

**WORLD 7**  
TRUMP BANS ENTRY OF CERTAIN  
GROUPS OF CHINESE STUDENTS TO US

**MONEY 8**  
‘ECONOMIC REVIVAL  
MAY TAKE 6 MONTHS’

**SPORT 11**  
BCCI NOMINATES ROHIT  
FOR KHEL RATNA

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**USUAL SUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Covid a blessing in disguise for Opp

One of the natural consequences of a prolonged lockdown is the surfeit of what can best be described as 'timepass' activities. Among those that I found quite enjoyable — and hugely instructive — was trawling YouTube for old documentaries and TV programmes of another era. In the process I have sat through many hours of BBC election night broadcasts for the polls of 1955, 1959, 1964, 1966 and 1970. In due course I shall complete the lot and move to the coverage of US presidential elections.

Elections have fascinated me and, having been involved in all the counting day programmes since the Indian general elections of 1998, not to mention countless State Assembly polls, I was particularly interested in the evolving styles of presentation, the quantum of partisanship and the use of graphics and technology. While these can await elaborate dissection at another time and perhaps a more specialised publication, what interested me above all was to experience the results as it unfolded to those watching on the day.

To me this was an important experience. History, as we often know, is written with the benefit of hindsight. We know, for example, that the Congress Party led by Indira Gandhi suffered a crushing defeat in the 1977 general election held after 19 months of a draconian Emergency. The scale of the Congress defeat, particularly in north India, makes it seem that the outcome was widely anticipated by everyone. I wasn't in India to experience that election and had to depend on perfunctory reports in the Western media and occasional letters from friends who were in the thick of the campaign. From these sources, two things were apparent. First, that the mood, especially after the desertion of Jagjivan Ram from the Congress, was vehemently anti-Congress; secondly, that the widespread feeling was that while the Congress would be jolted, it would return to power with a narrow majority.

The significance of May 30, 2020 is that these very same people now believe that Covid-19 has given them a chance to reacquire relevance, on the backs of popular misery

of the Prime Minister's defeat in Rae Bareilly and Sanjay Gandhi's failure in Amethi. Still, getting a glimpse of how Doordarshan broke the news to the Indian people would have been interesting.

India has moved a long way since 1977. Just as looking at the BBC's election night coverage in the 1950s and 1960s has only an archival relevance, invoking the 1977 election — or indeed any election prior to 1996 — is purely academic. The media has mushroomed, thanks to both deregulation and technology. What the state-controlled broadcaster does and doesn't do is swamped by other sources of information that range from multiple TV channels in different languages, the press and, most important, social media. However, the principle of tracking an election "in flight" — the avowed objective of the Nuffield College studies on British general elections since 1945 — remains intact.

May 30 is the first anniversary of the second term of Narendra Modi. It will be observed and commemorated in a relatively restrained way, courtesy the looming danger of Covid-19. The achievements of the Government, particularly in the very purposeful 10 months that culminated in the Delhi riots shortly before the lockdown, have been noted and both appreciated and pilloried. However, given the dramatic jolt given by the lockdown to every Indian, there is an understandable tendency to divide politics into pre-Covid and post-Covid compartments. In my view this should be resisted.

The conventional wisdom-in-hindsight is that Modi coasted to any easy and predictable victory a year ago. Certainly, the magnitude of the victory and the impressive margins, not to speak of the failure of the Congress to make any headway for the second election in succession, makes it seem that way. In reality it wasn't quite so effortless.

Anyone who goes back to the original sources will be struck by the fact that Modi's opponents quite genuinely and sincerely believed that the BJP would be deprived of its majority. It was believed that the much-lauded Samajwadi-BSP alliance in Uttar Pradesh, the Mamata steamroller in West Bengal and the united opposition of all of India's Muslims and Christians would send Modi packing. Remember the contrived excitement over the Rafale deal, the emotional pitch of the anti-demonetisation campaign and the frenzied partisanship of a powerful section of the media that saw itself as a part of the Opposition. Also let us not forget the united front of all the economics professors living outside India that sought a return to the culture of doles and sops. Together they created the impression that Modi should be packing his bags, despite Balakote and the surgical strikes.

In hindsight, May 2019 was an emphatic defeat for the old Establishment that was united in its desire to end the Modi raj at all costs. They may have preferred the Gandhis back in the saddle but they were quite willing for anyone but Modi. On the morning of counting day, these worthies looked expectantly to BJP wickets falling one by one. They looked forward to resuming their control over Lutyens' Delhi. Some were talking of the BJP being reduced to less than 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh.

It didn't happen that way and the party hats for the Restoration had to be put aside for another day. The significance of May 30, 2020 is that these very same people now believe that Covid-19 has given them a chance to reacquire relevance, on the backs of popular misery. From 2014 to 2020, it is the same faces and the same forces trying to bring back the Old India that now exists only in the archives of YouTube.

# Phased exit begins in lockdown 5.0

## India to open up largely on June 8 except in containment zones

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Barring some States which have decided to extend the lockdown, India will largely open up on June 8 except in containment zones. The Union Home Ministry on Saturday issued guidelines to open up malls, hotels, hospitality services and religious places from June 8 with strict social distancing norms, like wearing of mask, etc.

The decision to open schools and colleges will be decided by the States in consultation with stakeholders in July. The lockdown guidelines will be applicable in containment zones up to June 30 and only essential services will be permitted in these areas.

The MHA's new guidelines say after assessment of the situation, opening up of international airlines, metro rail, cinema halls, swimming pools, bars, auditoriums and social political gathering will be decided later.

The night curfew will remain in place and movement of individuals shall remain strictly prohibited between 9 pm and 5 am throughout the country, except for essential services.

Local authorities are permitted to implement Section 144 in this regard, said the



Migrants wait outside Nampally Railway station to board a train to reach the native places in Hyderabad on Saturday PTI

MHA giving more power to States.

"Schools, colleges, educational/training/coaching institutions etc will be opened after consultations with States and UTs," the MHA said, adding that the States may hold consultations at the institution level with parents and other stakeholders. Based on the feedback, a decision on the re-opening of these institutions

will be taken in July, said the MHA.

Containment zones' geographical area and demarcation will be decided by the States and powers are given to local authorities for house to house and patient tracing. States are empowered to demarcate buffer zones outside containment zones were new cases likely to occur, said the MHA. "In the containment zones,

only essential activities shall be allowed. There shall be strict perimeter control to ensure that there is no movement of people in or out of these zones, except for medical emergencies and maintaining supply of essential goods and services," said the guidelines, empowering local administration for strict implementation to contain Covid-19 pandemic areas. There shall be no restric-

## UNLOCK 1.0: WHAT'S OPEN?

- **Phase I: Religious places** for public, hotels, restaurants and other hospitality services, shopping malls to open from June 8, 2020
- **Phase II:** Schools, colleges, educational/training/coaching institutions, etc, will be opened after consultations with the States and UTs. Bases on the feedback with all the stakeholders, including parents, a decision in this regard will be taken in July
- **Phase III:** Resumption of international flights, metro services, cinema halls, gymnasiums, swimming pools, entertainment parks etc will be decided based on assessment of the situation
- Social/political/sports/entertainment/academic/cultural/religious functions will be re-started only after assessment of the situation
- **Inter-state and intra-state movement of people and goods will be permitted from June 1** without permission or e-pass. However, the States will be empowered to regulate movement
- **Night curfew will continue from June 1** but the timings have been relaxed to **9 pm to 5 am** from earlier 7 pm to 7 am
- **Lockdown will continue to remain in force in the containment zones till June 30**
- In the containment zones, there will be stricter perimeter control to ensure that there is no movement of people in or out of these

## Lockdown in MP, Bengal till June 15

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Saturday that the lockdown in the State to contain coronavirus will be extended till June 15. The West Bengal Government too extended the coronavirus-triggered lockdown in the State up to June 15 with relaxations and conditions.

## Delhi-Moscow AI flight called back midway after pilot found corona +ve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bizarre incident, an Air India's Delhi-Moscow Airbus A-320 Neo (VT-EXR) flight was forced to return midway on Saturday morning after ground team realised that the pilot was tested corona positive.

The VT-EXR Air India Flight was on its way to Moscow, under the Vande Bharat Mission to bring back stranded Indians. Somewhere near Uzbekistan, the crew was informed that one of the pilots onboard has tested positive for Covid-19 and they were called back immediately as per protocol.

This was a ferry flight, so only the crew was on board with around 6 people. The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will probe the lapses. "Prima facie, this appears to be a lapse" as the pilot was not supposed to be on the plane if he was found positive," DGCA officials said.

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## India, China in talks to resolve LAC tension, says Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With tension continuing at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Saturday that India and China are engaged at diplomatic and military levels to resolve the face-offs. Making it clear that the issue is bilateral, Rajnath also said this was conveyed to his US counterpart Mark Esper in telephonic conversation on Friday.

It is the first time that a Minister has given a statement on the stand-offs.

Rajnath also said the country should be assured that, "We will not allow India's dignity to be hurt under any circumstances."

He went on to add that India has always tried to maintain a peaceful relation with its neighbours. "We do not seek to challenge any nation," he said.

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# Art 370, Ram Mandir among Modi 2.0 feats

## As NDA-2 marks 1 year in office, PM pitches for a self-reliant India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One year into his second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday listed abrogation of Article 370 and inclusion of Jammu & Kashmir into the mainstream, criminalising the practice of Triple Talaq, Citizenship Amendment Act, and cross-border air strikes as the "bold decisions" of his Government, which, he said, is on the path to overcoming the coronavirus pandemic with the collective resolve of 130 crore Indians.

Addressing the country through a letter, the PM said clearing of several administrative bottlenecks, major improvement of infrastructure, and freeing the country from the swamp of corruption in the first term had given the right momentum to the governance in the second term.

Modi took note of the fact that the coronavirus had suddenly put brake on the speed of development of the country which in comparison to nations with powers having great eco-



nomical resources and state-of-the-art healthcare system is "besieged with problems amidst a vast population and limited resources."

The PM, however, assured that the country was "on way to overcome the crisis created by the pandemic." He said India must become self-reliant.

"Many feared that India will become a problem for the

world when corona hits it. But today, through sheer confidence and resilience, you have transformed the way the world looks at us," he said.

In his address, Modi, for the first time, specifically mentioned the troubles faced by the migrant workers due to the lockdown announced on March 24 to contain the pandemic with many walking on

foot to their native destinations.

"In a crisis of this magnitude, it can certainly not be claimed that no one suffered any inconvenience or discomfort. Our labourers, migrant workers, artisans and craftsmen in small-scale industries, hawkers and such fellow countrymen have undergone tremendous suffering," Modi said.

However, the PM said, "We have to take care to ensure that the inconveniences we are facing do not turn into disasters" and people have shown patience and followed rules and "this is one of the important reasons for India being safer and in a better state than many other countries".

"This is a long battle but we have started traversing the path to victory, and victory is our collective resolve," Modi said.

He short-listed feats of his Government in the last one year which also included "amicable solution" of the vexed and long-pending Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid dispute by the unanimous SC verdict.

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# Hopes of corona abatement sooner dashed

## World reported 1.25 lakh fresh cases and more than 5K deaths on May 29

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

Any hope that the blazing sun or a favourable planetary configuration — if not the claustrophobic lockdown or some alternative medicine or malarky — could slow down the relentless march of coronavirus across the globe seems to be misplaced. The hopes of any approaching "global peak out" was dashed on May 29 when the world reported 1.25 lakh fresh cases and more than 5,000 deaths. This was the largest single-day spike since the start of the outbreak five months ago in China's Wuhan province.

It was a black Friday for the globe in its fight against the undead enemy. For the better part of May, the world reported around 90,000 fresh cases every day. Beginning the month at a figure of 33,94,152, the number swelled to 60,31,023 across the globe on May 29 with the addition of 1,25,048 cases during the day itself.



Friday's 35 per cent spike above the monthly average is a clear pointer to two things: Coronavirus is constantly on the move to find new hunting ground; and removal of lockdown will come with a price.

The global picture could be a serious cause of concern for epidemiologists and world leaders who were expecting that at some point in time the virus would lose steam and the world would learn to live it.

The globe was reporting around 80K-95K cases till May 10. Then it saw a sudden spike and recorded 1,06,000 new cases on May 25. Commenting on the sudden rise in the number of cases, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "We still

have a long way to go in this pandemic." We are very concerned about rising cases in low and middle-income countries."

May 21 was another big day with a spike of 1,00,000 plus cases, followed by May 22 when the world reported 1,07,000 cases. And then came

Friday, May 29, when coronavirus struck in a big way leaving 1.25 lakh new patients and over 5,000 dead in a day.

It's obvious that as the world begins to reopen after nearly two-months of lockdown, the virus gears up to take advantage of the security

breach in the geographical terrain it has already conquered.

Secondly, after leaving tens of thousands dead and millions infected in Europe and the USA, the virus has found new theaters of play — South America and India.

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**Covid-19 in India**

**TOTAL CASES: 1,81,796**

**DEATHS: 5,185**

**RECOVERED: 86,896**

**ACTIVE: 89,704**

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	65,168	2,197	28,081
Tamil Nadu	21,184	163	12,000
Delhi	18,549	416	8,075
Gujarat	16,356	1,007	9,232
Rajasthan	8,617	193	5,739
Madhya Pradesh	7,891	343	4,444
Uttar Pradesh	7,701	213	4,651
West Bengal	5,130	309	1,970
Bihar	3,565	21	1,311
Andhra Pradesh	3,461	60	2,289
Karnataka	2,922	49	997
Telangana	2,499	77	1,412
Jammu & Kashmir	2,341	28	908
Punjab	2,233	44	1,967
Haryana	1,923	20	971

## CAPSULE

### RML HOSP: REFRIGERATED CONTAINER FOR BODIES

**New Delhi:** The Centre-run RML hospital here has procured a refrigerated container to store bodies in view of coronavirus fatalities as its morgue is full, official sources said.

### MORE THAN PREPARED TO DEAL WITH VIRUS: CM

**New Delhi:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday asserted that his Government is several steps ahead of the coronavirus and is more than prepared to deal with it.

### MERCURY IN CHECK WITH SCATTERED RAIN

**New Delhi:** There was relief for people from scorching heat as showers in several states in the north and west kept the mercury below normal levels on Saturday, but five people were killed in UP in rain-related incidents. According to the IMD, Wardha (Vidarbha) recorded the highest temperature in the country at 42.2 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperatures recorded on Friday was 45.4 degrees Celsius at Chandrapura in Maharashtra's Vidarbha.



