, we call on the government of China to work with the Hong Kong SAR Government and the people of Hong Kong to find a mutually acceptable accommodation that will honour China's international obligations under the UN-filed Šino-British Joint Declaration," it said.

Trump calls Minneapolis protesters 'thugs', vows action

Washington: President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to take action to bring the city of Minneapolis "under control," calling violent protesters outraged by the death of a black man in police custody "thugs" and saying that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." Trump tweeted after pro-

testers torched a Minneapolis police station, capping three days of violent protests US over the death of George Floyd, who pleaded for air as a white police officer knelt on his neck. He said he spoke to the state's Democratic governor,

Tim Walz, and "told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!' Trump didn't clarify what he

meant — Walz has already activated the National Guard — but the tweet drew another warning from Twitter for his rhetoric. with the social media giant saying he had "violated the Twitter Rules about glorifying violence."

The move came a day after Trump signed an executive



A protester carries a US flag upside, a sign of distress, next to a burning building in Minneapolis on Thursday

order challenging the site's liability protections.

Trump, who has often remained silent in the aftermath of police-involved killings and has a long history of defending police, has been uncharacteristically vocal this time, saying earlier Thursday that he felt "very, very badly" about Floyd's death and calling video capturing his struggle "a very shock-

But his language grew more

aggressive as violence boiled over in Minneapolis on Thursday night. "These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won't let that happen," he wrote shortly before 1 am.

Minneapolis police station torched

AP MINNEAPOLIS

heering protesters torched Ca Minneapolis police station that the department abandoned as three days of violent protests spread to nearby St Paul and angry demonstrations flared across the US over the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white police officer kneeled on his

A police spokesman confirmed late Thursday that staff had evacuated the 3rd Precinct station, the focus of many of the protests, "in the interest of the safety of our personnel" shortly after 10 pm Livestream video showed the protesters entering the building, where fire alarms blared and sprinklers ran as blazes

7 shot at Louisville protest over fatal police shooting Louisville (US): At least seven

people were shot in Louisville as protesters turned out to demand justice for Breonna Taylor, a black woman fatally shot by police in her home in Louisville Metro Police

confirmed in a statement early Friday that there were at least seven shooting victims, at least one of whom is in critical condition. The statement said there were "some arrests," but police didn't provide a number. "No officers discharged

their service weapons," police spokesman Sgt. Lamont Washington wrote in an email to The Associated Press. Washington said that all seven were civilians.

Around 500 to 600 demonstrators marched through the Kentucky city's downtown streets on Thursday night, the Courier Journal reported. AP

party in the latest twist of a Mahathir has said he still has the power struggle with his succesmajority support of lawmakers sor, but he has vowed to chaland has called for a no-confilenge the move. dence vote against Muhyiddin. The 94-year-old Mahathir, The vote has been delayed along with his son and three amid the pandemic but could be

Malaysia's Mahathir

amid power struggle

ousted from party

held at the next sitting of other senior members, were expelled from the Bersatu party Parliament in July. on Thursday. In their statement, The party has has been

Mahathir and the other expelled split into two camps since members said the move was illegal and they may take legal action to challenge their termination and ensure Bersatu isn't king to appoint fellow party member Muhyiddin Yassin as used as a vehicle for those crazy for power.

been accused of massive cor-

Mahathir, a two-time prime

minister, resigned in protest.

Party letters sent to the five said their membership had ceased as they sat with the opposition bloc during a halfday Parliament sitting on May

But the letter was signed by a lower official who Mahathir's power to remove them.

"All eyes are on Mahathir's next move," said Oh Ei Sun, a senior fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

"Muyhiddin would be gravely mistaken if he thinks this will slow down Mahathir's relentless onslaught to not so much unseat him, but topple the present ruling coalition." Muhyiddin had earlier tried to reconcile with Mahathir, but

first change of government The current government includes the party of ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is on lapsed after Muhyiddin pulled Bersatu out to work with the trial on charges related to a mas-

sive financial scandal.

Twitter again flags Trump's tweet, says it violated rules about 'glorifying violence'

on Friday flagged a fresh tweet from Donald Trump for violating its rules about "glorifying violence", hours after the US president signed an executive order aimed at stripping social media giants like Twitter and Facebook of legal immunity for the content posted by third-

party users.

The move came after Trump tweeted that "when the

starts" in reference to the ongoing unrest in Minneapolis following the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed African American man who pleaded for air as a white police officer kneeled on his neck.

Twitter had earlier added fact-check links to two of Trump's tweets, enraging

Trump.
"These thugs are dishon-

tragedy will certainly test you,"

the ministry said in a message

to her colleagues, adding that

the government is committed

to providing proper protective

across Africa. More than 3,400

health workers on the conti-

nent had been infected as of a

week ago, according to the

especially in testing materials,

have jolted African authorities

into facing uncomfortable

truths: Richer countries are

elbowing them out in the race

to obtain crucial supplies, and

the continent relies almost

entirely on imports for drugs

Africa products," the director of

the Africa Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, John

Nkengasong, told reporters

'We have to have Made in

and other medical items.

The widespread shortages,

World Health Organisation.

That, too, faces shortages

Floyd, and I won't let that happen. Just spoke to Governor Γim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will

assume control but, when the

looting starts, the shooting

starts. Thank you!" Trump

Twitter flagged the tweet, which is now only visible if one clicks on Twitter's flag. PTI

tweeted.

Trump feeling 'absolutely great' after taking HCQ: WH

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Us President Donaid Trump is feeling "absolutely great" after taking a two-week dose of antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine and will take it again if he thinks he is exposed to the coronavirus, a top White House official has said.

Hydroxychloroquine sulfate was first synthesised in 1946 and is in a class of medications historically used to

treat and prevent malaria. It is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, childhood arthritis, and other autoimmune diseases.

The drug is not FDAapproved for the treatment of CÔVID-19 but it has been identified as a possible treatment for the infection and the US government has requested its immediate availability.

Trump has called hydroxychloroquine a "game-chang-

because of the pandemic may be

spurring internal discussions, he

Shiite rebels backed by Iran cap-

turing the capital, Sanaa, in

Lowcock said he expects

er" drug in the fight against the

"I went to him just before coming out here and I asked him that. And he said, 'he's feeling perfect, he is 'feeling absolutely great' after taking this regimen. And, he would take it again if he thought that he was exposed," White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnaney said on Thursday when asked how the US president was feeling after taking the antimalarial drug.

Debate over \$600 in jobless aid to intensify

The money, included in a

Democrats have proposed keeping the \$600-a-week payments through January in a \$3 trillion relief package that the House approved this month along party lines. Senate Republicans oppose that measure. They have expressed concern that the federal payments would discourage laid-off people from returning to jobs that

Around the Globe

Kathmandu: Nepal on Friday registered its highest single-day surge in coronavirus cases with 170 new infections, taking the over 1,200, the health ministry

health officials registering 232 deaths in the last 24 hours, which bought the country's total to

Tokyo: Tokyo will remove shutdown requests on more businesses in June when theaters, cinemas, fitness gyms and retailers can reopen after a coronavirus state of emergency

Turkey have held their first communal Friday prayers in 74 days after the government reopened some mosques as part of its plans to relax measures in place to fight the coronavirus

coronavirus cases in Indonesia than 1,500 virus-related deaths as large-scale social restrictions next

S Africa has virus testing backlog of nearly 100,000

Couth Africa says it has a Obacklog of nearly 100,000 unprocessed tests for the coronavirus, a striking example of the painful shortage of testing kits and reagents across Africa as cases steadily rise.

"This challenge is caused by the limited availability of test kits globally," the health ministry said in a statement overnight putting the backlog at 96,480 as of Monday.

Priority is given to processing tests from patients admitted to hospitals and health workers, it said. South Africa has conduct-

ed more tests for the virus than any other country in Africa more than 655,000 — and has the most confirmed cases with

One of the latest people to die in South Africa was an employee with the National Health Laboratory Services.

Minorities in Pak's KPK allowed to worship at religious places Peshawar: Minority commu-

nities like Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province were allowed on Friday to hold prayers and worship at their religious sites by following social distancing and other measures enforced to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Several provincial governments banned gathering of more than five people for worship in religious places to stop the spread of the coronavirus, which has infected over 64,000 people and killed 1,346 in the country so far.

Succumbing to pressure from the hardline clerics, the Imran Khan government last month allowed conditional congregational prayers in mosques during the month of Ramzan.