**HOMETHEATRE**

# Gritty thriller straight from hell

**PAATAL LOK**  
Amazon Prime Web Series  
9 episodes  
\*ing: Jaideep Ahlawat, Neeraj Kabi and others  
Produced by: Anushka Sharma  
Rated: 9/10

I learnt four things by watching the Amazon Prime thriller series *Paatal Lok*. One, online entertainment is deeper, faster and more engaging than mere cinema. Two, content is packaged and sold here without the wing clipper called funds and censorship and is, thus, delectably raw yet refined. Three, viewers who have *en masse* switched to online entertainment, are going to stay there even after lockdown, thanks to the depth and nuance provided to them. Four, and most importantly, web series can be a good platform to enrich your glossary of Hindi abuses. Having said this, the real value of online entertainment lies in Anushka Sharma's production *Paatal Lok* which flowers on a story that's grounded, real and tense. The thriller engages you with acumen, earthiness and pace, leading you from episode to episode on a binge prescription. Jaideep Ahlawat is the quintessential cop disillusioned with a system which has sidelined him to the noxious peripheries of hell, which he calls Paatal Lok, a world from where very many police procedurals have emanated. *Paatal Lok* opens with many questions and the best thing about it is that through all its nine episodes, it manages to dodge the



answers, instead, throwing intrigue, drama and, of course, wholesome *gaalis* at you, making you finally admit that the series does have the licence to abuse making it situationally the need of the hour. Ahlawat as an out of sorts cop, lands with a case of a lifetime to salvage his botched-up reputation. He does the groundwork like the seasoned, low-ranked inspector that he is despite the rust that has gathered on his starless uniform over years of inactivity. A TV journalist star is about to be shot before the gang is busted by Crime Branch, never mind, after an aborted mission. Things, however, are not a wee bit simple as they look. The onion layering of the plot gives viewers a time of their nail-biting life. And,

one gets to thank high heavens that unlike most web series, this one does not throw a Season 2 at you. A complete, gritty police department thriller is just what the doctor, or should we say, the Prime Minister, prescribed for a healthy time for home quarantine. The other good thing about the series is that it tugs at you with a reality ridden narrative which makes you understand the underbelly of police-criminal-political connection that will never die, only come dressed in new garbs to what they call oil the system. The acting, plot, story, ambience, dialogue — all collude to make *Paatal Lok* a talking point for viewers, starved of impactful content.

## Fun take on lockdown

**METRO PARK QUARANTINE EDITION**  
Eros Now  
5 episodes  
\*ing: Ranvir Shorey, Purbi Joshi, Omi Vaidya, Vega Tamotia, Pitobhosh Tripathy  
Rated: 6/10

In this lockdown, we hear of crazy and funny things that people are doing to keep the blues away. Taking a leaf out of that, OTT platforms are coming up with Originals that will tickle the funny bone. The latest is *Metro Park Quarantine Edition*. There are several things that work here. First, each episode is between five to 10 minutes. One can watch these while taking a break in-between work or to refresh the mind if one is studying for an entrance exam. Second, it gives a sneak peek into crazy and funny things that people are doing. There is an episode where the lady of the house coaxes her son to be part of a haircut experiment by putting a steel bowl on the head to get the shape correct. Or a scene where a group of men, via webinar, have a party and tell each their lockdown problems and why they have their wives' display picture. The edition is an extension of the *Metro Park* series about an Indian Gujarati family — Payal and Kalpesh Patel and their children, living in Metro Park in America. In the Quarantine edition, there is drama and lots of hilarious situations that find a connect with what people are



doing in real life. Take the case of Kanan (Omi Vaidya) who in order to protect himself from the Coronavirus picks his mail with a pair of tongs and then microwaves them to kill the virus. Or the time when he self-quarantines himself in a room because he suspects he is COVID-19 positive and wants to protect himself. The director and editor need to be applauded. Each of the actors were home bound and shot their pieces individually and nowhere does it give the impression that Vaidya is in Washington DC, Rnvir Shorey in Mumbai, Purbi Joshi in LA, California and Vega Tamotia in Delhi. The mini-series couldn't have come at a better time, typically when is looking at creative ways to come up with ideas on a tight budget. Kudos to the actors for their performance given the restriction. A big pat on the back to family members who turned directors for the series. The camera work is bound to be simple but the performance catches attention. Shorey and Joshi are a delight as in Vaidya and his paranoia relate to the Coronavirus. Though the episodes are entertaining they come with a message on how there is need to be well-informed and not believe everything that is shared on social media platforms. A fun way to spend one's *chutti* given the lockdown and no stopping the rising number of cases. Stay home, stay entertained. — Shalini Saksena

# 'Fame is not my goal, acting is'

SHIVIN NARANG shot to fame after playing Ranvijay Singh in Ek Veer Ki Ardaas...Veera. The actor speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA how he recently met with an accident and had to undergo a surgery, how much fun he had doing a music video and what he loves watching

■ **Hope all good with your hand and you are doing better.**  
Yes, all good. I am much better. It has been three weeks since the accident. The pain is still there but bearable now. It will take time, around two months before all is back to normal; I cut my tendons. It was such a freak thing and happened in a fraction of a second. I slipped and I tried to break my fall and fell on a glass top table. Though I knew that the injury was serious I was calm and drove myself to the hospital. ■ **Did playing Ranvijay Sampooran Singh propel you to stardom?**  
Initially, when I started my first show, *Suvreen Guggal-Topper of The Year*, I wasn't aware of how things worked. I am from Delhi, didn't know how the industry worked and was entering a new world. It was the love for my craft that made me stand where I was at that time. The good was that it was a hit show and realised that people liked my work. Then came Ranvijay. The kind of craze and how people connected with me as the character and the series was totally different. I got to see first-hand mass following. It was a changing experience. This show made my image — that I was more than a pretty face and could act. ■ **What made you take to acting?**

There was attraction towards cinema and acting like any other person. But I knew that fame was never the trajectory. I was not the kind who wanted to do a reality show to get recognition. I was attracted to the world of acting and filmmaking. I took to modeling and got the offer doing a TV. When I heard the script and took it up to look how things worked. I gave my 100 per cent to the show. My journey was a fairytale. First day in Mumbai and first day of shoot. ■ **Was it tough for a Delhi boy to be in Mumbai?**  
It was tough. Taking a decision to leave Delhi and go to a new city from where one



had got a call not knowing if it was hoax or I was truly selected for a TV show. I was in college and my parents are a working class. There were many questions but I took a risk and here I am. ■ **How did you come on board for Khatron Ke Khiladi 10?**  
I never did it because of the name. It was due to what the show represents. It has been eight years since I have been in this

industry and it had been coming my way again and again. This time I asked myself it was time to face what was holding me back and face my fear and took it up. I haven't taken it up to make a name for myself but to test myself and how much I can push myself. It was not taken up to entertain anybody. ■ **You have also done a music video. How much fun was it?**

It was definitely a different experience. From the very beginning I never restricted myself to a medium. Acting is acting. I am asked if I am interested in TV or films. I have done three music videos till now. I am happy to explore myself and happy with my choices. ■ **Usually films are the endgame. Is it the same for you?**  
For me, it is always the work. I believe we are infinite but the world tries to limit us by giving you titles. It has always been goal to do diverse work. I have done ads, music videos, TV shows and a film as well on Hotstar. ■ **People watch you in series. What do you watch?**

After work, I of course don't watch my own shows. I watch whatever looks promising and pick up stuff as an audience rather than to critique it. I watch regional show as well. I try to be neutral and not dissect it. I love to see English shows since you learn from them. ■ **Your best fan moment.**  
There have been so many. Over time, you take each fan moment in your stride and thank God for putting me there. You take it as a gesture of kindness and get a sense of gratitude. Wherever I go, whether in India or abroad, I get so much love. I have even done a show in Indonesia, the fans are so nice and good to you. I got so many messages enquiring after this injury. It was overwhelming. This makes me work harder towards my craft. ■ **What was your international project about?**

It was a TV show. I was offered this project because *Veera* was such a hit in Indonesia. It was fun to do and a different experience.

# OF EPIC PROPORTIONS

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with actors and industry experts about what makes mythological shows popular

Empty roads and people glued in front of their TV sets was a common sight in almost all parts of the country when Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan was aired on DD back in 1987. Despite being a Sunday people would be up early and bathe. After all, they were about to see Lord Ram come alive. In fact, many people would not eat till after the episode ended since they had to do *puja* and eat *prasad* before starting their day. Such was the craze for the show that over the years almost every channel since then has run a mythological show. For many it is a recollection of the takes that they had heard from their grandparents, for others it is the back story to a story and for some others it is the best way for the kids to know more about their culture, Gods and Goddesses.

Tarun Khanna who has played Lord Shiva eight times and is currently seen as Mahadev in *Devi Aadi Parashakti* on Dangal TV tells you that this generation doesn't know much about our history. "Ram and Krishna, I believe were real people. That is why we celebrate Diwali. These are true events but there is no one written record. There are so many versions of Ramayan. When you don't know your history and you want to know about it, these programmes in the name of mythology shows give you a sneak peek of the past, people watch them because they want to stay connected to their roots. In this mythology are their Gods — Vishnu and his *avatars* and Shiva. People want to watch them again and again and the stories of their manifestations," Khanna explains.

Another attraction is to see how an actor will play a certain character and how the makers will interpret the era. "When I tell you a story, there is some part in that story where the person will have his own interpretation while narrating it. These alternations make things interesting. People want to know how the makers and the actors would play it on the screen," Khanna says. Vishal Karwal, who plays Lord Krishna in *Dwarkadheesh-Bhagwan Shri*



*Krishna* that airs on Dangal TV says that the when he used to watch TV back in the 90s, the shows were so good and progressive. But since the 2000s the content has been somewhat regressive. "There are not many shows that are happy and one can learn from them. But from mythological shows, one can learn life lessons and are a visual treat too. There is so much positivity in them," he says.

Arpit Machhar, head of marketing, Enterr10 Television Network tells you that historically, mythological shows especially Ramayan has always had a strong appeal with viewers. "Re-runs of some popular mythological and costume drama shows like *Chandragupt Maurya*, *Mahima Shantidev Ki* and *Dwarkadheesh*, *Devi Aadi Parashakti* were already being broadcasted before the lockdown. The re-run of 2008 Ramayan during the lockdown was soon extended to one hour a day because of viewership interest. Within the first week itself, the slot grew by 45 per cent indicating enthusiasm. We have understood that mythological content appeals to viewers and they find a connect with these shows," Machhar says.

One is told that producing a mythological show is a very different ballgame as compared to regular fictional shows since the audience has a preconceived notion about the costumes of the characters, the look and feel of the sets and it is the makers responsibility to stand up to their



expectations. "The mythological stories tend to have a lot of versions in different parts of the country and people are also sensitive about it. Hence, the research becomes the most important part of the whole process. Additionally, the grandeur of a period drama is at a different level, in terms of set size, location, costumes, number of artists and the post production team involved," he tells you. There is a reason why many of the mythological stories revolve around Ramayan, Mahabharat or on Shiv and Krishna. "These are the most common stories that people have heard at least once. The audience tends to resonate more with them," Machhar tells you. Ishita Ganguly who plays Mahakali/Goddess Uma/Parvati in *Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishno Devi-Kahani Mata Rani Ki* that airs on Star Bharat tells you that the reason why she chose to be part of mythological shows is because our epics have so much to tell and very few people know everything about our

Gods and Goddesses. "I am from Kolkata and devout of Ma Kali. The role is so challenging and I get to play many shades. The drama, colours and costumes come alive so beautifully that it attracted me to the show," Ganguly says. She agrees that the same holds true for the audience too. "The characters in mythological shows are larger than life, they are Gods and Goddesses. It is not just the dialogues but the VFX, the research that goes into costumes and character, it takes time to flesh these out. Also, for the audience to see a God whom they pray to come alive, is a pull. For the children, such shows are the perfect way to know about our mythology since both parents are working and live in nuclear families. The idea of listening to stories from grandparents is a thing of the past. Such shows are not only entertaining because there is a story behind a story but you get to learn life lessons as well," Ganguly tells you. Sha points out a case. "Take the *Jag Jaanani*. ... We talk about woman empowerment. Maha Kali is the perfect roop that talks about how a strong energy can kill negativity and false ego. When you watch such shows, it gives out a message to women that they can be strong and positive. Men also need to realise this. As a woman, if I can make another woman become strong, I feel obliged that I got to play this role," Ganguly says.

## Plan Your Stay At Home Week

There is a good news for all the JK Rowling fans, especially the young ones. Gear up to treat your eyes and mind with the latest fairy tale — *The Ickabog*. Rowling started writing the story during the Wizarding World series but then decided to take a step back from launching children's story books. The draft was lying in her attic for years and it is only during the Coronavirus-led lockdown that she decided to make the story available online for free at <https://www.theickabog.com/king-fred-the-fearless/>. Till date, eight chapters have been published online and Rowling will continue to do so for a few more weeks. The first chapter of the story reads King Fred The Fearless which is followed by The Ickabog, Death of a Seamstress, The Quiet House, Daisy Dovetail and others. During these extended summer vacations children can have a gala time while reading Rowling's fun fairytale, a chapter every week.



to create one of the most highly-anticipated films in Walt Disney Animation Studios' near-century of moviemaking. For the first time, cameras were there to capture an eye-opening -and at times jaw-dropping - view of the challenges and the breakthroughs, the artistry, creativity and the complexity of creating the #1 animated feature of all time. Movies on Disney+ Hotstar Premium. **Jojo Rabbit (June 2):** Acclaimed writer/director Taika Waititi brings his signature humor and pathos to Jojo Rabbit, a World War II satire that follows a lonely German boy whose world view is turned upside down when he discovers his single mother is hiding a young Jewish girl in her attic.

**Terminator: Dark Fate (Jun 16):** Decades after Sarah Connor prevented Judgment Day, a lethal new Terminator is sent to eliminate the future leader of the resistance. In a fight to save mankind, battle-hardened Sarah Connor teams up with an unexpected ally and an enhanced super soldier to stop the deadliest Terminator yet. Humanity's fate hangs in the balance in this action-packed thrill ride **Ford vs Ferrari (June 30):** Academy Award® Winners Matt Damon and Christian Bale star in FORD v FERRARI, based on the true story of visionary American car designer Carroll Shelby (Damon) and fearless British-born driver Ken Miles (Bale), who together build a revolutionary race car for Ford Motor Company and take on the dominating race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966.



# Nothing to worry, we are steps ahead of corona: CM

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Ensuring “robust” health infra amid rising novel coronavirus cases in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that his Government is four steps ahead of corona.

Emphasising that country cannot be in permanent lockdown, Kejriwal said Delhi is witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases, we accept it. But there is nothing to worry about, I

assure you that we are fully prepared. We cannot be in a permanent lockdown. Sharing status of covid care hospitals, he, said that we have arranged 2,100 more beds in last one week. Today we have 6,600 beds of which 2,100 are occupied. We will have 9,500 beds for Covid-19 patients by June 5.”

While in some cases, patients are least aware about covid care hospitals and availability of beds equipped with

oxygen, the state administration is testing an app in which hospitals and beds related information can be read by the users.

The Delhi Government will launch this app on Monday, Kejriwal announced.

Surprisingly, as per the state health department, In 15 days, cases went up by 8,500 but only 500 people were admitted to hospitals however many patients recovered in home isolation.



“Only 2,100 patients out of over 17,000 Corona positive

cases in hospitals,” Kejriwal said.

Notably, Delhi has 17,386 Coronavirus cases and 398 people have succumbed to the disease. “There has been a surge in Corona cases in Delhi in the last few days, this is a matter of worry but there is no need to panic. Being the Chief Minister of the people of Delhi, I want to assure you that we are 4 steps ahead of Corona, and we are making arrangements way more than

what is required for Delhi to fight against Corona.”

He said that it will be worrisome for him if people have to search for beds, adequate health infrastructure, and facilities, oxygen, etc. If these facilities remain inadequate, it will lead to an increase in the death rate.

Explaining Delhi government’s health - infra work, Kejriwal said, Delhi government hospitals earlier had 2500 beds, which will now be

increased to a total of 4600 beds by June 5. In the central government hospitals, we had 2329 beds earlier which have now reduced to 2229 beds.

“Owing to the huge demand for beds in private hospitals, the beds have been increased from 677 beds in private hospitals to a total of 2677 beds, which will further increase to 3677 beds by June 5.” “A lot of people want to be treated in private hospitals, but just like our government

schools, even Delhi government hospitals will provide you with the best of the facilities,” he added.

While corona cases has been doubled in last 15 days as on May 14, Delhi had 8500 cases. According to health officials, there has been a two-fold surge in the cases with 17000 cases in Delhi.

There were 1600 patients in the hospitals in Delhi, and, there are 2100 patients in the hospitals till Saturday.

## 2 juveniles steal mobiles for playing PUBG, apprehended

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has apprehended two juveniles on Saturday for stealing mobiles from a shop in south Delhi’s Neb Sarai area. Police said they wanted to fulfill their addiction to PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds (PUBG) game following which they took this step.

Police recovered 19 mobiles, two tablets, one ludo, chess board and four batteries from their possession.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the DCP, South district, on Friday, police received information regarding a theft in a shop by breaking its shutter in Raju Park, Neb Sarai.

“Complainant Vikas Singh told police that on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, some unknown persons broke open the shutter of his shop and had stolen Rs 2,000, some mobile phones, ludos and some other items,” said the DCP.

“During investigation, police analysed the CCTV footage of the area. On Saturday, police got a tip-off, following which a trap was laid and one juvenile was apprehended from near Shiv Mandir, Shiv Park,” said DCP.

## 3 more NDMC staffers test +ve, total reaches 20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With three more staffers at New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) testing positive for coronavirus, the total number of staff infected with virus reached to 20. Out of these cases, 17 staff tested positive in last two days.

A senior NDMC official said that one junior engineer, one beldar and one RMR employees are found covid19 positive on Sunday.

“As per the contact tracing list, 17 persons found at high risk and advised for testing with isolate themselves. One director, two deputy director, 12 clerical staff, one driver and one peon found to have developed symptoms,” he added. The civic body had sealed the entire building on Thursday after six Covid positive cases reported in a single day.

The official said that civil engineering department (building maintenance division) and public health department are carrying out an extensive disinfection drive in Palika Kendra and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place offices. This disinfection drive will continued carry out for three times a day for next two days,” he said.

## Ensure better coordination for movement of migrants: Rly to State Govts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Railway Ministry has requested State Governments to ensure proper planning and coordination about Shramik Trains and checked that projected demand for movement of stranded persons by rail mode is well chalked out and determined.

A senior railways official said that “Shramik Specials” are running on some of the most densely trafficked corridors which carry essential freight like coal for power plants, food grain, fertilizer, cement, etc. “Railways have maintained a

high level of loading of commodities to ensure that the essential supply line is maintained. Railways also ran a large number of time-tabled parcel trains to deliver agri produce, medicine and other essential items during this period,” he added.

While Railways have been able to place rakes on demand by States for “Shramik Specials”, there have been several instances where the passengers have not been brought to the station and notified trains have been cancelled. Some of the States have also not been giving consent to the sending

States, preventing transportation of a large number of migrant labour for those States.

Under the orders issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) dated 01.05.2020 and 19.05.2020, Indian Railways (IR) have been operating Shramik Special Trains for movement of stranded persons, in coordination with the state governments, he said, adding that more than 4000 Shramik Special services have been operated by Indian Railways to transport approximately 54 lakh stranded persons to their destination states, observing the guidelines and



the protocols given by Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOH&FW).

The official further said that railways have been able to accommodate almost all the requests received from the

sending States till date. Many states have now reduced their requirements indicating that the task is nearing completion.

It may be noted that nearly 75 per cent of the trains were bound for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and most of the balance trains were also headed towards Eastern India. Railways have also come forward to help several State Governments to meet the requirement of Intra-state movement of people by organizing such trains at their request.

The Supreme Court of India, in its order dated 28th May 2020, has also issued

interim directions for mitigating the difficulties faced by the migrant workers and has desired that an estimated time period and the plan for transportation of all stranded workers be intimated.

According to a letter from the Ministry to the States, while the nominated Nodal Officers of the Railways have been interacting on this matter with the states and getting a rough estimate on requirement of trains, it is necessary to get an objective estimate of the requirements of Shramik Special Trains. The Ministry has emphasised that states must

indicate the projected number of Shramik Special Trains required for the residual movement of stranded persons from the state along with the tentative schedule for movement of these trains through an official communication. The Indian Railways will schedule trains immediately based on the requirement projected by State Governments/UTs in consultation with the nodal officers of States/UTs.

Indian Railways has also assured that it will provide additional Shramik Special trains for any requirement given in future also.

## Minor found dead with head crushed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A minor was found dead with his head smashed on Saturday in northeast Delhi’s Gokalpuri area.

Police said that the minor was drug addict and used to remain out of his house for several days.

The victim has been identified as Ishu (10), a resident of Ashok Vihar, Loni.

According to Ved Prakash Surya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northeast district, police received a police control room (PCR) call on Saturday at 8.46 AM wherein it was mentioned that a body of a 10 to 12 year-old boy was lying at H Block, Ganga Vihar.

“Acting on the call a police team reached the spot and found the body was lying in garbage and the boy face was smashed with heavy stone,” said the DCP.

“Later, the victim was identified as Ishu by his brother Nanhe. Nanhe told police that his brother was drug addict and use to roam around with the boys of Gokalpuri,” said the DCP.

“The body was send to the mortuary. During initial investigation it was revealed that the boy used to roam in the area and remain out of his house for many days. Nanhe said that he was absconding from past seven days,” said the DCP adding that a case has been registered and investigation is in progress.



## Dear Shopkeepers and Hawkers... Do you know?

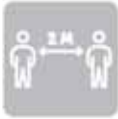
After this long period of closure you should not worry about restarting your shops and handcarts. Your problems of capital will be solved and burden of interest will be eased.

- Rs. 1500 crore interest subvention for small business and cottage industries has been announced under Mudra Shishu loan. Under this scheme beneficiaries can avail interest benefit of 2% for a year.
- A Rs. 5,000 crore package has been announced for the roadside hawkers. Under this 50 lakh street vendors can avail loan upto Rs. 10,000. Contact any Nationalized Bank/Co-operative Bank/RRB/NBFC/MFI to avail the benefit.

Your Win is Nation's Victory



“ Let us pledge to make Aatmanirbhar Bharat (A self-reliant India) ”  
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



For more information, visit - [transformingindia.mygov.in/aatmanirbharbharat](https://transformingindia.mygov.in/aatmanirbharbharat)

## 1,163 fresh cases, total over 18K; 416 die

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A record single-day spike of 1,163 fresh cases took the Covid-19 tally in Delhi to over 18,000 on Saturday and the death toll due to the disease mounted to 416, authorities said.

The previous daily high in fresh cases — 1,106 — was recorded on May 29. This is the second consecutive day in Delhi when over 1,100 Covid-19 cases have been reported.

In a bulletin issued on Saturday, the Delhi Health Department said the death toll from coronavirus infection has risen to 416, and the total number of cases mounted to 18,549.

It added the cumulative death figures refers to fatalities where primary cause of death was found to be Covid-19, as per the report of the Death Audit Committee on the basis of case sheets received from various hospitals.

On Friday, the total number of cases stood at 17,386 including 398 deaths.



Spitting, smoking in public punishable offence in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major policy initiative to prevent consumption of tobacco, supari, pan-masala, gutkha and other tobacco substances, the Maharashtra Government on Saturday made spitting and smoking at public places an offence which will be liable for both punishment and fine.

In a Government Resolution issued under the Mumbai Police Act, first instance of spitting and smoking in public places will be liable to a fine of ₹1,000 and 1 day of public service. The second instance of spitting/smoking by the same person will be liable to a fine of ₹3,000 and 3 days of public service. And the third instance will be liable to ₹5,000 fine and 5 days of public service.

According to the various provisions under the Indian Penal Code, a punishment of up to 6 months, 2 years and fine or both can be asked to serve.

1 YR IN OFFICE OF MODI GOVT 2.0 CONG: 1ST YEAR OF DISAPPOINTMENT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday described the first year of the Modi Government as a “year of disappointment, disastrous management and diabolical pain.”

Congress leader KC Venugopal said the six years of the Modi dispensation have seen fraying of bonds of empathy, fraternity and brotherhood with increase in acts of communal and sectarian violence.

Party’s chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said that at the end of six years, it appears the Modi Government is at war with its people and is inflicting wounds on them, instead of healing them. “It is inflicting wounds on Mother India,” he said.

“This Government is try-

ing to fill coffers of the select rich and is inflicting pain on the poor,” Surjewala said.

On the BJP’s charge of the Congress playing politics over the Covid-19 crisis, Venugopal said the Opposition party did not indulge in any politics and gave suggestions instead.

“Being a responsible opposition, it is our duty to raise the problems faced by the common people. As Opposition, we highlighted the failures of the Government,” he said.

Venugopal said the Government “is totally insensitive” to the plight of migrant labourers and farmers.

Surjewala also demanded that a judicial session of Parliament be convened immediately to discuss pressing issues and the due process be set in motion for holding of meetings of various parliamentary committees.

BJP: It is year of accomplishments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadra on Saturday applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government for completing the first year of its second consecutive tenure and called it a year of “accomplishment with unimaginable challenges” saying that a “cultural change” in political arena is very much visible with the BJP dispensation showing its capacity to take bold decisions unlike the paralysis reflected during the Congress regimes.

He said Prime Minister’s leadership has been acknowledged globally and in the time of global pandemic, he has led the country with a “timely lockdown” and situation has been “stabilised.”

“This has been a year of accomplishments and we have also faced unimaginable challenges,” BJP president said addressing a digital Press conference from BJP headquarters.

Gene shuffling across bats, pangolin led to virus: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the precise origin of SARS-CoV-2, which has caused havoc across the world, remains a mystery, researchers have found evidence that a combination of genetic shuffling and evolutionary selection of near-identical genetic sequences among specific bat and pangolin coronaviruses may have led to the evolution of the deadly virus and its introduction into humans.

The study is published in the peer-reviewed journal Science Advances.

The team led by Duke University in North Carolina showed that the virus’ entire receptor binding motif (RBM), a component that plays a key role in viral entry into host cells, was introduced through recombination with pangolin coronaviruses.

Understanding the origins of SARS-CoV-2 is critical for deterring future zoonosis, discovering new drugs, and developing a vaccine.

“We show evidence of strong purifying selection



around the receptor-binding motif (RBM) in the spike and other genes among bat, pangolin, and human coronaviruses, suggesting similar evolutionary constraints in different host species,” explained Xiaojun Li, the lead researcher from Duke University.

“We also demonstrate that SARS-CoV-2’s entire RBM was introduced through recombination with coronaviruses from pangolins, possibly a critical step in the evolution of SARS-CoV-2’s ability to infect humans,” he added.

The study joins ongoing efforts to identify the source of the virus that causes Covid-19.

“Proximity of different species in a wet market setting, for example, may increase the potential for cross-species spillover infections, by enabling recombination between more distant coronaviruses and the emergence of mutations,” the authors wrote.

By analyzing 43 complete

genome sequences from three strains of SARS-CoV-2-like coronaviruses from bats and pangolins, Li and colleagues delineated which strains were most and least similar to the novel coronavirus, with a special focus on genes related to the virus’ spike protein complex, - a critical component that facilitates viral entry into host cells.

They found evidence of strong evolutionary selection around the RBM among the bat, pangolin, and human coronaviruses they studied.

Amino acid sequences from these viruses and SARS-CoV-2 were identical or nearly identical in the regions adjacent to the RBM, suggesting that common evolutionary mechanisms shaped these distinct viral strains.

Together, evolutionary selection and frequent recombination among coronaviruses from bats, pangolins, and humans may have allowed the closely related viruses to readily jump between species, leading to the introduction of SARS-CoV-2 in humans, said the study.

Do sero-survey in high-risk populations to assess exposure to Covid: ICMR to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ICMR has advised the States to conduct sero-survey to measure coronavirus exposure in the population using IgG ELISA Test. The sero-surveys help to understand the proportion of population exposed to the virus infection including asymptomatic individuals.

Depending upon the level of sero-prevalence of infection, appropriate public health interventions can be planned and implemented for prevention and control of the disease.

Periodic sero-surveys are useful to guide the policy makers, said the ICMR in a statement here.

IgG antibodies generally start appearing after two weeks of onset of infection, once the individual has recovered after infection and last for several months.

Art 370...

From Page 1

“The decision on Article 370 furthered the spirit of national unity and integration. The Ram Mandir judgment, delivered unanimously by the Supreme Court, brought an amicable end to a debate persisting for centuries. The barbaric practice of Triple Talaq has been confined to the dustbin of history. The amendment to the Citizenship Act was an expression of India’s compassion and spirit of inclusiveness,” he said.

Remembering BJP’s second successive victory in 2019, Modi said “this day last year began a golden chapter in the history of Indian democracy. It was after several decades that the people of the country voted back a full-term Government with a full majority”.

Through the 2014 to 2019, he said back in 2014, the nation saw “how the administrative apparatus broke itself free of the status quo and from the swamp of corruption as well as mis-governance.”

Modi said from 2014 to 2019, India’s stature rose signif-

icantly, the dignity of the poor was enhanced and the nation achieved financial inclusion, free gas and electricity connections, total sanitation coverage, and made progress towards ensuring “Housing for All”.

“India demonstrated its mettle through the surgical strike and air strike. At the same time, decades-old demands such as OROP, One Nation One Tax and better MSP for farmers were fulfilled,” he said.

The Prime Minister said in 2019, the people of India voted not merely for continuity but also “with a dream - of taking India to new heights. A dream of making India a global leader”.

In his second term, he cited the creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff as a long pending reform that has improved coordination among the Armed forces. At the same time, India has stepped up preparations for Mission ‘Gaganyaan’, he said.

Modi said, “PM Kisan Samman Nidhi” now includes all farmers. In just one year, more than Rs 72,000 crore has been deposited in the accounts of over 9 crore 50 lakh farmers. The Jal Jeevan Mission will ensure supply of potable drink-

ing water through piped connections to over 15 crore rural households.

A huge campaign of free vaccination is being conducted for better health of our 50 crore livestock”.

Again focussing on the coronavirus in his address, the Prime Minister said India has “surprised” the world with its resolve to tide over the crisis and is the need of the hour that “we must become self-reliant. We have to move forward based on our own abilities, in our own way, and there is only one way to do it -Aatmanirbhar Bharat or Self-reliant India”.

The recent Rs 20 lakh crore package given for ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’, he said is a major step in this direction.

“This initiative will usher in a new era of opportunities for every Indian, be it our farmers, workers, small entrepreneurs or youth associated with start ups. The fragrance of Indian soil along with the sweat, hard work and talent of our workers will create products that will reduce India’s dependence on imports and will move towards self-reliance”, Modi said who signed off as “Pradhan sevak”.

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Catch them young! The World Health Organization (WHO) on World No Tobacco Day on Sunday is reaching out to Generation Z — the kids and school students to make them aware and alert about the nefarious tactics adopted by the tobacco lobby to lure them to their nicotine and tobacco products.

It will launch school kits exposing the tactics such as parties and concerts hosted by

WHO to reach out to Gen Z!

the tobacco and related industries, e-cigarette flavours that attract youth like bubble-gum and candy, e-cigarette representatives presenting in schools, and product placement in popular youth streaming shows.

The kit for school students aged 13-17 has a set of classroom activities including one that puts the students in the shoes of the tobacco industry to make them aware of how the industry tries to manipulate them into using deadly

products.

It also includes an educational video, myth-buster quiz, and homework assignments.

The focus of World No Tobacco Day, this year, is “protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use”. Health experts say that industry eye children in a bid to replace the eight million people that its products kill every year.