The government on Friday allowed minority communities like Sikhs, Hindus and Christians to worship and hold prayers under standard operating procedures (SOPs) notfied by the Provincial Government of KPK against COVID-19. **PTI**

UN urges \$2.4 billion to help Yemen cope with war and virus United Nations: The U.N. n't know what they're going to do. The collapse in oil prices

Humanitarian chief urgently appealed for \$2.4 billion to help millions of people in Yemen cope with the conflict and COVID-19, saying programs are already being cut and the situation is "alarming." Mark Lowcock told a UN

briefing on Thursday that the United Nations received \$3.2 billion last year for Yemen because countries in the region including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates who are involved in the conflict stepped up.

This year, the U.N. Has appealed for about \$3.4 billion but as of Wednesday it had only received \$516.6 million, just over 15%. The Saudis pledged \$525 million in early April and Lowcock said he hopes it will quickly be turned into cash. The United Nations and

Saudi Arabia are co-hosting a

video pledging conference for

Yemen on Tuesday and

Lowcock said he has been on

the phone with Persian Gulf

leaders in recent days but does-

The following year, a Saudiled coalition backing the government intervened to battle the rebels and curb Iran's influence in what has turned into a stalemated regional proxy war. Since then, more than 100,000 people fighters and civilians — have been killed.

Lowcock and the heads of 10 other U.N. Agencies and several U.N. Officials and humanitarian organizations issued a joint statement Thursday saying "COVID-19 is spreading rapidly across the country already experiencing the world's largest humanitarian crisis."

highest single-day rise in virus cases Paris: France has reported

France reports

more than 3,000 new daily virus infections in the biggest such one-day rise in more than three weeks - and the first major increase since France started gradually reopening May 11 The new figure was not

high-level representation at the included in the government's conference, and asked: "Is the daily virus press release Thursday night, but was put on world ready simply to watch Yemen fall off the cliff?" Yemen's a government virus tracking conflict started with Houthi website. The national public health agency and Health Ministry

> rise Friday. It comes as testing has become more easily available in France, though it is unclear whether that is part of the rea-

didn't provide a reason for the

The French government has gradually increased the number of tests it is conducting after widespread criticism early in the pandemic that it was not testing widely enough. Scattered virus outbreaks have been reported since France's reopening began, notably in some schools that were subsequently shut

as claims rise

Washington: A debate in Congress over whether to extend \$600 a week in federally provided benefits to the unemployed looks sure to intensify with the number of people receiving the aid now topping 30 mn — one in five workers.

government relief package enacted in March, is set to expire July 31. Yet with the unemployment rate widely expected to still be in the midteens by then, members of both parties will face pressure to compromise on some form of renewed benefits for the jobless.

pay less than their combined state and federal unemployment aid now does

COVID-19 tally in the country to Moscow: Russia has reported the highest daily spike in coronavirus deaths once again on Friday, with

Ankara: Turkey Worshippers in

Jakarta: The number of

has surpassed 25,000 with more authorities are stepping up to lift

Markets march higher for third day

POST WEEKLY GAINS

PTI MUMBAI

 $E_{\text{in the green for the third}}$ session on the trot on Friday as investors scooped up FMCG, finance and banking stocks despite negative overseas cues and rising COVID-19 cases.

Investors wagered on India further relaxing lockdown norms next week, though they were also cautious ahead of release of Q4 GDP data, ana-

After a gap-down opening, the 30-share BSE Sensex picked up pace in late-afternoon trading to finish at 32,424.10, up 223.51 points or 0.69 per cent.

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty advanced 90.20 points or 0.95 per cent to close at 9,580.30. During the holiday-shortened week, the Sensex rallied 1,751.51 points or 5.71 per cent, while the Nifty spurted 541.05 points or 5.98 per

ONGC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, jumping 5.52 per cent, followed by Bajaj Auto, ITC, Sun Pharma, Nestle India, L&T, Hero MotoCorp and Maruti. On the other hand, Infosys, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS and Titan were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.25 per cent. Besides stock-specific action, heavy foreign fund inflows lent buying confidence to domestic investors, analysts said. On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors bought equities worth ₹2,354.14 crore on Thursday, provisional exchange

data showed.

again performed contrary to the other global markets which were weak. In the process it played catch up with them after under-performing over the last few weeks.

"Oil & gas, materials and engineering stocks did well. Large volume trade happened in stocks that saw little movement suggesting shifting of holdings between two institutions," said Deepak Jasani, Head - Retail Research, HDFC

₹ settles 14 paise higher at 75.62 against US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 14 paise to provisionally close at 75.62 against the US dollar on Friday as foreign fund inflows and weak American currency boosted investor confidence.

Forex traders said investors are awaiting the country's gross domestic product data for the January-March quarter, due later in the day, for further cues.

The rupee opened at 75.71 at the interbank forex market, gained further ground, and finally settled at 75.62, up 14 paise over its last

It had settled at 75.76 against the US dollar on

LABOUR MINISTRY DATA

Retail inflation for industrial workers eases to 5.45% in April

 $R^{\text{etail inflation for industri-}}_{\text{al workers eased to 5.45 per}}$ cent in April 2020 from 8.33 per cent in the same month a year ago, mainly due to lower prices of certain food items and petrol, official data showed. Year-on-year inflation

based on all items stood at 5.45 per cent for April 2020 as compared to 5.50 per cent for the previous month and 8.33 per cent during the corre-

sponding month of the previous year," a Labour Ministry statement said. Food inflation stood at 6.56 per cent in April 2020 against 6.67 per cent of the previous month (March 2020) and 4.92 per cent during the corresponding month (April 2019) a year ago, it said.
Lauding the efforts of the

Labour Bureau which collects and released Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said the 'cost

of living index' data collection and release by the bureau in these difficult times during the lockdown is commendable and would go a long way to help in policy making in the country.

The CPI-IW is used to work out hike in dearness allowance and dearness relief for over 1 crore central Government employees and pensioners The All-India CPI-IW for

April 2020 increased by 3

points and stood at 329. On 1month percentage change, it increased by (+) 0.92 per cent between March and April 2020, compared to (+) 0.97 per cent rise between corresponding months of previous year.

The maximum upward pressure in current index came from food group contributing (+) 2.43 percentage points to the total change.

At item level, rice, wheat, wheat atta, arhar dal, moong dal, mustard oil, fish fresh, goat

meat, poultry (chicken), brinjal, cabbage, cauliflower, french bean, green coriander leaves, lady's finger, palak, potato, radish, tomato, banana, lemon, mango (ripe), sugar, cooking gas, etc are responsible for the increase in index. However, it said that this increase was checked by garlic, onion, parval, petrol, flowers/flower garlands, etc, putting downward pressure on the index.

At centre level, Doom-Dooma Tinsukia recorded the

maximum increase of 14 points followed by Salem (12 points) and Surat (10 points). On the contrary, Chhindwara, Vadodara, Bhilai, Yamunanagar and Jamshedpur recorded a decrease of 1 point each. Rest of 12 centres' indices remained stationary. The indices of 33 centres are above all-India index and 44 centres' indices are below national average. The index of Rourkela centre remained at par with all-India

8 core sector output drops by record 38.1 pc in April

 $T^{\text{he output of eight core}}_{\text{infrastructure industries}}$ plunged by a record 38.1 per cent in April as the nationwide lockdown to contain coronavirus pandemic caused a substantial loss of production across sectors.

The production of coal, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity contracted in double digits in the month, according to official data released on Friday. The eight core sectors had expanded by 5.2 per cent in April 2019 while in March 2020 the sectors had contracted by 9 per cent. "In view of nationwide lockdown during April 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, various industries - coal, cement, steel, natural gas, refinery, crude oil etc experienced substantial loss of production," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in

Production of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity contracted by 15.5

per cent, 6.4 per cent, 19.9 per cent, 24.2 per cent, 4.5 per cent 83.9 per cent, 86 per cent, 22.8 per cent, respectively. During 2019-20, core industries recorded 0.6 per cent growth against 4.4 per cent in 2018-19. The record contraction in the growth rate of eight core sectors will affect the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). These sectors account for about

40.27 per cent of the IIP. Commenting on the numbers, Icra Vice-President Aditi Navar said while the lockdown contributed to a broad-based contraction across eight core sectors, it had a differential impact on the extent to which activity was curtailed in the various constituents.

"While data on automobile production has not been explicitly released for April 2020, the output is likely to have been close to zero as most plants were shut for a large part of the month during the lockdown," Nayar said." Based on the available trends, we anticipate a contraction of 75-80 per cent in industrial output in April 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Through this publication it is notified to

all general public that, my clients Sh.

Harsahai Bherwal S/o Late Sh. Ramhet

Bherwal and Smt. Narayni Devi W/o Sh. Harshai Bherwal R/o 9/324-B.

Harsh Niwas, Lalita Park. Laxmi Nagar,

Delhi-110092 annul, withdraw and cancel their previous public notice

circulated in Virat Vaibhav Newspaper

on 02nd Oct on 2012 regarding

disinheriting/debarring their son Sh.

Sonu Bherwal from all movable or

immovable properties and now their

son has equal rights like his brother

in all their properties moveable or

and other assets with

KAMAL SAXENA (Advocate)

Ch. No. 422, Western Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

NO 01 of 2020-21 No. 259-W/Elect /RMPU N PNL/20-21/01 Dated: -28.05.2020 (1) Details of Tender

Dated: -28.05./2020 (1) Details or lender Inviter: Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, N. W. Railway, Jodhpur for and on behalf of The President of India invites only E-Tenders for the following work. (2) Name of the work with its location: Overhauling/ Repairing of Roof Mounted Package Unit (RMPLI) with their control panels of

(3) Approx. cost of the work: ₹2,93,66,566,566/.(4) Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 2,96,800/- (Only through E-payment) (5) Tender Document Cost: ₹10,000/- (Only

Period: 24 (Twenty Four) Month (7)
Date & Time for submission of tender
and opening of tender: Only E tenders
are invited up to 15:00 hrs on 22.06.2020.
The Tenders will be opened just after
15:00 hrs on 22.06.2020. (8) Website
Darticulars, Notice Board, location

particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender car be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be

purchased etc.: Detailed NIT & Tende Document can be seen on the website

www.ireps.gov.in. **Note:** This is an E-Tender. Hence all the desirous contractors should submit their offer only through E-Tender on above mentioned

(RMPU) with their control pa Conventional AC coaches & LHB AC Coaches for Jodhpur Workshop for a period of 2 years. Quantity: 240 Units. 1 unit means 1 RMPU & 1 Control Panel.

to meet next month

Fin Min not for raising rates on non-essential items

PTI NEW DELHI

he Finance Ministry is not In favour of increasing goods and services tax rates on non-essential items in the next month's meeting of the GST Council, despite depressed revenue collections due to the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19.

If goods and services tax rates are increased on nonessential items, sources said it will further bring down their demand and impede the overall economic recovery. Post the lockdown, demand has to be induced and economic activity has to improve on all fronts.

GST Council | UK plans new 5G club of 10 democracies, including India: Report

PTI ■ LONDON

The British Government has **1** approached the US with the prospect of creating a 5G club of 10 democracies, including India, amid growing security concerns related to Chinese telecom giant Huawei, according to a UK media report.

A so-called "D10" club of democratic partners, including G7 countries – UK, US, Italy, Germany, France, Japan and Canada – plus Australia, South Korea and India will aim to create alternative suppliers of 5G equipment and other technologies to avoid relying on China, 'The Times' reported.

The move to speed up such a club comes as the UK launched an inquiry into Huawei's involvement in the country's mobile network upgrade in the wake of US sanctions against the company.

"We need new entrants to the market. That was the reason we ended up having to go along with Huawei at the time," the newspaper quoted a UK Government source as saying.

the only European suppliers of 5G infrastructure and experts say that they cannot provide 5G kit as quickly or as cheaply as Huawei. Britain has labelled Huawei a "high-risk" vendor

the UK's 5G upgrade comes with a 35 per cent market cap, including a ban on its participation in the sensitive "core" of the network The review into Huawei, launched last week by the UK"s National Cyber Security Centre, followed the announce-

ment of US sanctions to block

the sale of American chips to

Sudden sealing of State borders making difficult to operate in Capital

PTI NEW DELHI

EPCES

Ceeking a stable policy for Soperations of units amid COVID-19, a representative body of special economic zones on Friday flagged that sudden sealing of borders in the National Capital Region is making it difficult for busi-

"We request that either a nationwide stable policy may be issued, applicable in all the states for the running of businesses or don't put any operative guidelines and compliances for trade and industry and not to press upon payment of salaries to workers without any business," Export Promotion Council for Special Economic Zones and Export Oriented Units (EPCES) said.

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi BSES Date: 30.05.2020 Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders Brief Item Description CMC/BR/20-21 *Road Restoration works in Mehrauli Aya Nagar 19.06.2020 19.06.2020 SV/AR/AN/859 Div- Saket, New Delhi 110047 (Road under PWD 16:00 HRS For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED f.: OSE Commercial Block, Asset 5B, Aerocity, F District, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037 Tel: 91-11-46044604, Email: spv.osel@gmail.con CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649

(AUDITED HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020)
(Amount in Rs in Lakhs

SI. No.	Particulars	Half Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Half Year Ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	29,836.43	29,422.43	64,527.55	60,403.10
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	12,828.69	12,847.71	31,069.94	25,739.90
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	12,828.69	12,847.71	31,069.94	25,739.90
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	9,169.63	10,419.37	22,402.53	17,880.01
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	9,169.63	10,419.37	22,402.53	17,880.01
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,813.45	1,813.45	1,813.45	1,813.45
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	113,711.05	107,776.70	113,711.05	107,776.70
8	Net Worth	115,524.50	109,590.15	115,524.50	109,590.15
9	Paid up Debt Capital	41,035.22	9,262.55	41,035.22	9,262.55
10	Debt Equity Ratio	2.36:1	2.43:1	2.36:1	2.43:1
11	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)				
	1. Basic:	50.56	57.46	123.54	98.60
	2. Diluted:	50.56	57.46	123.54	98.60
12	Debenture Redemption Reserve	58,151.75	63,118.25	58,151.75	63,118.25
13	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.30:1	1.41:1	1.44:1	1,42:1
14	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.97:1	1.11:1	2.21:1	2.09:1

The above is an extract of the detailed format of half yearly audited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the half yearly audited financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity. (URL of the filings).

The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved Directors of the Company at their meeting held on May 28, 2020.

Ratios have been computed as follows:

(i) Debt Equity Ratio =Paid up Debt Capital/Equity, where,

* Equity represents issued, subscribed and paid up share capital and other equity

Paid up Debt Capital represents long-term and short-term borrowings excluding deferred payme liabilities and finance lease obligations. terest Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation / finance cost

General public is hereby informed

that this woman namely Raj Shri

W/o Amit Kumar R/o H.No. B-13-A,

Amar Colony, Nangloi, Delhi Age:

22 years, Complexion: Wheatish,

Height: 5'2", Face: Round,

wearing green colour suit-salwar

and lady chapple in feet, has been

missing/ kidnapped since

28.01.2020 from the area of P.S.

SHO: P.S. Nangloi, Delhi,

Ph.: 011-25947225

25949470

(iii) Debt Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation / [finance costs + ne principal repayment of paid debt capital during the period/year].

principal repayment of paid debt capital during the period/year].

(iv) Net worth represents Equity.

(iv) Paid up equity capital represents issued, subscribed and paid up share capital.

For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulations 52(4) of the SEBI (Listings and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the NSE Stock Exchange(s) and can be accessed on the URL (specify URL).

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED WOMAN

Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 57-A dated

Any person having any information or clue about

this missing/kidnapped woman may kindly inform to

28.01.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

Raj Shri

the following.

Fax: 24368639.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Tel.: 24368638/24368641

Please join us on 🕴 📮 /NWRailways

General public is hereby informed that one unknown male, name and address unknown. Age: about 32 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: wheatish, Face: long, Built: medium wearing white and black shirt blue colour jeans and bare footed was

of House No. 1165 Churiwalan, Jama Masjid Delhi on 21.05.2020.

CrPC has been lodged at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this

deceased may kindly inform to the following. S.H.O.,

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



found unconcious condition at in front

In this regard a DD No. 04A, dt. 23.05.2020 U/s 174

P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi.

FIN MIN OFFICIAL Appeal from No decision Ministry of taken on setting Railways to up bad bank **Passengers**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

he Finance Ministry on ☐ Friday said there is no decision taken on the proposal of setting up of a Governmentsponsored bad bank to help ease pressure on lenders with regard to non-performing assets which are likely to witness a surge due to the Economic Survey 2017 had proposed this idea, suggesting the creation of a bad bank called Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency to help tide over the problem of stressed assets.

New Delhi: Indian Railways has been running Shramik special Trains on a daily basis throughout the country to ensure that migrants can travel back to their homes.

It has been observed that some people who are availing this service have pre-existing aggravates the risk they face during the COVID-19 pandemic

A few unfortunate cases of deaths related to pre-existing medical conditions while travelling have happened.