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director,

WHO Regional Office for the South-East Asia (WHO SEARO) in her message on the occasion advised the countries of the South-East Asia Region that schools can raise awareness of the dangers of initiating nicotine and tobacco use by providing information resources and making their campuses tobacco and ENDS free.

“Youth groups can organise local events to engage and educate young people on the many harms of tobacco use,

To make them aware, alert about nefarious tactics adopted by tobacco lobby to lure them to their nicotine, tobacco products

including its impact on personal finances,” she said.

Dr Jagdish Kaur, Regional Adviser, Tobacco Free Initiative (WHO SEARO) added protecting youth from tobacco use, new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products and the tactics of tobacco industry is of paramount importance for a tobacco free generation.

According to the WHO, every year the tobacco industry invests more than USD 9 billion to advertise its products.

SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGATION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to Short-terminate/Short-originate the Train No. 02801/02802 Puri-New Delhi-Puri Rajdhani Special Train w.e.f. 01.06.2020 as under :-

SHORT TERMINATION/ORIGATION/PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate at / originate from	Train Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date from originating station
02801 Puri-New Delhi (Daily) Rajdhani Special	From Bhubaneswar	Puri-Bhubaneswar	01.06.2020
02802 New Delhi-Puri (Daily) Rajdhani Special	At Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar-Puri	03.06.2020

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Integrated Helpline No. 139

Security Helpline No. 182

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHHATARPUR (M.P.)

N.I.T. No./1768/e-tendering/2020 Date: 29.05.2020

Notice Inviting e-Tenders. (III Call)

Online percentage rate bids for the following work are invited from registered Contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount (Rs. in lakh)	EMD Amount	Cost of Bid Document
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2020 UAD 91386-1	Extension of Culvert (08 No.) Situated at Panna Road and Construction of Center Verge from Panna Naka to Railway Station	1,72,54,559.00	86,500.00	12500.00

Note:- Social Organizations having experience of undertaking similar work can also participate in this tender

- Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT & Other document on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/> (Department Name: “Urban Development Department)
- The Bid Document can be purchased Only Online Form 10:30 (Time) 30.05.2020 (Date) to 17:30 (Time) 22.06.2020 (Date)
- The Bid Document can be submission online last date 17:30 (Time) 22.06.2020 (Date) and Physical Submission last date 15:30 (Time) 23.06.2020 (Date).
- Envelope open/ Bid Open 24.06.2020 (Date) 11.00 (Time).
- Amendments to NIT, if Any would be published on website only and not in newspaper.

Chief Municipal Officer  
Nagar Palika Parishad  
Chhatarpur (M.P.)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No. AGRA/ELE/OP/TENDER/2019/15 Date: 27.05.2020

E- TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Electrical engineer (TRD), North Central Railway, Agra, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form the details of the tenders are as under:

Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)
AGRA/ELE/OP/TENDER/2019/15	Mechanized washing and pressing of linen of Running Room Agra Cantt & Idgah for Two years	₹ 30,40,102.25	₹ 60,800/-	₹ 3,540

Completion Period (in months):- 24 months. Date of opening of tender:- 19.06.2020. NOTE:- (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available on website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) up to 15.00 hrs. on 19.06.2020 the due date of tender opening. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act -2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) This tender notice have also been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). (6) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (7) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.

North central railways

[www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)

railway northcentral@CPNCR

578/20 (A)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

Railway passengers are hereby informed that the details related to passengers travelling by the Special Trains are being shared with the respective State Governments.

Thus all the passengers are advised to de-board only at their designated stations for which they have purchased the tickets and not before or after. Any violation of this advisory affects the efforts of the State & Central Governments in mitigating the pandemic.

Security Helpline No. 182 | Integrated Helpline No. 139

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Delhi-Moscow AI flight called back...

From Page 1

Sources in Air India said the aircraft landed back in Delhi around 12:45 pm, and was deep-cleaned and sanitised as per protocol. The infected pilot and the rest of the crew have been quarantined.

“Air India Saturday morning recalled its aircraft operating Delhi-Moscow without passengers immediately when it was noticed that one of the cockpit crew had tested positive in the pre-flight Covid-19 test,” the airline said in a statement. “On return, immediately after landing, all cockpit and cabin crew have been tested and all laid down medical precautions are being taken to ensure their health and safety.

Another aircraft has taken off today to operate the Vande Bharat flight for Moscow to Delhi,” Air India said.

The aircraft without pas-

sengers took off on Saturday morning. Over two hours into the flight, another person double-checking the crew test result that a pilot who had tested positive was mistakenly cleared for the Moscow flight. Air India then took a conscious call, instead of trying to cover it up, to call the aircraft back from over Uzbekistan to Delhi.

Before every flight, it is an SOP to conduct Covid tests of the operating crew. Only when the tests are negative, are they given clearance to board the aircraft. It was at this stage that the mistake was made and the pilot’s report was ‘misread’. Air India will be sending another aircraft to Moscow later this day.

On Friday, Air India announced additional flights between June 4 and 6 to bring back Indians stranded abroad amid the coronavirus pandemic. The flights will evacuate Indians from the US, UK, Germany, South Korea, New Zealand, and Sweden.

From Page 1

There is no mandatory rule for downloading controversial Aarogya Setu App and the MHA said it as an only advisable one.

The MHA insisted for social distancing with minimum distance of 6 feet in public places. Gathering for marriages is limited to 50 only and 20 persons are allowed for funerals. Consumption of liquor, smoking and chewing pan in public places are continued to be banned.

The guidelines also asked companies for staggering of working or business hours and frequent sanitisation and ensure social distancing on office premises.

From Page 1

Office of the Executive Engineer Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh, Jal Nigam R-1, Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chauraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002

Short Term E-Tender Notice No. 511/Nivida/103 Dtd. 27-05-2020

Online percentage rate short term e-tender for “Painting, numbering and warning on viaduct from chainage 12.60Km to chainage 14.60Km under 200 cusec Delhi Supply Maintenance Scheme” is hereby invited in two bid system on behalf of M.D., U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 05-06-2020. Interested contractors may view & download and upload their bids, fully filled online latest by 18-06-2020 up to 01.30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum technical Bid (Pre-Qualification Bid) of E-tender shall be opened on 18-06-2020 at 03.30 P.M.





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# 200 SPECIAL TRAINS TO RUN ACROSS THE COUNTRY STARTING JUNE 1, 2020

These services will be in addition to Shramik Special Trains



Tickets can be booked on both online (IRCTC website and Mobile App) and offline mediums (PRS counters, ticketing agents, CSC etc.)

## General Instructions for Passengers

Only passengers with confirmed/RAC tickets shall be allowed to enter the Railway Station and board the train

Passengers to reach station at least 90 minutes in advance

No catering charges shall be included in the fare

No linen, blankets and curtains shall be provided inside the train

All passengers must wear face covers/masks from entry to exit at railway stations and during travel

All passengers must download Aarogya Setu App, and strictly adhere to social distancing norms during travel

Train No. (Onward/Return)	From	To	Train Name	Frequency	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability (Onward)	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability
01019/20	Mumbai CST	Bhubaneswar	Konark Express	Daily	05-June	03-June
01061/62	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Darbhangha	Darbhangha Express	Daily	24-June	03-June
01071/72	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Varanasi	Kamayani Express	Daily	24-June	03-June
01093/94	Mumbai CST	Varanasi	Mahanagri Express	Daily	22-June	02-June
01139/40	Mumbai CST	Gadag	Mumbai CST-Gadag Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
01301/02	Mumbai CST	KSR Bengaluru	Udyan Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02479/80	Bandra (T)	Jodhpur	Suryanagari Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02701/02	Mumbai CST	Hyderabad	Husain Sagar Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02715/16	H. S. Nanded	Amritsar	Sachkhand Express	Daily	01-June	03-June
02933/34	Mumbai Central	Ahmedabad	Karnavati Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
06345/46	Mumbai (LTT)	Thiruvananthapuram Central	Netravati Express	Daily	03-June	01-June
02955/56	Mumbai Central	Jaipur	Mumbai Central-Jaipur Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02141/42	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Patliputra	Lokmanyatilak (T)-Patliputra Express	Daily	18-June	03-June
09041/42	Bandra (T)	Ghaziपुर	Bandra Ghaziपुर Express	Bi-weekly	26-June	07-June
02149/50	Pune	Danapur	Pune Danapur Express	Daily	14-June	03-June
05645/46	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Guwahati	Lokmanyatilak Guwahati Express	Bi weekly	24-June	17-June
09037/38	Bandra(T)	Gorakhpur	Avadh Express	Four days	19-June	30-June
09039/40	Bandra(T)	Muzaffarpur	Avadh Express	Tri-weekly	25-June	04-June
02156/55	H. Nizamuddin	Habibganj	Bhopal Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02230/29	New Delhi	Lucknow Jn.	Lucknow Mail	Daily	08-June	02-June
02392/91	New Delhi	Rajgir	Shramjeevi Express	Daily	15-June	03-June
02394/93	New Delhi	Rajendra Nagar	Sampoorna Kranti Express	Daily	12-June	01-June
02418/17	New Delhi	Prayagraj	Prayagraj Express	Daily	03-June	02-June
02420/19	New Delhi	Lucknow	Gomti Express	Daily	06-June	02-June
02452/51	New Delhi	Kanpur	Shram Shakti Express	Daily	03-June	01-June
02560/59	New Delhi	Manduadih	Shiv Ganga Express	Daily	09-June	01-June
02618/17	H. Nizamuddin	Emakulam	Mangla Express	Daily	04-June	05-June
04009/10	Anand Vihar	Bapudham Motihari	Champaran Satyagrah Express	Weekly	07-June	20-June
02629/30	New Delhi	Yesvantpur	Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express	Bi-weekly	11-June	10-June
02724/23	New Delhi	Hyderabad	Telangana Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02916/15	Delhi	Ahmedabad	Ashram Express	Daily	03-June	01-June
02963/64	H. Nizamuddin	Udaipur City	Mewar Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
05484/83	Delhi	Alipurduar	Mahananda Express	Daily	21-June	02-June
02182/81	H. Nizamuddin	Jabalpur	H. Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Express	Daily	08-June	01-June
02217/18	New Delhi	Varanasi	Mahamana Express	Tri-weekly	02-June	12-June
02219/20	Anand Vihar	Ghaziपुर	Suhaildev Express	Four days	07-June	18-June
02233/34	Anand Vihar	Ghaziपुर	Anand Vihar Ghaziपुर Express	Bi-Weekly	02-June	12-June
02055/56	New Delhi	Dehradun	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	04-June	01-June
02057/58	New Delhi	Una Himachal	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	03-June
01016/15	Gorakhpur	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Kushinagar Express	Daily	03-June	25-June
02533/34	Lucknow Jn	Mumbai CST	Pushpak Express	Daily	01-June	15-June
02541/42	Gorakhpur	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Gorakhpur-Lokmanyatilak (T) Express	Daily	01-June	18-June
02377/78	Sealdah	New Alipurduar	Padatik Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02703/04	Howrah	Secunderabad	Falaknuma Express	Daily	03-June	06-June
02810/09	Howrah	Mumbai CST	HWH-Mumbai Mail	Daily	01-June	19-June
02307/08	Howrah	Jodhpur/Bikaner	Howrah-Jodhpur/Bikaner Express	Daily	14-June	12-June
02381/82	Howrah	New Delhi	Poorva Express	Tri-weekly	03-June	16-June
02303/04	Howrah	New Delhi	Poorva Express	Four days	01-June	24-June
02245/46	Howrah	Yesvantpur	Duronto Express	Five Days	02-June	25-June
02201/02	Sealdah	Bhubaneswar	Duronto Express	Tri-Weekly	01-June	02-June
02213/14	Shalimar	Patna	Duronto Express	Tri-Weekly	01-June	02-June
02073/74	Howrah	Bhubaneswar	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02023/24	Howrah	Patna	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	09-June	04-June

Train No. (Onward/Return)	From	To	Train Name	Frequency	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability (Onward)	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability
02021/22	Howrah	Barbil	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02296/95	Danapur	KSR Bengaluru	Sanghamitra Express	Daily	03-June	25-June
02792/91	Danapur	Secunderabad	Danapur-Secunderabad Express	Daily	05-June	14-June
03201/02	Patna	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Patna-Lokmanyatilak (T) Express	Daily	01-June	18-June
02553/54	Saharsa	New Delhi	Vaishali Express	Daily	01-June	24-June
02557/58	Muzaffarpur	Anand Vihar	Sapt Kranti Express	Daily	01-June	16-June
05273/74	Raxaul	Anand Vihar	Satyagrah Express	Daily	01-June	17-June
02365/66	Patna	Ranchi	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02565/66	Darbhangha	New Delhi	Bihar Sampark Kranti	Daily	01-June	21-June
02407/08	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri	Karambhum Exp	Weekly	10-June	30-June
02357/58	Amritsar	Kolkata	Amritsar-Kolkata Express	Bi-weekly	02-June	29-June
02904/03	Amritsar	Mumbai Central	Golden Temple Mail	Daily	03-June	03-June
02926/25	Amritsar	Bandra (T)	Paschim Express	Daily	05-June	02-June
04673/74	Amritsar	Jaynagar	Shaheed Express	Four days	13-June	30-June
04649/50	Amritsar	Jaynagar	Saryu Yamuna Express	Tri-weekly	12-June	29-June
02833/34	Ahmedabad	Howrah	Ahmedabad-Howrah Express	Daily	15-June	01-June
09165/66	Ahmedabad	Darbhangha	Sabarmati Express	Tri-weekly	12-June	06-June
09167/68	Ahmedabad	Varanasi	Sabarmati Express	Four days	11-June	04-June
09045/46	Surat	Chhapra	Tapti Ganga Express	Four days	11-June	03-June
02947/48	Ahmedabad	Patna	Azimabad Express	Bi-weekly	15-June	03-June
09083/84	Ahmedabad	Muzaffarpur	Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur Express (Via Surat)	Daily	12-June	03-June
09089/90	Ahmedabad	Gorakhpur	Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur Express	Daily	08-June	03-June
02917/18	Ahmedabad	H. Nizamuddin	Gujarat Sampark Kranti	Tri-weekly	01-June	02-June
02463/64	Jodhpur	Delhi S. Rohilla	Sampark Kranti	Tri-weekly	12-June	11-June
02477/78	Jaipur	Jodhpur	Jaipur-Jodhpur Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02065/66	Ajmer	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	01-June	01-June
02059/60	Kota	H. Nizamuddin	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	02-June	01-June
02555/56	Hisar	Gorakhpur	Gorakhdham Express	Daily	01-June	10-June
02801/02	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi	Purushottam Express	Daily	02-June	21-June
08183/84	Tatanagar	Danapur	Tatanagar-Danapur Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02805/06	Vishakhapatnam	New Delhi	AP Express	Daily	01-June	04-June
07201/02	Guntur	Secunderabad	Golconda Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02793/94	Tirupati	Nizamabad	Rayalaseema Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
05955/56	Dibrugarh	Delhi	Brahmaputra Mail	Daily	03-June	18-June
02067/68	Guwahati	Jorhat Town	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	01-June	01-June
02091/92	Dehradun	Kathgodam	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	02-June	02-June
02053/54	Haridwar	Amritsar	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	01-June	01-June
02079/80	KSR Bengaluru	Hubli	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02089/90	Yesvantpur	Shivamoga Town	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	02-June
02283/84	Emakulam	H. Nizamuddin	Duronto Express	Weekly	09-June	06-June
02075/76	Calicut	Trivandrum	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02081/82	Kannur	Trivandrum	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	01-June	01-June
02727/28	Hyderabad	Vishakhapatnam	Godavari Express	Daily	09-June	09-June
02285/86	Secunderabad	H. Nizamuddin	Duronto Express	Bi-Weekly	04-June	05-June
02069/70	Raigarh	Gondia	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	01-June	01-June
02061/62	Habibganj	Jabalpur	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	01-June	01-June
02779/80	Vasco da Gama	H. Nizamuddin	Goa Express	Daily	11-June	09-June

\* Timings and Stoppages will be as per regular trains \* The position is as on 13:00 hours of 30th May 2020



# TN: 938 new cases, total 21,184

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Situation has turned grave in Tamil Nadu as Saturday saw 938 persons testing positive for coronavirus. The number of persons tested positive for the pandemic till date reached 21,184 on Saturday, according to a release issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Government release said as on Saturday there were 9,021 active cases in the State including those in isolation.

The day also saw 687 persons getting discharged from various hospitals in the State. Till date 12,000 persons have been cured and discharged from hospitals.

The death toll reached 160 on Saturday as six more persons succumbed to the pandemic. As the details about the number of coronavirus related issues were trickling in a high level medical board led by Dr Prabhdeep Kaur of the ICMR reportedly told Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy on Saturday that except in the four districts of Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu, the State may relax the existing curbs but with restrictions. This means that Chennai and the four neighbouring districts have



become a no-go area.

The number of laboratories testing samples for coronavirus reached 72 on Saturday with one more private laboratory getting commissioned for testing coronavirus.

Except for a 37 year old female who breathed her last at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital due to cardiopulmonary arrest and Covid-19 pneumonia, the remaining five were in the 54 to 72 years of age underscoring the Government's stance that people above the age of 50 were vulnerable to the pandemic.

Chennai with 13,980 covid-19 cases topped the table and was closely followed by Chengalpattu (1094), Thiruvallur (902), Cuddalore (453) and Ariyalur (365).

A media release by the Government of Kerala said 58 persons tested positive in the State for coronavirus on Saturday. In addition to this, seven members of Air India cabin crew who were evacuating expatriates from West Asian countries to Kerala too were tested positive. Out of the 58 persons who were tested positive on Saturday, 17 were returnees from foreign countries while 31 were from other States.

## Now, it's people's turn to ensure virus doesn't spread: TN panel

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The expert committee of doctors appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu said on Saturday that now it was the responsibility of the general public to ensure coronavirus pandemic does not spread.

"The Government is doing whatever it could to prevent and control the disease. But it is for the public to play an important role in preventing the disease from spreading further," said Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, deputy director, Indian Council of Medical Research (Chennai) while addressing the media after the

team's meeting with Chief Minister and other senior officials of the State.

"This is a new virus and we are yet to study about the pattern of its behaviour. Whatever information we have gathered, we have conveyed to the Government as well as the people. The Covid-19 virus has different characters and it could be understood from the manner it which spreads in various places in Tamil Nadu. The situation in cities and rural areas are different and this is one of the characteristics," she said.

The ICMR boss said the pandemic could be controlled

only by increasing the tests. "It is true that the number of coronavirus cases are increasing in the State. But there is no need to panic. It is also not possible to lift the lockdown at one go. It could be done only in phases," said Dr Kaur. She said Chennai and surrounding districts are having large number of coronavirus patients and hence the region should be put under tight control. Dr V Ram Subramanian, member of the committee, who is a leading specialist in infectious diseases, reiterated the need to wear masks to ward off infection.

## 2 ultras killed in Kulgam

PNS ■ JAMMU

In yet another successful operation, two terrorists were gunned down by the joint teams of security forces in Jammu & Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday morning.

According to police spokesman, "on a specific input generated by Kulgam Police, a cordon & search operation was launched jointly by Kulgam Police, 1 RR and CRPF 18 Bn at Wanpora Khudwani area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district late Friday night.

During the search operation, the hiding terrorists fired on the joint search party. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, 2 terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists is being ascertained", police spokesman added.

Police spokesman said, "Incriminating material including arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes".

A case FIR No. 30/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Qaimoh and investigation has been initiated.

## Maha: Virus claims lives of 26 cops, 2,355 infected

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Coronavirus has so far claimed the lives of at least 26 police constables and officers in Maharashtra and left 2,355 other personnel infected in various other parts of the State.

Giving details of fatalities and infections among the state police personnel, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh tweeted on Saturday: "2,355 police personnel have tested positive for Covid-19. Of these 999 have recovered & 26 have tragically succumbed".

"There's been a steady rise in the number of #Covid\_19 calls on the police helpline 100. As many as 96,875 such calls have been received. 255 instances of assaults on policemen have seen 833 arrests, Deshmukh tweeted.

"1,323 offences have been registered for illegal transport," he tweeted.

"5,71,434 people have been quarantined & 706 were found violating the quarantine. The state govt is running 832 relief camps where 38,437 migrant labourers have been given refuge with food & necessities," the Home Minister tweeted.

"As many as 1,19,222 offences have been regd. u/s 188 of IPC since the lockdown leading to 23,533 arrests and seizure of 76,189 vehicles. Rs 5,91,74,271 has been collected in fines from offenders," the Minister added.

## Maha transported 5.08L migrants to borders

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the continued lockdown and consequent unemployment caused by an unprecedented coronavirus-triggered situation in Maharashtra, the MVA Government has transported as many as 5.08 lakh migrant workers living in different parts of the State to the borders or the nearest railway stations of their respective native states.

"Till yesterday, our Government ferried as many as 5,08,803 migrant workers in 41,874 State transport buses to the borders or nearest railway stations of their respective states. The State Government has borne 100 per cent expenditure amounting to ₹ 94.66 crore on the transportation of migrant workers to their respective states," Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said here on Saturday.

The Chief Minister thanked the officials and employees of the state-run Maharashtra State Road Transport

Corporation (MSRTC) and Regional Transport Office (RTO) for making available for the transportation of migrant workers. "They not only made available buses but also stopped the migrant workers heading towards their states by foot and ferried them in their buses. We are grateful to the officers and employees of the MSRTC and RTO for serving migrant workers in their hour of crisis," the chief minister said.

As part of its drive to help the migrant workers to return to their respective states, the Maharashtra government has ferried migrant workers from various parts of the state to borders or nearest railway stations of Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Chhatisgarh and Karnataka.

"Among the migrants who have returned to their states from Maharashtra, scores of them have taken advantage of the shramik trains being run the Indian Railways to ferry stranded labourers," the Chief Minister said.

## J&K sees 177 fresh infections, total 2,341

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday recorded 177 fresh positive cases, taking the total tally of coronavirus cases to 2,341.

Out of these 177 cases, 125 cases were reported from Kashmir division while 52 cases tested positive across Jammu division.

A total number of 33 cases were also discharged from different hospitals in the region on Saturday.

According to the media bulletin, "Baramulla district recorded highest number of 40 positive cases followed by Srinagar where 26 cases were detected. 19 cases were reported from Anantnag, 16 from Shopian and 10 from central Kashmir district of Budgam".

According to official sources, majority of patients who tested positive were not returnees.

In Jammu division, Ramban and

Udhampur districts reported 14 and 13 cases respectively while Samba district reported 7 and Rajouri 6 cases. Jammu district reported only 2 cases on Saturday. According to the media bulletin, "out of 2,341 cases, the total number of active cases stood at 1,405. Out of these 1405, 36 cases are active positive in Jammu division while 1,037 cases are active positive across Kashmir division.

In Jammu, large number of drivers of SRTC buses, ferrying stranded passengers from different destinations to their quarantine centres alleged that they have not being paid their monthly salaries for last three months and despite this they are discharging their duties.

Several drivers, while blaming the concerned agencies for ignoring their plight also claimed that none of the drivers have undergone screening despite ferrying several positive cases to different locations in the recent days.

## Pakistan violates ceasefire in J&K



PNS ■ JAMMU

On a day when BJP led central Government was busy drum beating their achievements in office during the first year of rule, the Pakistan Army resorted to 'unprovoked' ceasefire violations using heavy calibre guns along the line of control in Poonch on Saturday.

Two different incidents of ceasefire violations were reported from Qasba, Kirni and Khari Karmara sectors of Poonch. The Indian Army gave befitting reply to the Pakistan Army in both the sectors.

Till the time of filing the report, big guns were roaring in Khari Karmara sector and the thunderous noise of shells were audible even in Poonch town.

Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation around 10.00 a.m in Qasba, Kirni sectors of Poonch using small arms firing and mortar shells. Later in the evening, Pak army resorted to intense mortar shelling in Khari Karama sector around 7.45 p.m. He added, Indian army was giving befitting reply.

## Gujarat Covid toll nears 1K, Ahmedabad has 80% of it

**Gandhinagar:** Gujarat's Covid-19 death toll is set to touch the 1,000-mark. With an average 26 deaths a day in May, the toll has soared to 986 with Ahmedabad accounting for 80 per cent of it. It has reported almost 800 deaths.

The Covid-19 toll in the state is far higher than any other state when compared with total cases detected.

Gujarat's mortality rate at 6.14 per cent is far higher than the national 2.85 per cent rate. It's also far higher than other developed States, like Maharashtra (where the largest number of cases and deaths have been reported) with 3.37 per cent mortality rate, Tamil Nadu (0.77 per cent), Delhi (2.28 per cent), Karnataka (1.72 per cent), Punjab (1.91 per cent), Kerala (0.78 per cent), Telangana (2.92 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (1.73 per cent).

Even the states, considered not so developed, like Rajasthan (2.19 per cent), MP (4.36 per cent) and UP (2.69 per cent) have fared better than Gujarat.

Only West Bengal has higher mortality rate at 6.27 per cent. But it has never made any claims of being a model state.

Of the total deaths, 798 (81.42 per cent) have been reported from Ahmedabad, which also accounts for the highest number of cases at 11,597 in the state. The mortality rate in Ahmedabad is 6.88 per cent.

The first coronavirus death was reported on March 23. An elderly man from Surat died after getting infected during an inter-state air travel. It was four days after the first two positive cases were detected in Gujarat on March 19.

According to sources, the majority of deaths occurred in the Ahmedabad Civil hospital, Asia's largest hospital. According to a PIL in the Gujarat High Court, 60 per cent of the Ahmedabad Covid-19 deaths occurred in this hospital.

The Gujarat High Court in its interim order had lambasted Health Minister Nitin Patel and Health Secretary Jayanti Ravi for the laxity and the rising number of deaths in the hospital.

Such is the situation that Covid-19 patients now fear getting admitted to that hospital.

So far, Surat has accounted for 67 deaths, Vadodara

(39), Gandhinagar (13), Anand (10), Bhavnagar (8) and Panchmahals (6).

But why this high mortality despite toll claims made by the state government that patients are being treated with utmost care?

"The State Government is doing its best. You should also consider that people's mentality and lifestyle also play a major role. Most deceased in Gujarat had comorbidity due to lifestyle diseases, like hypertension and diabetes. Gujarat has the largest number of diabetics in the country. Obesity is also very high compared with other states," said Dr Parthiv Mehta, senior pulmonologist and a member of the Technical Subject Experts, Gujarat Covid-19 Response Cell.

"The awareness and consciousness about health is also low among Gujaratis compared with people of other states," Mehta said.

Amid rising cases and deaths, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had sought help from Union Home minister Amit Shah. It led to visit of a two-member team from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

IANS

## No total lockdown in K'taka on Sunday

IANS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka will not observe a total lockdown on Sunday, unlike a week ago, an official said on Saturday. Last Sunday, Karnataka Government had observed a total lockdown.

"On the request of the public and in the interest of the state population, there will be no total lockdown on Sunday," Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar said in a statement.

However, Sunday will also enforce the same rules as any other day amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the extended lockdown.

Following the order, at least 3,500 buses of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will operate on Sunday.

On Friday, Karnataka recorded 248 new Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day rise.

Meanwhile, the state Health and Family Welfare Department has decided to cease issuing morning Covid-19 bulletin.

### BOLLYWOOD ACTOR SONU SOOD MEETS MAHA GUV



Bollywood actor Sonu Sood interacts with Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on Saturday. Sood briefed the Governor about his ongoing work to provide food and help to the migrant people to reach their home States. The Governor applauded Sood for his good work and assured him of his fullest support in his efforts

## 39th death in Agra, 5 new cases take tally to 887

**Agra:** With one more death the number of victims succumbing to the Covid-19 in Agra has gone up to 39, health officials said on Saturday.

District magistrate P.N. Singh said with five new cases, the total number of coronavirus cases has gone up to 887, out of which 783 have recovered and discharged.

The SN Medical College, meanwhile is gearing up to broad-base and streamline the medical infrastructure to cope with the possible surge in the number of cases in June and July.

New wards for Covid-19 patients and new passage ways for the medics Have been opened.

Divisional commissioner Anil Kumar said those in quarantine would be penalised if they were found violating the restrictions.

District authorities were drawing up plans for opening up markets and facilities after Monday. In many areas shopkeepers have started cleaning up their establishments and carrying out repair and maintenance.

Late Friday evening's storm with heavy showers has ransacked and devastated not only urban areas but also the rural hinterland which reported three deaths and injuries to dozens.

High velocity wind, 124 km per hour lashed the city for more than two hours, uprooting trees and hoardings. Roads were blocked and power supply disrupted till midnight in many areas of the city.

IANS

## Woman barred from entering home by son over virus suspicion

**Hyderabad:** In a shocking incident, an octogenarian woman was not allowed to enter the house by her son after she returned from Maharashtra, the State worst affected by coronavirus.

The incident occurred in Telangana's Karimnagar town on Friday. On the suspicion that she may be infected by Covid-19, Katta Shyamala's son refused to allow her into the house.

Her son and daughter-in-law even locked the gate from inside, forcing the hapless woman to sit on the road with a bag. After several hours and following intervention by the local public representatives and the police, the son relented and allowed her in.

Shyamala had gone to her relative's house in Solapur some three months ago to attend a family function. However, she got stranded there due to the lockdown.

With the recent relaxation in the lockdown facilitating inter-state transport, her relatives arranged for her travel to Karimnagar. However, on reaching the house in the early hours of the day, she was denied entry by her son and daughter-in-law.

The woman explained to them that she underwent a test before leaving for Karimnagar and was negative for Covid-19. She also assured them that she would confine herself to her room but they refused to open the door.

With nowhere to go, the woman sat in front of the house. Moved by her plight, neighbours arranged food and water for her.

IANS

## Maha: 99 more deaths, 2,940 test +ve

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 triggered fatalities hovered shockingly around triple digit mark for the fifth consecutive day on Saturday, as 99 more people succumbed to coronavirus and 2,940 others tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the state.

Of the total deaths, Mumbai accounted for an astoundingly day's highest of 54 deaths, while there were seven deaths each in Vasai-Virar and Panvel, six deaths each in Thane, Pune and Solapur, three deaths each in Raigad and Jalgaon, two deaths each in Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli, and one death in Nagpur. In addition, two persons belonging to Rajasthan and Bihar died in Mumbai.

There have been a total of 502 deaths in Maharashtra during the last five days. On May 26 (Tuesday) the state had witnessed 97 deaths, while there were 105 deaths on Wednesday, 85 deaths on Thursday and 116 deaths on Friday. The Covid-19 toll on Saturday was 99.

With the fresh fatalities and infections, the total num-

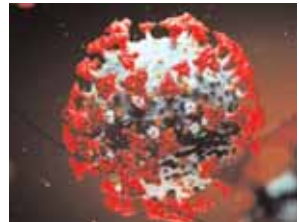
ber of deaths in the State mounted to 2,197 and total infected cases jumped to a staggering 65168.