PUBLIC NOTICE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS FOR ALLOTMENT OF L-1BF LICENSES FOR WHOLESALE TRADE OF IMPORTED FOREIGN LIQUOR (BIO) IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE YEAR 2020-21: EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE

This is for the information of the general public that L-1BF licenses for holesale trade of Imported Foreign Liguor (BIO) in the State of Harvana for the financial year 2020-21 shall be granted by way of inviting onlin

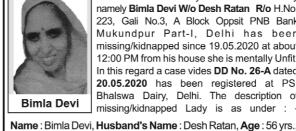
In continuation of previous Public Notice published on 26.05.2020, the extension in schedule for registration & participation in the process of allotment of L-1BF licenses is given below:-

Starting Date & Time for Sign Up and Registration:	27.05.2020, 12:00 hrs
Starting Date & Time for online submission of application:	27.05.2020, 09:00 hrs
Closing Date & Time for online submission of application:	03.06.2020, 18:00 hrs
Publication of list of eligible applicants on departmental website:	04.06.2020, 12:00 hrs

The terms and conditions for the grant of L-1BF License(s) will remain ame as published in previous Public Notices by the Department. **Excise and Taxation Commissioner**

RO NO. 81088 Dt. 29-05-2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one Lady namely Bimla Devi W/o Desh Ratan R/o H.No 223, Gali No.3, A Block Oppsit PNB Bank Mukundpur Part-I, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 19.05.2020 at about 12:00 PM from his house she is mentally Unfit. In this regard a case vides DD No. 26-A dated 20.05.2020 has been registered at PS. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped Lady is as under :

Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Fare, Built: Fat Wearing: Blue Suit and Blue Pajami on foot Red Sleeper ID Mark: Walk Slowly because Frectue in right leg knee. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in P.S., Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-27811933

Nokia and Ericsson are

nesses to operate factories. and therefore its involvement in

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

30-Elect-65-T-R2-19-20-E3

floor including provision of space for conference and its location hall, dining area, Xerox area, waiting area and othe

misc. work at Rail Bhawan

Approx cost of the works in Rs. 20.02 lacs Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delh

Address of the office Earnest Money

Date & time of submissio 26.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs

Opening of tender 26.06.2020, 15.00 Hrs

> & Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi Serving Customers With A Smile

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS ELECTRICAL COACHING WORKS Work and Location EL 5/3/1/43/ Repair, Rewinding & Reconditioning of 25KV CHG/WA/12 Brushless Alternators Fitted in SGAC dtd. 29/05/2020 Coaches of BCT Division EL 5/2/1/33/ Repair, Reconditioning, Rewinding & Overhauling of 3 Phase Alternators of 500 dtd. 29/05/2020 KVA, Make Crompton/Kirloskar/KEL of 750 of High Capacity Power Cars. 42,54,608/-EL 5/2/1/37/ Design, Fabrication, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Exhaust Outlet Pipes of dtd. 29/05/2020 Diesel Engines in Power Cars. 46,72,800/-93,500/-

Sr. No. 1 to 3: Date and Time of Submission: Not Later than 15.00 hrs. of 29/06/2020 and Opening at 15.30 hrs. on the Same day. For more details like cost of tender document, completion period please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in and also to download the tender document,

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SEARCH FOR MISSING



Gauri

DP/235/ON/2020.

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Gauri D/o Late Sh. Ram Chand, R/o H.No. 14-A, Gali No. 12, Vijay Colony, Bawana, Delhi, Age: 15 yrs., Height: 5 ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, ID Mark: Mole on Left Eyelid, Wearing : Blue Colour Kurti-Pajami and Sky-Yellow Colour Sandal in Feet, has been missing / kidnapped since 19.04.2020

from the area of PS. Bawana. In this regard a case FIR No. 259/2020 dated 21.04.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Bawana, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

if anyone have any information about this missing kidnapped girl please inform undersigned

Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in,

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

PS. Bawana, Delhi Ph.: 011-27752534, 7065036321



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: About 65-70 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Built: Thin, was wearing White Shirt & White Pant, was found near BDO Block Alipur, Delhi. In this regard a DD No.

25-A, dated 24.05.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Distt. Outer North, Delhi.

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

P.S. Alipur, Delhi

Ph.: 011-27202290, 27202265

DP/241/ON/2020

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 011-23269777, 23261625 DP/126/CD/2020 27811934 DP/238/ON/2020

HORT CIRCUITS —



lucky to have you and I'm

sure the world is going to

feel the same way very soon

he pioneer



PANKAJ TRIPATHI

I am an actor. Our main aim is to help cinema and our performance reach out to maximum. Of course, the experience on big screen is different, people watch it together. in a community. On a small screen, you watch it alone. It's not like that theatres won't open. We have seen big things before and (theatres) have come out of it too



KIRTI KULHARI

I am not really a birthday person. This lockdown has given me time to introspect and understand a lot of things and one thing that I have been contemplating on since quite sometime is self love and the lack of it in most of us. I hope this time makes some change in the way we look at ourselves and the way we love ourselves



ADAH SHARMA

I hope we all come out of this as more grateful, kinder people who are conscious about the environment. Once we begin shooting, all of us will be responsible and take the necessary precautions ensuring safety of oneself and the people around us. From slicing watermelons to reading scripts, this lockdown has been quite productive

WILL SMITH

Playing Genie in Aladdin was terrifying. Robin Williams did absolutely brilliant, memorable and nostalgic job in his film. So when I am looking at a role and especially something that has historic and nostalgic value, I ask myself, 'is there any meat left on the bone?



IMMERSIVE 45 MINUTES

'I AM A BIT EXTRA'

Girl meets boy. The two fall in love...rewind. Girl meets boy and they set animals free at a pet market. The unusual, the guirky, the socially awkward and the ones who don't fit in were some of the characters that MEGHA RAMASWAMY found missing in the Indian film landscape. With What Are The Odds?, the director tried to plug in the gap and the audience responded wholeheartedly. Within a week of its debut on Netflix, it climbed to number 5 and then number 2 while spawning fan clubs across the country. In conversation with the director, who earlier made documentaries like Newborns, Bunny and The Last Music Shop, it is evident that she takes up projects that she completely identifies with. While discussing the film with Saimi Sattar, she pauses frequently, searching for the right word and wants to understand a nuance better before answering a question. Excerpts:

☐The film is trending on Netflix. Did you believe something like this was possible?

Not at all. The response has been amazing and the film has it's own fan clubs and all that now. (Laughs, which even over the phone line sounds overwhelmed). But I don't belong to this world, so it is very new and exciting for me.

□Were you planning an OTT release or a theatrical one and shifted because of the pandemic?

I am the writer and director and the producer had not masked the fact from me that it would not be the most comfortable theatrical release. I was told that I would have to make peace with big theatre release in Taipei, China, Taiwan, Los Angles film festivals. It was important to get a worldwide release and Netflix has an outreach of 180-190 countries.

OTTs have given a platform for different kinds of stories being told... Of course, a culture of serious audience

has come about because of these platforms. For example, a series like Wire or Mad Men happened because these platforms were available. It really nurtures your tastes as an audience. It makes them creative (pauses) and opinionated. The reaction is immediate, personal and relies on word of mouth. It isn't a rehearsed audience which says "see this" or "do that". It is very passionate and creates its own bright guys. That's the relevance of OTT, as of now. critic and wonder if "we should we buy a ticket?" But now it is as simple as turning on the TV.

□Are we making an impact globally through films as we see younger directors doing the rounds of international festivals now?

Of course, there are younger directors like Rima Das. There is this burst of creativity. We aren't making films just with a Third World narrative based in villages to get to the festivals. There is Rhythm Jahnve, Kabir Mehta and Kabir Singh Choudhury who are just killing it with their originality. They are ground breakers. I love their edgy content. It is no longer that only

Satyajit Ray can go to Venice.

Moreover, while earlier we heavily relied on bigger festivals but now smaller ones are also picking up in terms of audience. Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles



So what you are saving is that we've broken stereotypes...

There are no stereotypes that are working. It is a rude term. We do not have allowing the or the right to call anything stereotype. All types of writing is based on people's experiences and as a culture we should be respectful towards that. It might be a stereotype for us but may be not for them. We need to be harsh on these terms in this changing world. This is a 90s terms but it doesn't matter any more.

■Most coming of age films about adolescents talk about falling in love but this film is different.

The protagonist has this great sense of discomfort and, at the same time, compensating confidence. And it is possible to be both at the same time. That is the true innocence of childhood. When you are 14 -15, you are hormonally and mentally scattered. We tried to say through the character of Vivek (played by Yashasvini, last seen in Delhi Crime) that young women can be this too. They don't have to walk in a certain way or wear spectacles. Anti-social

people can wear a yellow coat and strut about like she does as she wants to be noticed. The kids watching this film are relating to this. This narrative is have a gamut of emotions.

□Did the idea of the film come from your own grow-

ing up years? It did. I felt very alienated as a kid. I didn't know how to behave in a certain way. I am a single child and I am socially awkward. I try to overcompensate by saying something... (gives a nervous laugh) absolutely stupid. This made me a bit extra. I always wondered why there were no films about children like us. In films, 14-15-year-olds were falling in love and having romances. Romance kuch nahi hota when you are

14-15. It was like a series of embarrassing incidents one after the other where I was falling in one gutter hole after another. I felt that this teenage angst, rebellion stupidity and inventiveness had to be honoured. The beauty of the character is that she can be clumsy, feisty, vulnerable, a great companion, sensible and volatile — at the same time. All that makes her what she is. It is not a typical girl meets boy story... I didn't want to make that film. This starts off as a regular girl meets boy story and all that trope and we built on it. We've embraced the absurd and that's the beauty of it all. People finally understand that it is okay to be absurd. There is so much space for imagination and the world needs it to keep sane, little hopeful and

☐The film employs magic realism. How does that help the storytelling?

It is not just this film. I've done it in other films too. Just that this one has been seen by a wider audience. I've made hybrid documentaries that still follow the rules of magic realism. On a bigger scale, I will always be doing this. There was everything — films about ghouls, crime — but not about young women. They are undermined and treated disrespectfully. It is almost like let's give them something dumb and populist. With What Are The *Ôdds*, we've proved them wrong.

☐How did you select the cast? Very organically. I follow a lot of independent musicians. I saw Yashasvini playing a guitar, ukelele it is called, at some point. She was singing and the rest of the crew too agreed that we had our lead. She had done a side role. What is the technical term for it? I don't know the word. Supporting role, it is called. I don't know since I don't come from this world. I feel girls like

Yashaasvini should be leading films

because the youth needs relat-

able women. They don't

need only girls who look as if they've just stepped out of the salon. She is relatable, clumsy, angry, wears her heart and sleeve. She is also vivacious and

just fits the

Karanvir brings the calm to the storm till the time he also becomes like her in the film. He does a very non head boy thing even though he comes across as an uptight guy. But the duo get each other. It is their little rebellion. It is strangely predictive of the times too. (Chuckles) They are freeing animals in the pet market. And if you remember, the virus began with a wet market.

□Did children being stuck at home dur-

ing the lockdown power its success?

That's a very ruthlessly exploitative thing to say about a ruthless time in the world and I would rather keep away from the question because I don't want people to think that it is working for us. What about those kids who do not have a TV and can't watch the film? If I am talking about children being happy about the break, then I am talking about a particular kind of children. But what about kids being beaten up at home?

☐How did Abhay Deol come on board?

We were introduced by a friend as he was looking to produce something. And we had this character, Val. The more we interacted with him, the more we thought he should be our Val. When he agreed to produce it, we asked if he would also act in the film. He said, "That's not necessary. Cast who you want." And we chimed, "We want to cast you." It is so gracious of him as he is there for 15 minutes. The ensemble cast also had geniuses like Sulbha Arya, a legend, who gave us so much love, understanding and

☐Your banner is called Missfit films... It is M-I-S-S-F-I-T. Miss fit. It is to

honour young women who feel misplaced and we would like to hold space for them as they navigate though films. And we love to deal with narratives around younger people in particular. We hear all of them. Straight, queer, gay -

□OTT changed the way films are being viewed...

It has domesticated entertainment. It no longer entails a trip to multiplex. There are theatrical films and OTT films and there is room for both. A cinema watching culture needs to thrive with both. Roma was released directly on Netflix by one of the greatest directors in the world. Some of the best directors are doing shows for OTT. It is not the smaller platform any more.

□What were your learning experiences from your past films, *Newborns*, *Bunny* and The Last Music Store?

I was living in a very small world where I was very content but the gates have opened to write and direct series with the success of What Are The Odds? It gives me the privilege of affording enough support to other people in this system. So, now I can run my company and hire young writers. Being independent means doing everything your-

The absence of censorship on OTT has you agree?

There shouldn't be censorship. All kinds of content make a culture. For example, films by Carlos Reygadas have a lot of nudity but what would arthouse cinema be without his contribution? Censoring anything shows that there is something which is not right in country.

□What is Cause Effect?

It is a little outfit under Missfit. We try and do pro bono, campaign driven work with NGOs and raise funds. It is a community driven initiative where we ask people for money. I've done a campaign with Dr Kailash Satyarthi for it too.

☐Future plans?

Up next is Reshma Aur Shera, few series and a book adaptation. I am working with Jeetu Mohandas about which I am very excited.



In the name of love

Actor SARGUN MEHTA tells Ayushi Sharma that there are a zillion reasons for people to feel there's not enough fondness in a relationship but if you both want to be together, you will find a way

filled with love. It's about a relationship that has gone bad but we still wanted to give it a happy ending. We were like no matter what, your relationship does deserve a second chance or any amount of chances that you think are right. Ravi and I were going to share screen space after almost 10 years. It's not that we didn't get any offers but there was nothing worth it. This song just felt right.

♦It deals with the downfalls of a relationship and its upheavals. Did you relate to it?

I did relate to the song but not from the perspective of the relationship that Ravi and I share. This is not exactly what we are as a couple, which is why we were undecided initially. We wanted to discuss if we want to show this side of our relationship or not. At times dur-



There are zillion reasons that people can feel there is not enough love in a relationship. But if both of you want to fix the problem and want to be together, you will find a way.

Yes, the journey has been very smooth. I think this was the first time I didn't see Ravi only as an actor or as a co-actor, I saw him as a director too. On the first day, I had my take on everything or tried to figure out what we wanted to do. But later, I realised that too many people spoil the broth. So he took charge. Everything was in his head, he directed all of it. I didn't want to mess with it so I completely surrendered to him as an actor. I thought this is the right way to do it. I saw him as a director for the very first time and I absolutely loved him. I have always said that he's a great actor but I didn't know he was such a great director too.

♦ From small screen to Punjabi films and now album songs, how challenging was this switch?

I don't know if it was challenging. I remember there was a time when I had an offer to move to another medium but I felt that I wasn't ready for it. When I saw my first Punjabi film, I decided that this is what I wanted to do. Like this is home and I would be able to make my place here. It just felt

like it was a calling. When you iust sit down and think about what you really want in life, mysteriously the universe really works to get that for you. Whatever I demanded — the kind of projects I wanted to do, how I wanted to make my debut or with which actor everything just fell into place. I don't think that I literally lifted a finger for all this to come together. I have seen a number of rejections as well. There were so many people telling me that I won't be able to make it. But I had faith in myself and the universe.

*Do you think the Punjabi film industry competes with other new age regional cine-It definitely does. Not only

does it compete, I think in a lot of places it's even better. We are an evolving industry and when you are growing, you try to make a space for yourself. You try to make really good content and you are okay with doing a lot of experiments. That's where Punjabi cinema is, it's experimenting with content. I really think we are making some great films.



the song, Toxic, at home during the lockdown as compared to the usual outdoor shoots? Of course, it was really different to shoot at home. Usually

♦How different was it to shoot

during shoots, people are doing everything for you, you just have to focus on one thing that is acting. Here, I had to make sure my house is clean and everything is in its original place. Ravi (Dubey) and I were the art directors and the lightmen for each other. We were the ones styling ourselves, doing hair and makeup. Everything was upto us. We were figuring out what content to shoot, how to go about it, what would look nice. And if we were to do it the usual way, there would be a unit of 75 to 100 people managing everything for us. Here, we were down to three people — Ravi, my friend, who was helping us with the camera and I.

♦What appealed you the most about your role in the song?

Frankly, when I heard the song, I instantly fell in love with it. I thought it was one of a kind. It's dark and simultaneously ing the shoot, Ravi got angry that this is not us. We tried to cut away from it emotionally as much as possible because we didn't want to get too absorbed in the story. But every relationship goes through this. It can go bad, you get possessive or there can be more distance or proximity between two people.

♦ How was it shooting with your partner with whom your

journey has been smooth?