With 54 fresh deaths and 1,510 new infections, the total number of deaths in Mumbai rose to 1,227, while the infected cases jumped to 38,442.

As many as 1,084 patients were discharged from various hospitals on Saturday. With as many as 28,081 patients having so far been discharged after full recovery, the state authorities pegged the total "active cases" in the state at 34,881.

Of the dead on Saturday, 62 were men while 37 were women. Forty eight of them were aged over 60 years, 49 were from the age group 40 to 59 years and 2 were aged below 40 years. "Sixty six out of 99 patients (67%) had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, etc," a state health bulletin said. Out of the total deaths reported today, 40 deaths occurred in the last two days and the rest are from the period May 6 to May 27.

In some of the key observations, patient doubling time for the state was 11.3 days during the last week, it has now



improved to 17.5 days. The same for the country is 17.1 days. The recovery rate in the state is 43.07 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3.37 per cent. Currently, 5,51,660 people are in home quarantine. There are 72,681 beds available in quarantine institutions. As many as 35,420 people are in institutional quarantine currently.

Out of 4,33,557 laboratory test samples, 65,168 tested positive for Covid-19 until Saturday. There are 43 government and 34 private (77 total) laboratories functioning in the state currently. As many as 3349 tests per 10 lakh population are being conducted.

At the national level, it is 2523 tests per 10 lakh population. There are 3,169 active containment zones in the state currently. Total 17,917 surveillance squads worked across the state on Saturday dand sur-

veillance of 68.51 lakh population was done

Meanwhile, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) came up success stories in the treatment of Covid-19 patients at LTMG Hospital at Sion in north-central Mumbai.

In one case, a 90-year-old female patient from Dharavi having Hypertension came with breathlessness, fever, and cough and oxygen saturation less than 84% with X-ray shadows. She was treated with oxygen, antibiotics, steroids and other medicines. After almost 1 week she improved and finally oxygen was stopped, she started walking and speaking. She was later discharged.

In the second case, a 57 year old male hypertension patient came with breathlessness, fever, and cough with oxygen saturation of 76 per cent.

"He was given oxygen treatment with special system called HFNC (High Flow Nasal Cannula) along with other medicines for 8 days and his saturation improved to 98 per cent finally patient is comfortable and ready to be discharged," a BMC medical bulletin said.



‘I CAN’T BREATHE’

# Protests over Floyd’s death overwhelm US authorities again

**Minneapolis:** Fires burned unchecked and thousands protesting the police killing of George Floyd ignored a curfew as unrest overwhelmed authorities for another night in Minneapolis, and the Governor acknowledged on Saturday that he didn’t have enough manpower to contain the chaos.

The new round of tumult — which has also spread to other cities — came despite Minnesota Gov Tim Walz vowing Friday to show a more forceful response than city leaders had the day before. But by early Saturday morning, Walz said he didn’t have enough troops, even with some 500 National Guardsmen.

“We do not have the numbers,” Walz said. “We cannot arrest people when we are trying to hold ground.” Walz said he was moving quickly to mobilize more than 1,000 more Guard members, for a total of 1,700, and was considering the potential offer of federal military police. But he warned that even that might not be enough, saying he expected another difficult night Saturday.

The Pentagon on Saturday ordered the Army to put military police units on alert to head to the city on short notice at President Donald Trump’s request, according to three people with direct knowledge of the orders who did not want their names used because they were not authorized to discuss the preparations. The rare step came as the violence spread to other cities: A man shot dead in Detroit, police cars battered in Atlanta and skirmishes with police in New York City.



Protesters and National Guardsmen face off on East Lake Street

AP

Criminal charges filed Friday morning against the white officer who held his knee for nearly nine minutes on the neck of Floyd, a black man who was handcuffed at the time, did nothing to stem the anger. Derek Chauvin, 44, was charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Minneapolis police said shots had been fired at law enforcement officers during the protests but no one was injured.

As the night dragged on, fires erupted across the city’s south side, including at a Japanese restaurant, a Wells Fargo bank and an Office Depot. Many burned for hours, with firefighters again delayed in reaching them because areas

were not secure.

Shortly before midnight, scores of officers on foot and in vehicles moved in to curb the violence, one day after city and state leaders faced blowback for their handling of the crisis. On Thursday, protesters had torched a police station soon after it was abandoned by police and went on to burn or vandalize dozens of businesses.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association urged Gov Walz to accept any help.

“You need more resources,” the group said in a tweet. “Law enforcement needs leadership.” Not all the protests were violent. Downtown, thousands of demonstrators encircled a barricaded police station after the 8 p.m. Friday curfew. “Prosecute the police!” some

chanted, and “Say his name: George Floyd!” Some protesters sprayed graffiti on buildings.

Anger filled the streets of Minneapolis.

Ben Hubert, a 26-year-old local resident, said he wasn’t surprised people were breaking curfew and setting fires. “I’m outraged,” he said of the Floyd case. “But I’m also sad. The injustice has been going on for so long. It’s been swelling for years.”

Chauvin was also accused of ignoring another officer who expressed concerns about Floyd as he pleaded that he could not breathe, while Chauvin pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes. Floyd had been arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 bill at a store. **AP**

## Trump walks back his incendiary Minneapolis ‘thugs’ tweet

**Washington:** President Donald Trump has tried to walk back his post-midnight “thugs” tweet about Minneapolis protesters that added to outrage over the police killing of a black man.

Trump’s repeated condemnation of the killing and outreach to the man’s family was a marked change in tone from his earlier comments that also invoked a civil-rights-era phrase fraught with racist overtones.

“When the looting starts, the shooting starts,” Trump had written in a tweet that was quickly flagged by Twitter as violating rules against “glorifying violence.”

Trump later said his comments had been misconstrued. “Frankly it means when there’s looting, people get shot and they die,” he said.

Trump’s whiplash comments came after protesters torched a Minneapolis police station on Thursday night, capping three days of searing demonstrations over the death of George Floyd, who was captured on video pleading for air as a white police officer knelt on his neck for over eight minutes.

And they underscored Trump’s complicated relationship with race as he tries to maintain a law-and-order

mantle while looking to appeal to black voters during an election year.

They also highlighted his refusal to avoid controversy or cede the spotlight even as the battered nation tries to make sense of another killing and reels over the mounting COVID-19 death toll.

Trump, in his tweets, borrowed a phrase once used by former Miami Police Chief Walter Headley in a 1967 speech outlining his department’s efforts to “combat young hoodlums who have taken advantage of the civil rights campaign.” **AP**

## Police: 1 dead after shots fired at protesters in Detroit

**Detroit:** One person was killed in downtown Detroit after someone in an SUV fired shots into a crowd of people protesting George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis custody, a Detroit police spokeswoman said Saturday. The shooting occurred about 11:30 pm on Friday near Detroit’s Greektown entertainment district as officers were confronted with dozens of protesters, said Sgt. Nicole Kirkwood, a police department spokeswoman. She said an officer wasn’t involved in the shooting. **AP**

## Biden speaks of racial open wound, contrasting with Trump

**Washington:** Joe Biden lamented the “open wound” of the nation’s systemic racism on Friday as he responded to the police killing of a black man in Minnesota. He drew an implicit contrast with President Donald Trump, who has suggested authorities could respond with violence to the protests that followed George Floyd’s death.

“The original sin of this country still stains our nation today,” Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, said in remarks broadcast from his home in Wilmington, Delaware. “It’s time for us to take a hard look at uncomfortable

truths.” Biden announced his bid for the presidency last year arguing he’s uniquely positioned to unite a deeply divided country. He pointed to Trump’s response to a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, as unworthy of America’s people and values.

As the country endures another spasm of racial unrest, the central premise of Biden’s campaign is being tested. Biden is responding by positioning himself as an empathetic counter to Trump, who often struggles to convey emotion or connect on a personal level during moments of crisis. **AP**

## In unusual move, US embassies in Africa speak up on Floyd

**Johannesburg:** As Minneapolis burns over the police killing of George Floyd and shock and disappointment in Africa grow, some US embassies on the continent have taken the unusual step of issuing critical statements, saying no one is above the law.

The statements came as the head of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, condemned the “murder” of Floyd and said Friday the continental body rejects the “continuing discriminatory practices against black citizens of the USA.”

Africa has not seen the

kind of protests over Floyd’s killing that have erupted across the United States, but many Africans have expressed disgust and dismay, openly wondering when the US will ever get it right. “WTF? ‘When the looting starts the shooting starts?’” tweeted political cartoonist Patrick Gathara in Kenya, which has its own troubles with police brutality.

He, like many, was aghast at the tweet by President Donald Trump, flagged by Twitter as violating rules against “glorifying violence,” that the president later said had been misconstrued. **AP**

# US, UK raise Hong Kong issue in Security Council

## Angry China rakes up Minneapolis protests

**United Nations:** The US and UK raised the issue of China’s controversial security law for Hong Kong during an emergency discussion in the Security Council, angering Beijing which said the UN organ should instead pay attention to the US’ excessive use of force against protesters in Minneapolis and its racial discrimination against black communities.

The 15-nation Council discussed Hong Kong in an informal virtual meeting after the US and United Kingdom brought the issue for emergency discussion under “any other business” on Friday.

“Today I asked the Council one simple question: are we going to take the honourable stand to defend the human

rights and the dignified way of life that millions of Hong Kong citizens have enjoyed and deserve like all freedom loving people, or are we going to allow the Chinese Communist Party to violate international law and force its will on the people of Hong Kong who look to us to preserve their way of life and their freedoms?” US Ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft said.

Craft said that the US is resolute and calls upon all UN member states to join it in demanding that China immediately reverse course and honour its international legal commitments to this institution and to the Hong Kong people.

Beijing shot back, saying the adoption of the legislation is purely China’s internal affair and has nothing to do with the work and mandate of the Security Council.

China’s Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun, along with Russia, slammed the US for the killing of George Floyd, an African-American man who died this week in Minneapolis after a white police officer knelt on his neck while he was handcuffed and pinned to the ground, triggering violent protests.

“It’s our view that, instead of wasting time on this issue, the Council should pay more attention and even take action on issues more relevant to international peace and security.

“Just to name a few, the impact of the Brexit on international peace and security, the unilateral sanctions imposed by the US and other countries, the excessive use of force against protesters in Minneapolis, the killing of an African American young man and racial discrimination against African Americans.

This list can be endless. China stands ready to work with

you on these issues,” Zhang said. **PTI**

## US action on Hong Kong ‘doomed to fail’: China

**PTI ■ BEIJING**

The mouthpiece of China’s ruling Communist Party said US moves to end some trading privileges for Hong Kong “grossly interfere” in China’s internal affairs and are “doomed to fail.”

Saturday’s editorial in the newspaper People’s Daily was responding to an announcement from President Donald Trump, after China’s ceremonial Parliament bypassed Hong Kong’s local legislature to advance legislation that could severely curtail free speech and opposition political activities in the semi-autonomous

Chinese territory.

It was the “firm determination of all Chinese people” to oppose interference in Hong Kong affairs by any external forces, the paper said.

“This hegemonic act of attempting to interfere in Hong Kong affairs and grossly interfere in China’s internal affairs will not frighten the Chinese people and is doomed to fail,” it said.

Attempts at “forcing China to make concessions on core interests including sovereignty and security through blackmailing or coercion...Can only be wishful thinking and day-dreaming!”

## Trump bans entry of certain groups of Chinese students to US

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**

US President Donald Trump has issued a proclamation banning the entry of Chinese students and researchers having ties with the People’s Liberation Army to dismantle China’s efforts to use graduate students to acquire intellectual property and technology from America.

Trump’s announcement came amidst escalating confrontation between the US and China over trade, the origins of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Beijing’s security crackdown in Hong Kong and the communist giant’s aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea.

## EU urges Trump to rethink cutting funding to WHO

**Washington:** The European Union on Saturday urged US President Donald Trump to rethink his decision to cut American funding for the World Health Organisation amid global criticism of the move, as spiking infection rates in India and elsewhere served as a reminder the global pandemic is far from contained.

Trump on Friday charged that the WHO didn’t respond adequately to the pandemic, accusing the UN agency of being under China’s “total control.” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday urged Trump to reconsider, saying that “actions that weaken international results must be avoided” and that “now is the time for enhanced cooperation and common solutions.” “The WHO needs to continue being

able to lead the international response to pandemics, current and future,” she said. “For this, the participation and support of all is required and very much needed.” The US is the largest source of financial support for the WHO, and its exit is expected to significantly weaken the organization.

Trump said the US would be “redirecting” the money to “other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs,” without providing specifics.

The WHO wouldn’t comment on the announcement but South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize called it an “unfortunate” turn of events.

“Certainly, when faced with a serious pandemic, you want all nations in the world to be particularly focused ... On one common enemy,” he told reporters. **AP**

## Merkel won't attend G7 summit in person if US goes ahead

**Berlin:** Chancellor Angela Merkel will not personally attend a meeting in the US with the leaders of the world’s major economies if President Donald Trump goes ahead with it, unless the course of the coronavirus spread changes by then, her office said Saturday.

After canceling the Group of Seven summit, originally scheduled for June 10-12 at Camp David, Trump said a week ago that he was again considering hosting an in-person meeting of world leaders because it would be a “great sign

to all” of things returning to normal during the pandemic.

Immediately after that announcement, Merkel suggested she had not yet made up her mind on whether to attend in person or by video conference, but her office told the dpa news agency she has now made a decision. “As of today, given the overall pandemic situation, she cannot commit to participating in person,” her office said. It added that the chancellor would continue to monitor the coronavirus situation in case things change. **AP**

## Kenya police kill 2 children, fetus trying to catch father

**AP ■ NAIROBI**

Two children and their unborn sibling have been killed in a Kenyan police operation aimed at detaining their father, a human rights group said Saturday.

Police, who called the man a suspected Islamic extremist with an al-Qaida linked group, confirmed the children’s deaths and asserted they were used as “human shields.”

A police report seen by The Associated Press said an elite

unit went to the house of Mohamed Mapenzi in Kibundani area of coastal Kwale County in search of firearms Friday night.

The report said the unit had been directed there by another suspected member of al-Shabab, based in neighboring Somalia.

Al-Shabab has been carrying out attacks inside Kenya since 2011 in retaliation for Kenya’s troop presence in Somalia. The report says officers ordered the suspect to open his house but he refused.

# Israeli cops shoot unstable Palestinian in Jerusalem

**Jerusalem:** Israeli police shot dead a Palestinian near Jerusalem’s Old City on Saturday who they had suspected was carrying a weapon but turned out to be unarmed.

The police say he was carrying “a suspicious object that looked like a pistol” and ran away when ordered to stop. The police say they chased him on foot and opened fire.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld later said that no gun was found in the area.

A relative of the deceased

identified him as Iyad Halak, 32. The relative said Halak was mentally disabled and was heading to a nearby school for people with special needs. The relative spoke on condition of anonymity because of privacy concerns.

The shooting came a day after Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank who they said had tried to ram them with his vehicle. No Israelis were wounded in either incident.

Tensions have risen in

recent weeks as Israel has pressed ahead with plans to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank in line with President Donald Trump’s Middle East plan, which strongly favors Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority said last week that it was no longer bound by past agreements with Israel and the United States and was cutting off all ties, including longstanding security coordination. **AP**

## Lanka fears 2nd virus wave after thousands gather to pay tribute to Tamil leader

**Colombo:** A prominent doctors’ body in Sri Lanka warned of a second wave of COVID-19 infections in the country after thousands of people defying social distancing rules gathered to pay tributes to a prominent Tamil minister, who died earlier this week.

Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) leader Arumugam Thondaman, who represented Tamils of Indian origin, passed away on Tuesday and is due to be cremated on Sunday in the central hilly Nuwara Eliya district.

Tens of thousands of his supporters gathered to pay respects to Thondaman, defying all quarantine regulations put in

place to curb the pandemic.

In a statement on Saturday, the doctors’ body warned that gatherings at the politician’s funeral could trigger the second wave of coronavirus infection.

Thondaman’s body was taken to the national parliament on Thursday for a lie-in-state and for public viewing at his Ceylon Workers’ Congress party head office in Colombo before it was airlifted to his home district of Nuwara Eliya.

The doctors expressed their “displeasure” over the public funeral of Thondaman at a time when health authorities had asked people to restrict funerals to the closest family.

The country will impose a

nation-wide curfew tomorrow.

The government already declared curfew in Nuwara Eliya district on Saturday ahead of the funeral.

The island nation has reported a sudden spike in the number of COVID-19 cases, mainly among those who were recently repatriated from overseas.

The country has recorded 1,559 infections as of Saturday with 10 deaths. Over 750 of the COVID-19 patients have been discharged from hospitals. Only this week the Government formally ended the lockdown imposed since March 20 by lifting daytime curfew in the capital district of Colombo. **PTI**

## South Korea has another 39 cases linked to warehouse

**Seoul:** South Korea on Saturday reported 39 new cases of the coronavirus, most of them in the densely populated Seoul area where officials have linked scores of infections to warehouse workers.

Figures from South Korea’s Centres for Disease Control and Prevention brought national totals to 11,441 confirmed cases and 269 deaths. At least 12 of the new cases were linked to international arrivals.

KCDC Director Jeong Eun-kyeong said Friday that at least 102 infections had been linked to workers at a massive warehouse operated by Coupang, a local e-commerce giant that has seen orders spike

during the epidemic.

The company has been criticized for failing to implement proper preventive measures and enforce distance between employees, with the virus discovered on safety helmets, laptops, keyboards and other equipment they share.

Health workers have also found at least 266 infections linked to nightclubs and other entertainment venues in the Seoul metropolitan area, which saw huge crowds in early May as officials eased social distancing guidelines. The resurgence in infections has alarmed officials as millions of children have been returning to school nationwide. **AP**

## New York City to begin re-opening on June 8

**PTI ■ NEW YORK**

New York City, the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, will begin reopening in a phased manner on June 8, bringing about 4,000,000 employees back to work, Governor Andrew Cuomo has said.

New York City has been shut since mid-March as coronavirus ravaged the metropolis, which has reported over 199,038 coronavirus cases so far and close to 20,000 deaths. US has so far reported more than 1,747,085 COVID-19 cases and over 102,835 fatalities -- both the numbers highest in the world.

Regions across New York State began their phased reopening this month but New York City remained shut as it did not meet the seven health-related criteria necessary for the first phase of reopening.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, New York Governor Cuomo said the city is on track to meet all the metrics and will enter phase one of reopening on June 8.

“Phase one should bring about 4,000,000 employees back to work in New York City. Remember that reopening does not mean we’re going back to the way things were...It is reopening to a new normal, it’s a safer normal,” Cuomo said.

## Around the Globe

**Kathmandu:** Nepal on Saturday registered its highest single-day surge in coronavirus cases with 189 new infections, including 77 from a district bordering India, taking the COVID-19 tally in the country to over 1,400.

**Moscow:** Russia has recorded nearly 9,000 new cases of the coronavirus, roughly consistent with the increases reported over the past two weeks.

**Singapore:** Singapore on Saturday reported 506 new COVID-19 cases, the majority of them being foreign workers residing in dormitories, taking the total number of infections in the country to 34,366.

**Islamabad:** The coronavirus pandemic turned grimmer in Pakistan with 78 more fatalities in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,395, while the total cases of the deadly viral infection nears 67,500-mark, the health ministry said on Saturday.

**Cairo:** Egypt on Saturday ordered its people to wear face masks in public, when taking private transportation, and inside government offices as it eases the partial lockdown imposed during the weekend Muslim holiday of Eid-el-Fitr.

**Gaza City:** Students are returning to high schools in the Palestinian territories for the first time in two months for final exams.

**Beijing:** China’s first domestically-built aircraft carrier ‘Shandong’ has started conducting sea trials and training to test its equipment and weapons, the Chinese military said.



# ‘Economic revival may take 6 months’

**INDIA ■ NEW DELHI**

India will emerge stronger from multiple crises of economy, pandemic and super cyclone in the next 6-9 months, say industry leaders, based on the resilience shown by people, businesses and the Government.

The telecom and information technology will be key to survival and revival of lives and economy, said the business leaders as they shared their views on challenges faced by the Indian economy at a webinar organised by Confederation of Indian

Industry (CII), Delhi.

“Covid-19 has resulted in the world adopting the ‘new normal’ by accelerating business transition towards digital practices. IT as the backbone of the economy responded immediately to this crisis as the industry was prepared and working towards digitalisation,” said Sujit Bakshi, Head-APAC Business & President, Corporate Affairs at Tech Mahindra.”Today around 93-94 per cent of our workforce is working from home.

We see this as an opportunity for our industry to change the way of working and

an enhanced engagement with the telecom sector, which has emerged as a lifeline, yet again. I am confident that the IT industry will bounce back in the second half of the financial year,” Bakshi told the webinar on “New Normal: Impact of Covid on Business and Economy”.

According to Prativa Mohapatra, VP Sales at IBM India/South Asia, as the new normal sets in, leadership, decisiveness, empathy and teamwork will become more essential.

“The telecom industry has emerged as the nervous system and IT as flesh and blood in the

current pandemic,” she said.

Rajan Mathews, Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the challenges also presents the telecom industry the opportunity to innovate and create critical solutions indigenously which can be globally scalable.

“Our industry faces an unprecedented financial crisis and at the same time we require investments in our infrastructure so that we can be future ready to take up emerging challenges,” he said. According to Prashant Solomon, Managing Director, Chintels

India Pvt. Ltd and Treasurer, Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India NCR, the lockdown has greatly impacted the real estate sector which is the second largest employer in India.

“Operational resilience along with strong government initiatives, like increased liquidity and one-time restructuring of loans, are necessary to help the sector recover. CREDAI recently specified these requirements in an open letter to the PM and we are looking forward to further support,” Solomon said.

“We are entering in an

economy contraction of 5 to 15 per cent depending on the industry and this economic crisis is unique for India as we have not experienced something like this in decades,” said Aditya Berlia, Chairman- CII Delhi, Co-Promoter Apeejay Styra and Svrn Group.

“CII has immediately responded and is helping during the crisis but we know more can be done and will be done. The steps taken by the government are fantastic for the medium-term but what we require is something which can help businesses next week, not in six months.

# RBI slaps ₹4 crore penalty on Citibank

## PUNISHED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF REGULATIONS

**INDIA ■ MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of ₹4 crore on Citibank for non-compliance of regulations.

In a statement issued on Friday, the RBI said the penalty has been imposed on Citibank N.A. for violation of banking regulations related to customer credentials.

According to the central bank, Citibank had not complied with the directions issued by the RBI on obtaining declaration from customers about credit facilities enjoyed with other banks, granting non-fund based facilities to non-constituent borrowers, verifying data available in CRILC database and obtaining no-objection certificate (NOC) from lending banks at the time of opening current accounts, and submission of compliance to risk assessment findings.

“This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) of the Act, taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid provision of the Act and the directions issued by RBI. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers,” the RBI said.

The RBI said that the statu-

tory inspection of the Indian operations of the bank with reference to its financial positions as on March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2018 and the Risk Assessment Reports (RARs) pertaining thereto revealed, inter-alia, contravention with the provisions of the Act and non-compliance with the concerned directions of the central bank.

In furtherance to the same, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show-cause as to why penalty should not be imposed for contravention of the provisions of the Act and failure to comply with the directions issued by the RBI.

“After considering the bank’s reply to the notice, oral submissions made during the personal hearing and examination of additional submissions, the RBI concluded that the aforesaid charges of contravention with the provisions of the Act and non-compliance with RBI directions warranted imposition of monetary penalty,” it said.

Further, the apex bank has also imposed penalty on three co-operative banks - Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ahmednagar, TJSB Sahakari Bank Limited and Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) for non-compliance with various directions issued by it.

It has imposed a fine of ₹60 lakh on Bharat Co-operative Bank for non-compliance with the norms on income recognition, asset classification and reporting of frauds. Similarly, fines of ₹40 lakh and ₹45 lakh have been imposed on Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank and TJSB Sahakari Bank, respectively.

# RAI welcomes Govt decision to allow malls, shopping centres to resume

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Retailers Association of India (RAI) on Saturday welcomed the Govt’s order to allow opening of malls and shopping centres from June 8, saying it is important for retailers to open up to get the economy moving forward. RAI CEO Kumar Rajgopal said the retailers’ body has been in touch with various Govt officials since the lockdown.

“We believe that the government is satisfied that the malls would follow the SOPs as is required,” he said in a statement. Stressing on the significance of the Home Ministry’s order, he said: “It is important for malls and various retailers to open up and to get the economy moving forward”.

# Govt decision to open shopping centres from Jun 8 will help ease pressure: SCAI

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Government’s decision to allow shopping centres and malls to open from June 8 will help ease enormous pressure that the industry was facing due to the lockdown, Shopping Centres Association of India (SCAI) said on Saturday.

Welcoming the steps announced in the fresh guidelines by the Home Ministry, SCAI Chairman Amitabh Taneja said, “Revival and resurgence is a long process, which has just about begun.” The relaxation is certainly going to help ease an unimaginable amount of pressure that was put on the industry following the lockdown.”Taneja said SCAI will await further information from the Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) to ensure the guidelines are followed in letter and spirit. Pacific Malls Executive Director Abhishek Bansal hailed the decision and said: “We will follow all the guidelines of central and state Governments and will run our malls responsibly.”

Ambience group’s Aman Gehlot too welcomed the decision. The company has shopping malls in Delhi and Gurugram. Shopping centres and malls were shut after the government imposed nationwide lockdown from May 25 to control the spread of the coronavirus disease.

This resulted in huge revenue losses for both mall owners and their tenants — retailers, cinemas and food businesses.

# NHAI plans to develop model stretches in every State

**INDIA ■ NEW DELHI**

In order to exhibit the model stretches of National Highways as per norms, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to develop 57 stretches of NH (1,735 km) across the country near each State capital.

These Model Stretches will also serve as a platform to educate the highway engineers of the country, including State PWD engineers.

These stretches will have all the required safety and aesthetic features like road signs, road markings, road furniture & safety items, proper junctions and entry/exit points, functional drains, pedestrian facilities, street lighting, planta-

tion & landscaping, toll plaza, user facilities & wayside amenities.

The stretches will also be equipped with CCTV cameras at all vulnerable locations, no black spots to avoid accidents and eco-friendly measures.

The idea is to make the highway stretch look like a perfect textbook version of a model road. Some of the NH sections identified for development as Model Stretches are Dausa to Jaipur, Jalandhar to Amritsar, Srinagar to Banihal, Varanasi Ring Road, Chennai Bypass, MP/MH border to Nagpur including Nagpur Bypass, Brahmaputra Bridge to Guwahati.

# Amid lockdown, Hyundai Motor India exports over 5K units

**INDIA ■ CHENNAI**

Car maker Hyundai Motor India Ltd. on Saturday said it has exported over 5,000 units in May after restarting production.

In a statement issued here the company said after restarting production on May 8 it has produced over 5,000 units for export markets.

Pointing out the company’s exports of over three million cars since 1999, S.S. Kim, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer said: “We have once again made a humble beginning towards normalcy by exporting more than 5,000 units in May 2020.”

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead under footover bridge, Near IIT, On Aurbindo Marg, New Delhi on 23.05.2020 at 09.00 AM. In this regard a DD No. 10A, Dated 23.05.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 40 years, **Height:** 5’6” **Feet Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **ID Mark:** Black Mole on forehead, **Wearing:** Purple colour linedar half sleeve shirt, Sky blue colour jeans and bare footed. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform SHO, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Fax No.: 011-24368639.



**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Malviya Nagar, New Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-26691861, 26691862**

# UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that an Unknown male person was found dead at truck parking, Timarpur, Delhi on dated 17.05.2020. The Dead body has been preserved for 72 hrs. in Sabzi Mandi Mortuary for identification. In this regard a DD No. 31 A dated 17.05.2020 has been registered at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi.

The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Prakash, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown, **Age:** About 40-45 years, **Height:** 5’5”, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Sky Blue colour T-Shirt, Red & Camel colour Lower.

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



**SHO**  
**P.S. Timarpur, Delhi.**  
**DP/237/N/2020 Ph.: 011-23812734, 8750870129**

INDO COTSPIN LIMITED			
REGD. OFFICE : 78 K.M. DELHI MILE STONE, G.T. ROAD, NH-1, VILLAGE JATTIPUR, POST BOX NO. 3, POST OFFICE SAMALKHA, PANIPAT -132103 CIN: L1111HR1995PLC032541 Website: www.indocotspin.com Email ID:rajpalagarwal12000@yahoo.com, info@indocotspin.com Statement of Standalone Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/Year Ended March 31, 2020 (Amount Rs. in Lacs)			
PARTICULARS	3 MONTHS ENDED 31.03.2020 Audited	YEAR TO DATE FIGURES FOR CURRENT PERIOD ENDED 31.03.2020 Audited	CORRESPONDING 3 MONTHS ENDED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR 31.03.2019 Audited
Total Income from operations (net)	296.44	997.37	365.22
Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary activities after Tax	-5.26	10.64	5.85
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary Items)	-5.26	10.64	5.85
Paid Up Equity Share Capital	420.05	420.05	420.05
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of Previous Year)	-5.26	214.38	5.85
Earnings Per Share (before Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in Rupees)	0.00	0.25	0.19
Earnings Per Share (after Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in Rupees)	0.00	0.25	0.19
<b>NOTE:</b> (i) There is no qualification on the audit report for the quarter/ year ended 31st March, 2020 (ii) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Year Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Year Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites: <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a> , <a href="tel:91-9996034879">tele-91-9996034879</a>			
For Indo Cotspin Limited Sd/- Bal Krishan Aggarwal Managing Director DIN No. :00458219			
Place: Panipat Date: 30/05/2020			

# FSSAI launches new online platform to issue licence, registration to food businesses

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Food regulator FSSAI on Saturday said it has launched a new online platform for granting licenses and registration to food business operators (FBOs) as well as regulatory compliances.

Since 2011, the FSSAI’s online licensing platform FLRS (Food Licensing and Registration System) has issued 70 lakh licenses/registrations till date. Over 35 lakhs licensees/registrants are actively transacting on it.”FSSAI is launching its cloud based, upgraded new food safety compliance online platform called Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS),” the regulator said in a statement. The new URL foscoss.fssai.gov.in will replace the existing foodlicensing.fssai.gov.in, it added.

Since 2011, the FSSAI’s online licensing platform FLRS has issued 70 lakh licenses/registrations till date

The regulator said the new platform FoSCoS is conceptualised to provide one point stop for all engagement of an FBO with the department for any regulatory compliance transaction.

The platform has been integrated with its mobile app and will be linked with other IT platforms. “A single regulatory platform will enable pan India integrated response system to any food fraud and ensure an advanced risk based, data driven regulatory approach. For the start, FoSCoS will be offering licensing, registration, inspection and annual return modules,” FSSAI said.