CAUSE 45 MINUTES

SCENE 1: CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI

The iconic Delhi locale is choca-bloc with shoppers, diners and people who come in to savour the beauty of its columned colonial architecture. On any given day chaat-walas, handicraft vendors and ice-cream carts jostle for space. But a sweep of the camera and we witness the silence of the centre of India's capi-

SCENE 2: PANDIT DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA JUNCTION, UTTAR PRADESH

The station, a getaway to East India, contains the largest railway marshaling yard in Asia. However, we see one of the busiest stations in the country without a soul in sight.

SCENE 3: GATEWAY OF INDIA, MUMBAI

On any given day, the most famous monument of the commercial capital is a place where neither the photographer nor the tourist gets a moment to enjoy the view in peace. But now, it stands silent just like the docks around it.

When the lockdown was announced on March 24, documentary filmmaker Bharat Bala realised that it was an important time in the history of the country and felt that it was his responsibility to capture it. "I knew that it is the most unprecedented thing unfolding in front of our eyes. It is in one way historical and in another, disturbing." People in the West, both America and Europe have filmed the time extensively. Bala says, "In the next five years, we would be flush with interesting documentaries from those places while India would have nothing."

He felt that the content from TV news was transitory in nature and there was "nothing emotional, deep or like a canvas which tells the story of what a lockdown is like. Where are these 1.3 million people?" he asks.

So the creator of some of the really iconic works like AR Rahman's Vande Mataram got down to work. Over a period of 55 days, a team of 117 people filmed extensively for 100 hours across 16 states to preserve the time for posterity.

Even under normal circumstances when permissions are hard to come by, during lockdown this must have been some feat. Anticipating the question, Bala himself pipes up and says, "How did we do it? It was a

help contain the outbreak.

hold up more than half of

workload and the surge in

domestic violence has

able even inside their

homes. It is high time we

break the stigma around

UNFPA, UNICEF, UN

Women and the South Asia

Foundation (Madanjeet

Singh Foundation) have

joined hands to support

director and actor Nandita

Das in the production and

launch of a short film —

two important issues that

many women are grappling

with — an unprecedented

increase in their workload

and at times, being locked

down with their abusers. It

aims to inspire women to

speak up and for us to add

our voice to end the silence

around these issues. The

film also creates public

awareness of helpline num-

bers so survivors can seek

Commission for Women

has recorded more than a

In India, the National

immediate assistance.

The film focuses on

Against this back-

UNESCO,

reporting abuse.

ground,

Listen to Her.

CANVAS OF A LOCKDOWN

Documentary filmmaker BHARAT BALA tells Saimi Sattar that the reason behind making Uthenge Hum was to ensure that posterity does not forget what the nation and its people went through during the lockdown



nightmare, almost impossible.' Getting permissions from the Police was difficult but essential as filming on the streets is not allowed without it. "Somehow when the intent is there, things do happen and they did happen," chimes in Bala, upbeat at the thought of what he has accom-

A central core team sat in Mumbai while crews spread across the country. Footage started pouring in from early morning to late in the night as the core team was sitting at a studio in Mumbai and giving directions to the crews in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Kashmir, Assam and more. "It was a mammoth exercise. A cameraperson in Assam would send a WhatsApp video and then I would set the frame and check the lens. Doing it remotely was bizarre. Sometimes they would send footage and I would say, 'This is great but what about this?' And they would go there and shoot again."

Bala credit his robust research team which knew exactly what was required for the film. "They were constantly updating what we were getting and, at the same time, specifying what we wanted from each place. In that sense we had to be instinctive in planning. It was crazy," says the filmmaker over the phone.



mented for posterity so that we should not forget this time. We also saw the Ganges clean and pristine in Haridwar and Rishikesh which was captured in a cinematic way," he says.

could not even spot pigeons. Some of Bala believes that it would be a the busiest airports were stark, with record for all of us of what the nation not a soul in sight. "Highways, airand its people went through.

khali hai (our streets and locality are empty) but then you see the entire country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and realise that everything has stopped. Even Tsunamis, cyclones or other disasters couldn't do that. Not even wars, as only the border areas were severely affected.

to bring everything to a standstill." The idea behind the four-minute

film, called Uthenge Hum, is to convey that no matter what happens we will rebound. "That is the resilience of the poorest mother of India. She might have lost her husband at night but the next day she would get up and feed her children," says he about the film which he feels is an honest effort.

The voice over by actor and theatre person, Seema Biswas, in the film represents the migrant woman. "When she says Uthenge Hum it seems like a mother, who has her feet

on the ground, is saying the words." And we all hope so too... that we bounce back resilient, more compassionate and better versions of ourselves from these difficult times.



The battle within homes Daringly different As the pandemic unfolds, people around the world have found themselves in isolation to While women continue to

Actor, director and social advocate NANDITA DAS's short film Listen to Her the sky, the increase in aims to inspire women to speak up around issues like domestic violence, which has surged during the lockdown



this should apply to gender equality too. There must be

a redefinition of masculin-

ities, where men share

responsibilities with

women in dignity, respect

non-violence.

two-fold increase in the number of cases of genderbased violence during the lockdown period. As we find ways to help the migrant population, daily wagers, health workers on the frontline, we also need to find ways to support women who are battling within their homes. Society simply cannot thrive if half the population lives in fear of being abused, physically as well as mentally.

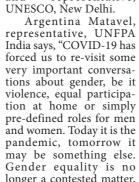
"The film was a spon-

taneous response to the irony of "stay home, stay safe' for millions of women in India and around the world. This pandemic has taught us that our lives are so deeply intertwined, and so it is imperative we respond to the issues around us. I wanted to tell a simple story of a woman overburdened and a woman abused, both,

film is adding its voice to encourage women to speak and for us to listen. Creatively speaking, it was a challenge to shoot during the lockdown. But was worth the experiment," says

impacting each other. The

UNESCO, together with its sister UN Agencies, 'There will be a before UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN and after COVID-19, and Women, felt it was impor-



tant to support Nandita in making this film possible," shares Eric Falt, director

representative,

violence, equal participation at home or simply pre-defined roles for men and women. Today it is the pandemic, tomorrow it may be something else. Gender equality is no longer a contested matter, it is both complex and simple. It is a societal transformation that will be a reality when each individual looks at the other with fresh eyes, as if looking into a mirror, and then, treats them with dignity and respect, recognising that their own humanity is only complete with the full existence of the other."

The film poignantly depicts the ironic realities of what it means for women to 'stay home, stay safe' amid the pandemic. "On one hand, women and girls are compelled to heavy lift the increased caregiving responsibilities, juggling with many different pieces of life and work. On the

other, many of them encounter a surge in domestic violence reported not only in India but across the world. The complex interplay of gender within the larger socio-economic impact of the crisis must be factored into the response and recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic," says Dr Yasmin Ali Haque, representative, UNICEF India.

Nishtha Satyam, deputy epresentative, UN Women India, shares, "The pandemic has challenged all we knew about the dynamics of economics and power, both inside the home and outside. While many of us have had the privilege of home, a safe space, many women have long dreaded the four walls of home, a private chamber that reminds them of the horror and terror of physical, emotional and psychological abuse. Across the world, the dread now lies exposed, along with the inescapability of it.

The pandemic has upended several assumptions about contemporary world order and equality. UN Women is proud to support this initiative which contributes to bring to light on the importance of ending violence against women

Actor JYOTHIKA says that there are several layers to her character in her recently released film, *PonMagal Vandhal*, which deals with a pertinent social message

♦Tell us something about your next film PonMagal Vandhal.

It is a thriller with a difference. You can also call it a contemporary courtroom drama. I am very close to the subject which has been tackled in the film by director, J J Frederick, who has also written it. The film has a very pertinent social message with which each one of us can relate to instantly. It is a film which will make every woman

❖You have shared screen with five different actors who are also directors. How was the experience?

I have been lucky that I got an opportunity to work with five actors who are also goods directors, including K Parthiepan, Thiagarajan, Pandiarajan, Pratap Pothan and K Bhagyaraj. It was Frederick's vision and idea to cast five different actors who are also directors. It was a learning experience for me, I learnt how they prepared their dialogues and delivered them clearly with precision and clarity.

❖You play a lawyer in the film. To put it in a context, at home, are you a lawyer or a judge?

At home, I am never a lawyer because I am always a judge. If you compare me with my earlier films, you will realise that I have really come out of my shell. I am now under the blue sky. Today, I can do any kind of role. I am blessed that I am being approached by many directors with subjects that are daringly different.

♦ How difficult was it to act with directors like Parthiepan and K Bhagyarai?

It was a big challenge to deliver my dialogues in front of Parthiepan because they were lengthy and the film is basically a courtroom drama. But thankfully, I was prepared as I was given the script three months ago. It is to the credit of director Frederick that he filmed four single shots each of five minutes. You would not believe that he, who is in his 20's, has not only written the subject well but also made his debut with this film. In the first narration itself, I was hooked to the subject and said yes to it. It has



a lot of layers, thrills, twists and a smashing climax.

*What are the factors that influence your decision while choosing

I always see what the screenplay of a film offers and want characters that are not only intelligent but also dignified to the core. I want to play real life characters, which the audience can easily identify with. I will agree to do a film only if I am sure that people will talk about my role and the film even after 20 years. If you play a cop's role, you can easily pad up your scene with action but when you set out to play a lawyer, you cannot resort to action and have to deliver your lines with perfection. Considering the fact that I have never ever gone to a court till date, I should thank the director for having done all his home work with per-

❖The film is being released on an OTT platform, Amazon Prime Video. What do you think are the pros and cons of this platform?

I'd say, there are only pros and no cons. Especially, in the last few months after the Coronavirus scare, the number of people watching films and series on OTT platform has shot up considerably. Though, all said and done, I will not deny that

had the situation been different, it would have been a joy to see its release in theatres and the reaction of the audience. OTT release is a big celebration as filmmakers will be able to reach as many as 200 countries. However, it is not a permanent solution, it will only help for the time being. If we wait to release PonMagal Vandhal in theatres, there is a long queue. It will take at least a year for the hero-oriented films to release, the heroine-oriented ones will get their chance only after two years.

♦ Why do you prefer to work only in your home productions? After 36 Vayathinile, I have

mostly acted in my home productions because it allows me to be in my comfort zone. It is important now as I have to strike a balance between my career, home and kids. Also, when you do not know how the audience is going to respond to your film, it is better to invest in your own film.

❖You seem to opt to act under new

Working with newcomers is good as they do not follow the typical pattern. They belong to a new genre and their working process is very different from mine. If I work only with the same directors, I may end up becoming stagnant as an actor. The character of Venba that I play in PonMagal Vandhal is the most challenging that I have ever played in my career, perhaps because of the direction.

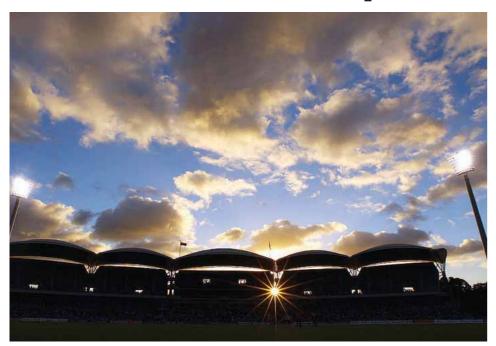
♦Are you open to act in web series in the near future?

I am not sure. Nothing in my life, including acting in films, had been planned till today. I feel good cinema should live. If I don't get good offers in films, who knows, I may take up acting in web series too.

♦How keen are you on entering politics?

Like my sister Nagma, I don't want to take up politics because I believe that you can do far greater work for the masses even if you are not in politics. Every actor has a social responsibility and should not just depend on the government.

India series venue depend on circumstances: CA | Serie A resumes on June 20



Adelaide Oval will host India vs Australia's Day-Night Test during 2020-2021 Border-Gavaskar trophy

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

ricket Australia has not ruled out the possibility Jof the Covid-19 pandemic forcing a change in the schedule for India's tour of the country with the board still keeping the door open for host-ing four Tests in "as little as one

Cricket Australia (CA) on Thursday announced that India will play the Tests at Brisbane (December 3-7), Adelaide (December 11-15), Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney

(January 3-7) respectively.

However, CA chief executive Kevin Roberts said the schedule could change depending on the travel restrictions due to the health crisis.

"That (schedule) assumes that state borders are open to domestic travel. It may be that circumstances dictate that when the time comes maybe we can only use one or two venues, we really don't know any of that yet," he told reporters on Friday.

"There is a lot of variables based on whether we have four venues in four states or as little as one venue in one state. There's endless scenarios and

possibilities... Soon after the schedule announcement, Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA) chief Christina Matthews had lashed out at CA for choosing Brisbane over Perth as one of the venues for the high-profile Test series. Roberts said that the Gabba

didn't get a Test during India's tour of Australia two years ago and to strike a balance, Perth was overlooked this time

'Very high risk' of T20 WC being postponed

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Cricket Australia on Friday Conceded that there is "very high risk" of this year's T20 World Cup being postponed and the body is bracing up for huge revenue loss because of

Speaking to reporters, CA chief executive Kevin Roberts admitted that the fate of T20 World Cup, to be hosted by Australia in October-November this year, is uncertain because of the global travel restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

'We have been hopeful all along that it could be staged in October-November but you would have to say there's a very high risk about the prospect of

"If Perth received the India Test (this year) it would mean that Perth would have hosted two England Tests (for Ashes) and two India Tests over the eight-year cycle for a total of four ... Whereas Brisbane would have only hosted two. So that would have created an imbalance over the cycle of the Future Tours Programme," he

"And in the national interest and ensuring we take highprofile Test matches to cricket that happening," Roberts said. He said CA is staring at a revenue loss of around A\$ 80

Even if the tournament goes ahead as per plan, it is likely to be held in empty stadiums because of the social distancing norms and CA is well aware of

'The likelihood of significant crowds is very slim — ordinarily that would deliver well over A\$ 50m revenue to

The T20 World Cup is a big question and that's a factor of perhaps A\$ 20m.

"And it's likely that our bio-security measures that we need to put in place to deliver the season will cost in the order of A\$ 10m," he said.

fans in Queensland, it was a more well-balanced solution. Assuming, of course, that we could get full crowds in play, that's when this schedule was determined. 'The more balanced solu-

tion was to play the India Test in Brisbane, meaning over the eight-year cycle it would see Perth hosting three Tests against India and England and Brisbane also hosting three Tests against India and England."

Ttaly's Serie A was given the green light on Thursday to resume on June 20 after a three-month absence as one of the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic begins to ease restrictions.

Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora said that the Government's Technical and Scientific Committee (CTS) had agreed to the health protocol proposed by Italian football chiefs.

"Italy has started to return to normal life again, it is only right that football should do the same," said Spadafora.

"The federation assured me that it had a Plan B and a Plan C

"In light of these considerations, the championship can resume on June 20."

Italian football federation (FIGC) president Gabriele Gravina told the minister during the video conference there would be a play-off sys-

tem if the championship were again interrupted, while the existing standings would be used if it were stopped. 'We had a verv

useful meeting," said Spadafora. "From the start, I said that football could restart once all the security conditions had been met.

No top-flight matches in Italy have been played since Sassuolo beat Brescia 3-



Italian football now faces a scheduling nightmare, for matches which will take place behind closed doors. "I'm happy and

> Gravina. "The restart of football represents a message of hope for the whole country."

Lega Serie A will now meet to examine the different calendar hypotheses for the remaining Serie A and Italian Cup matches, amounting to 127 in total.

The FA Cup was halted

before the quarter-finals

because of the pandemic,

but tournament organisers

hope to complete it along-

side the Premier League.

the last eight will be played

The four matches in

satisfied,"

league games left to play, but there were four postponed fixtures. Spadafora suggested that

the Italian Cup could be concluded the week before the return to Serie A action. The semi-final return leg matches between Inter

Milan and Napoli and AC Milan and Juventus, could be played on June 13-14 with the final on June 17. "I also hope to be able to

send a positive signal to the whole country by taking advantage of the week from June 13 to 20 to conclude the Most teams have 12 Italian Cup," he added.

Laxman lauds Rohit's ability to handle pressure



Indian batting great VVS Laxman says the ability to remain calm under pressure is the reason behind Rohit Sharma's success as a captain in the Indian Premier League.

The 33-year-old led Mumbai Indians to four title wins, one ahead of Chennai Super Kings' Mahendra Singh Dhoni, making him currently the history of IPL.

The 45-year-old Laxman recalled how Rohit evolved both as a batsman and skipper since playing his first IPL with Deccan Chargers. "He became a leader in the Deccan Chargers team.

When he came in the first year, he was a youngster who just played the T20 World Cup, made his International debut for India," Laxman told Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

"I think the way he was batting in the middle order, under pressure because the team didn't do well in the inaugural IPL edition in 2008 ... Rohit was a standout performer for us." Rohit is placed third in the

list of most run-getters in IPL history, having scored 4898 runs in 188 matches at an average of 31.60 with a highest score of 109 "In each and every match,

with each and every success, his confidence level was just growing, he was getting into the core group, helping the youngsters, voicing his opinion and those were early signs," Laxman said.

tantly was handling the pressure because not once in those tough situations when he was batting did it show, and he has evolved and blossomed. That's why he's one of the most successful captains in IPL history."



Kompany turns down offer to assist Pep

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

Vincent Kompany has turned down an offer from Manchester City to become Pep Guardiola's assistant coach, according to various Belgian media reports on Friday.
The former City captain is

under contract as player-manager of Anderlecht until 2022, having left the Etihad Stadium last year following a trophyladen 11-year spell in England.

Kompany, who has never be City manager, said he wanted to stay at Anderlecht.

City boss Guardiola has been looking for a new assistant since Mikel Arteta left Manchester to become Arsenal manager last December.



set June 17 as the date for the top flight to restart following the coronavirus delay. They hope to play the majority of the matches behind

closed doors on a home and away basis at clubs' usual stadi-However, police are concerned about the issue of hard-

core fans potentially flouting

social distancing rules by congregating wherever their team With Liverpool two wins away from clinching their first English title for 30 years and other relegation and European

ed in the remaining 92 fixtures, there is potential for police resources to be stretched if matches draw crowds outside

Police bosses have spoken to the Premier League about games



they consider especially tricky and the matches they requested to take place at neutral grounds are Manchester City vs Newcastle, Manchester United vs Sheffield United, Newcastle vs Liverpool and Everton vs "Our discussions with the

Premier League throughout this process have been positive, with

FA Cup final on Aug 1 **LONDON:** The FA Cup final is set to take place on August 1 after the Football Association announced provisional dates to finish the competition on After the Premier League revealed they plan to resume

the season on June 17, the FA Cup has now returned to an English fixture list. a shared focus on the priority of

"As such we have reached a needs of football, while also min-

"The majority of be played, at home and

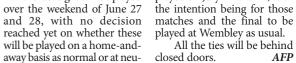
neutral venues, which, contrary to some



public health," said Deputy Chief Constable Mark Roberts of South Yorkshire Police.

consensus that balances the imising the demand on policing.

away as scheduled, with a small number of fixtures taking place at reports, have yet to be agreed."



All the ties will be behind

tral venues. Leicester take on

Chelsea, Newcastle face hold-

ers Manchester City, Sheffield

United play Arsenal and

Norwich meet Manchester

played on July 11 and 12, with

The semi-finals will be

'Fans could return for 20-21 season'

LONDON: Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said on Friday that fans could phased basis," Masters told *Sky* be allowed to attend top-flight matches in the 2020-21 season on a "phased basis".

matches will move away from the behind-closeddoors model and it is right to have contingency plans in place, but there is optimism at the Premier League and at clubs that we will see fans back and it may happen on a phased basis," Masters told *Sky Sports News.* "Hopefully it will be a huge morale boost and that is what we've been

"We've got some incredible fans in this country and we all know the Premier League as we know and love it won't be fully back until we have fans back through the turn-

ig name 55-man training

LONDON: World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan, and the pace duo of James Anderson and . Jofra Archer are among 55 England players who have been asked to resume outdoor training to prepare for cricket behind close doors.

The England and Wales Cricket Board has added 37 names to the list after 18 bowlers resumed individual training last week, focussing on Test cricket. Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett

and Joe Clarke are some big names who do not feature in the 55-man list for the time being. The ECB confirmed that the



SON BWF World Junior

Championships 2020, which

were scheduled to be held in

Auckland, New Zealand in

September this year," the

for the world events are 11-

gible for the originally scheduled championships

New Zealand and tourna-

ment organisers the best

chance to stage a successful

event for the large volume of

junior players expected to

travel to Auckland.

"The rescheduled dates

Only those athletes eli-

BWF said in a release.

24 January 2021.

are allowed to enter. "The new time frame gives the BWF, Badminton

players have been asked to return to training, "as England Men prepare for the prospect of behind-closed-doors cricket, subject to UK Government clearance.

The Board said it continues to work closely with its county partners to provide a safe and efficient return to practice for players. Other big names who have been asked to resume training include Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Adil Rashid, Tom Curran, David Willey, and Sam Billings among others.

The ECB said squads for

specific formats will be announced in due course.

"The pool of players will give selectors strong options when it comes to selecting squads across formats further down the line, as we move closer to our aim of playing international cricket this summer," ECB Performance Director Mo Bobat said in a statement.

"We will need to continue to work closely with our medical team and government to ensure that our return to training and play activities are in line with best-practice guidelines," he

La Liga 2020-21 to begin from Sept 12



a Liga president Javier Tebas said on LFriday that the league is hoping the 2020/21 season can start on September 12.

The current campaign is still suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, although La Liga is targeting a return on June

UEFA considers 'all options' for CL format

11 with the Seville derby between Real Betis

There are still 11 rounds of matches in the Spanish top flight to be played this term. "The important thing will be to know the end date of the 2019-20 season," Tebas told *Marca*. "The next one will start on September 12.

"God willing, we will restart on June 11. We are waiting for Madrid and Barcelona to move onto phase two (of eas-

ing of lockdown rules)." The Spanish Government last week gave La Liga the green light to resume from June 8. Tebas also said that television viewers would be able to choose whether to watch matches, which will all be played behind closed doors, with virtual sound effects

UEFA spokesman said.

taken yet but there should

be at the Executive

Committee meeting on

According to a UEFA document, August 29

could be chosen as the new

reported on Friday that the

final would be moved from

Turkey but that Istanbul

could be chosen as host of

a future final, when it is

safe for fans to travel from

abroad in large numbers.

The New York Times

date for the final.

"No decision has been



AFP ■ NEW YORK

Roger Federer topped the 2020 Forbes magazine list of highest-paid global athletes announced on Friday, leading the lineup for the first time with pre-tax earnings of \$106.3 million.

The Swiss tennis legend, a men's record 20-time Grand Slam singles champion, becomes the first player from his sport atop the annual list since its 1990

included \$100 million from appearances fees and endorsement deals plus \$6.3 million in prize money. His previous best

showing was second in 2013.

ship deals. Messi and Ronaldo, who have traded the top spot three of the past four years,

fourth overall on \$95.5 million, \$25 million from endorsements, while NBA star LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers was fifth on \$88.2 million, \$60 million of that from endorsements.

World Jr Badminton C'ship rescheduled PTI ■ NEW DELHI the BARFOOT & THOMP-

Junior Championships to be held in Auckland in September was on Friday rescheduled to January next

year because of a disruption-

hit international calendar

The Badminton World

owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) confirmed that the World Junior Championships will now be held from January 18 to

24 next year.

The prestigious event will be preceded by the World Junior Mixed Team Championships with the BWF scheduling it from January 11 to 16.

Dahoud out for rest of season



DORTMUND: Borussia Dortmund midfielder Mahmoud Dahoud has been ruled out for the rest of the season with a knee injury, the Bundesliga club announced on Friday.

The 24-year-old was replaced by Axel Witsel in the 85th minute of Dortmund's 1-0 defeat by title rivals and league leaders Bayern Munich on Tuesday. Dahoud has made 14 appearances for

Lucien Favre's men in all competitions this sea-

The Syrian-born player joins Erling Braut Haaland, captain Marco Reus, Nico Schulz and Dan-Axel Zagadou on the sidelines ahead of Sunday's trip to bottom club Paderborn. *AFP*

AFP ■ NYON UEFA is studying "all the options" for the

format of this season's interrupted Champions League, amid reports on CHAMPIONS LEAGUE Friday that European football's governing body is

considering moving the final from its scheduled

venue in Istanbul. The Turkish city was due to host the final this Saturday at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium, but the tournament was suspended in mid-March at the last-16 stage because of the coronavirus pandemic.

with major changes to the format likely and games set UEFA still hopes to to be played behind closed conclude the competition by the end of August, but

'We are looking at all

the options regarding the

the competition in the working group involving the clubs, leagues and

calendar and the format of

Changes could also be made to the format of the Europa League, the final of which was due to be played in the Polish city of Gdansk

Federer tops list of world's highest-paid athletes

debut, rising from fifth in 2019. Federer's haul over the past 12 months

Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo was second on the list at \$105 million, \$60 million in salary and \$45 million from endorsements, with Argentine football hero Lionel Messi third on \$104 million, \$32 million of that from sponsor-

saw their combined incomes dip \$28 million from last year due to salary cuts when European clubs halted play in March. Brazilian footballer Neymar was