# India’s forex reserves rise by over \$3 bn

**INDIA ■ MUMBAI**

India’s foreign exchange reserves rose by over \$3 billion during the week ended May 22.

According to the RBI’s weekly statistical supplement, the overall forex reserves increased to \$490.044 billion from \$487.039 billion reported for the week ended May 15.

India’s forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs) and India’s reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$3.035 billion to \$451.706 billion.



# IDBI Bank posts ₹135 cr profit in Q4

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

After being in red for 13 consecutive quarters, LIC-owned IDBI Bank reported a profit after tax of ₹135 crore in the quarter ended March 31, helped by higher interest income. The lender had reported a net loss of ₹4,918 crore in the same quarter last year.

“After a long gap of 13 quarters, we have been able to show net profit of ₹135 crore in the March quarter.

The profit would have been higher but for the recoveries that were affected during March due to the COVID-19 situation,” the bank’s managing director and CEO Rakesh Sharma told reporters.

He said recoveries had fallen short of by ₹700 crore due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus outbreak. The recoveries and upgradation in the quarter stood at 1,457 crore and ₹328 crore, respectively.

The profit in the quarter was also supported by the reversal of ₹1,500 crore of provisions made for non-performing loans (NPAs). Net interest income (NII) improved by 46 per cent to ₹2,356 crore as against ₹1,609 crore last

year same period.

Net interest margin (NIM) improved by 154 basis points to 3.80 per cent for the fourth quarter, 2020 as compared to 2.26 per cent in the year-ago quarter.

For the full year, the bank reported a net loss of Rs 12,887 crore as against ₹15,116 crore of loss booked in the financial year 2019.

Gross NPA of the bank stood at 27.53 per cent as against 27.47 per cent. Net NPA improved to 4.19 per cent from 10.11 per cent. Fresh slippage in the quarter stood at ₹727 crore. Provision coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 93.74 per cent.

The lender, which is under RBI’s prompt corrective action (PCA) since May 2017, expects to come out of it soon. Sharma said the bank has extended the Reserve Bank of India’s moratorium on term loans repayments to all its borrowers.

In value terms, 66 per cent of retail borrowers and 97 per cent of MSME and agriculture borrowers have availed the moratorium. It had set aside ₹247 crore for COVID 19 related provisions as mandated by the RBI.

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

यह सूचना आम लोगों के लिए ICICI Bank द्वारा जारी किए गए श्री परवे 1 मामा का एक आईडी कार्ड नं. 12555, जो कि 15 मार्च, 2020 को लापता या खो गया है। जिस किसी भी व्यक्ति को प्राप्त होता है, से अनुरोध है कि वह उक्त आईडी कार्ड को प्रबंधन समूह ICICI Bank Limited, SD Tower, First Floor, Rohini Sector-8, Delhi-110085 पर लौटा दे। आईडीआईआई बैंक के सभी सम्मानित ग्राहकों को यह सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त ID कार्ड रखने वाले किसी भी अनाधिकृत व्यक्ति को कोई भुगतान न करें। ध्यान दें किसी भी व्यक्ति ने उक्त ID Card रखने वाले व्यक्ति को भुगतान किया है या करेगा, उसकी जिम्मेदारी ICICI Bank की नहीं होगी।  
दिनांक : 31.05.20  
स्थान : दिल्ली ICICI Bank के लिए

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Information is given to general public at large that my client Shri Pankaj Gupta owner of Freehold Residential Ground Floor North East Front Side, without roof rights, area measuring 692 Sq. Feet, built up on Plot no. 184, part of Rect. No. 19, Killa No. 21, situated at Ashoka Enclave Extension-1, in the revenue estate of Village Pala, Tehsil & Distt. Faridkot, Haryana, vide Sale Deed dated 09.03.2004 as Regd. No. 8177, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 0177, Page No. 148/82-84, dated 09.03.2004, SHO Faridkot all date and has lost/impounded his original GPA dated 09.04.2002 as Regd. No. 2672 & SPA dated 06.01.2003 as Regd. No. 308 which was executed in favour of Shri Sunesh Dwar and Lost Report has been lodged with Police Station SO No. 430/2014 LR No. 327/06/2020 dated 28.05.2020 in the State Crime Branch Delhi and same property is going to be financed by Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. Plot No. 15, 15th Floor, Vijaya Bank Building Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001. If any person is having possession right/dam against the said property, contact to the undersigned along with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned found by any one.  
Naveen Kumar Verma, Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaidhath, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Mobile: 09598871432

T. N.No.50/2020 dt. 29.05.2020 SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice	
The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. "For all Indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> ."	
Tender No	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
82.20.5088B	N-95 Mask
82.20.5087A	PPE Kits
33.20.1094A	Secondary Spring Outer
33.20.1095A	Secondary Spring Outer
82.20.1824	Trastuzumab 440 Mg Inj
82.20.1825	Dasatinib 50 Mg
82.20.4180	Alfatinib 30 Mg
82.20.0014	Sacubitril 24 Mg+Valsartan 26 Mg Tab
31.20.1632	Body side Window argrt
82.20.1425	Metformin 500 Mg Tab
56.19.1200B	Lead acid cells 300 AH
16.20.1274	3 Yearly Overhauling Kit
<b>Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening:</b> S.Nos. 01 to 02 on 15.06.2020; S.Nos. 03 to 04 on 16.06.2020; S.Nos. 05 to 08 on 22.06.2020; S.Nos. 09 to 10 on 23.06.2020; S.No. 11 on 26.06.2020; S.No. 12 on 29.06.2020.	
Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway e-procurement website above.	
<b>Principal Chief Materials A0658 Manager/Secunderabad</b>	
<b>For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <a href="https://www.ireps.gov.in">https://www.ireps.gov.in</a> or <a href="http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in</a></b>	



COVID-19 has disrupted life, compelling people to adapt to new treatment ways. When hospital visit is risky, telemedicine has come in with the right prescription. MUSBA HASHMI leads you through the medical sector’s online switch and the upgrades needed to meet the surge in the last two months

# Carry on (line) doctor

It was midnight when Abhijit Saxena, a 35-year-old Delhiite, woke up to his mother’s scream. The 60-year-old was convulsing from a sudden and acute ear ache. After self-medication failed to get her relief, the pain became so unbearable that Saxena had to rush her to hospital.

Both were denied entry at many hospitals. Saxena was advised to keep his mother away from hospitals due to the Coronavirus scare. Looking for a doctor became a Herculean task and the night became the longest one for the duo.

After hours of being a helpless witness to his mother’s suffering, it struck Saxena that he could tap a doctor online. The ENT specialist he contacted, immediately prescribed the painkillers and eardrops that worked magic on his mother.

Cooed up in their homes and with most hospitals being out of bounds due to the pandemic, many have either switched to home remedies or telemedicine, not wanting to catch an infection from a hospital. Dr Alexander Kuruvilla, Chief Healthcare Strategy Officer, Practo, tells you that about 60 per cent of the population has access to only 30 per cent healthcare facilities in India. Though telemedicine is on an all-time high, not much will change in the sector post-pandemic, he warns.

“For a patient in Arunachal Pradesh to take the opinion of a doctor in Delhi, you cannot have better technology than telemedicine. But not much will change in the telemedicine sector. We as a country, despite having the best doctors, are struggling for them in villages. The doctor-patient ratio is skewed. Therefore, telemedicine will help people in rural areas to have access to doctors and better healthcare facilities,” he says.

In urban areas, the time taken to commute to a hospital pushes many a patient to the chemist next door or self-medication, without professional advice. Under these circumstances, telemedicine is the way forward.

“Through telemedicine, the treatment starts early. Also, doctors are available even in off-duty hours, on weekends and holidays too. It saves patients from searching for doctors in an emergency. There are multiple ways in which telemedicine helps and will continue to help even after the pandemic is over,” he asserts.

The growth has paved way for new players in the field, and a sudden surge in users for the existing ones. However, there are chances that post-COVID-19, people will follow the traditional route of visiting a doctor and telemedicine may see a decline.

“It will not grow at such a pace as now. The growth will be slow, but it will not fade out. Take for example, the US and Canada have adopted telemedicine as a common way

to address health issues. Insurance companies reimburse teleconsultation fees, realising that if a disease is addressed early, the cost of reimbursement will reduce,” Kuruvilla tells you.

He points out that though Coronavirus has made people follow social distancing seriously and avoid going to hospitals unnecessarily, visiting hospitals for minor issues is not a good option as they pose a threat of cross-infection not just for Coronavirus but for other infections as well.

Practo has grown five times since March 1, 2020 and the team is working late hours all week to respond to health needs. Many doctors are showing interest in working with the platform.

“We follow a stringent process when it comes to getting doctors registered with the app. We make sure that all their degrees and certificates are verified and available on the platform for users. We have separate sections for Ayurveda, Allopathy and Yunani medicines so that the patient can figure out what he wants to opt for. Given the surge in the last two months and the response strategy we had, we are ready to handle any situation in the near future,” he explains.

Amit Pandey, senior scriptwriter at Cosmos Maya, who writes scripts for cartoon shows, see telemedicine as a gift of technology, especially for people who can’t compromise on work.

“As the world struggles to come to terms with the outbreak, at a granular level it has brought a drastic change in life across the globe. While businesses across different sectors are reeling and people gradually getting used to the new lifestyle, the healthcare sector has emerged as a crucial part of our lives. Most people have been trying to avoid hospital visits. However, since health check-ups cannot be compromised, medical professionals have swiftly adopted telemedicine as their way to connect with their patients for virtual consultations wherever possible,” he says.

He recalls his first experience with the technology: “A few days back, I had to get in touch with a doctor virtually with the help of an app when one fine morning I noticed some allergy on my skin. I could not visit a hospital. I tried booking an appointment with a dermatologist through an app and I received a call from the doctor within 20 minutes. Soon I got a prescription on the app itself making it a seamless experience. I ordered the medicine online using another app and within an hour, I was good to go. I paid for both transactions online. Similarly, the other day when my wife complained about splitting headache, I used the same app to e-consult a doctor and got the initial medications with the help of the prescription. The best part about this was that the sup-



THE SECTOR HAS PICKED UP PACE AND IS NOW BEING WIDELY USED BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT CAN SUBSTITUTE THE TRADITIONAL HOSPITALS VISITS. THAT CAN NEVER BE THE CASE BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTIONS IT POSES WHEN IT COMES TO DO A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF A PATIENT. AT BEST IT CAN BE A PRIMARY INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT AND A WAY TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS HISTORY

— DR YASH GULATI, SENIOR CONSULTANT, ORTHOPEDIC, INDRAPRASTHA APOLLO HOSPITALS

port team of the application regularly follows up with the patients to ensure a seamless step out of the problem. I can imagine how helpful this can be for senior citizens, a godsend. As they say, requirement is the mother of all innovations, and telemedicine is no exception,” Pandey adds.

Dr Yash Gulati, Senior Orthopaedic, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, tells you that telemedicine has been here for 20 years, if not more and has been occasionally used by doctors and patients. “When I say telemedicine, I refer to teleconsultation that can be through messages, voice calls or even video calls. Many hospitals around the country have been using this technology. Yes, the sector has picked up pace and is now being widely used but that doesn't mean that it can substitute hospitals visits. That can never be the case because of the restrictions it poses when it comes to the need for a physical examination. At best, telemedicine can only be a primary introduction to the patient and a way to know more about his history. Also, it can be used to confirm a diagnosis in certain cases. If you don't take the history of the patient, you don't know where in the sea you will sail in and if you don't do physical examination then you haven't sailed at all,” Gulati says.

He adds that it is beneficial in two cases — one, when the patient lives far away from the doctor and travelling is not an option, and two, in taking a second opinion from doctors on surgeries or in general. “The technology is successful in cases where you can skip a physical examination. Like, if a patient has suffered a fracture or has undergone a knee surgery, the doctor can observe the movement via a video call and the treatment can proceed. It can also help the doctors in following up with the patients during the treatment. So it is boon for primary diagnosis and for some general ailments like the common cold, flu and allergies,” he explains.

Rajat Garg, co-founder and CEO, myUpchar, an Indian language health information platform delivering medicines nationwide and teleconsultation facility, tells you that the platform saw a 50 per cent increase in traffic in the last few months.

“Most queries were related to cold and flu symptoms, allergies and gynaecology related issues. There was no one pattern. Earlier the platform was pressed into use for seeking second opinion but in the last two months, more generic queries have poured in. We were anticipating more COVID-19 related queries, however that didn't happen. The surprising fact was that queries related to sexual issues dropped by 50 per cent,” Garg says. The platform mostly attracts customers from Tier II and III cities. To leverage the growing demand, the platform has

partnered with top doctors and organisations.

The loophole is that these platforms don't support follow-ups with the same doctor. In case a patient wants to consult the same doctor again, there is no room for it. The app will connect you only to the doctor who is answering queries at that time.

“Our doctors are available 24 hours a day in case of any emergency but we haven't introduced a way in which the patient can consult the same doctor twice. We will be working on this and try to introduce the facility soon,” he says.

Though telemedicine is doing wonders for now, there are many challenges. If a patient is in a need of an injection, there is no way telemedicine can help. “In such cases, we ask the patient to visit a hospital on priority. But, for blood pressure and temperature checks, the patients are trained enough to do it by themselves. Nowadays, most of the people keep a BP monitoring machine or a glucose meter at home, so it serves the purpose. But for severe issues, we advise people to go to the hospital and get a check-up done,” Garg explains.

Dr Anand Bansal, Medical Director, Action Group of Hospitals, says that technology has always been making things easier and efficient. “When the entire country is in the grip of COVID-19, lockdown is a necessary step to curb the virus spread but, in the process, patients suffering from other diseases are having a tough time as hospitals are out of bounds. In such cases, telemedicine has emerged as a boon. Recently, the Health Ministry issued guidelines for telemedicine, considering it helps in reducing the risk of virus spread. In the past few decades, there has been a constant effort to promote telemedicine but in this pandemic, it has automatically picked up pace,” he says.

He agrees with Gulati to add that although it makes the process easier, faster and saves resources, it cannot be considered to be future of healthcare.

“Regular OPDs and physical presence are still needed for better and correct treatment. In the time of emergency, one needs to rush to the hospital. For telemedicine, one entirely depends on technology, availability of Internet which may fail at times and a major population is still not that tech-friendly, especially the weaker sections of the society,” he tells you.

The medicine delivery and sample collection from home facilities of these apps and platforms comes in handy for patients in situations like these when stepping out of the house is not an option. So, if you have developed an allergy lately or, for that matter, a cold or flu, then fret not, a doctor is just a click away.



# Lewangolski

## Polish striker equals his personal best for goals in a single season

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich faced little resistance as they stormed to a 5-0 victory over Fortuna Dusseldorf to go 10 points clear at the Bundesliga summit.

A 1-0 win against Borussia Dortmund — who play their game in hand against Paderborn on Sunday — last Tuesday gave Bayern a seven-point cushion at the top and they took another step towards an eighth straight title at the Allianz Arena on Saturday.

Mathias Jorgensen bundled a shot from Benjamin Pavard into his own goal in the 15th minute and the World Cup-winning right-back headed home a Joshua Kimmich corner before the half-hour mark.

Robert Lewandowski finished off a sweeping team move two minutes before half-time and added a second within five minutes of the restart, with Alphonso Davies completing the rout soon after.

Dusseldorf were unable to keep Bayern out for long. Thomas Muller's delivery to the back post was centred by Serge Gnabry with a brilliant first touch and Pavard's attempt was diverted into the net by Jorgensen.

Goalkeeper Florian Kastenmeier got down to his left to turn a volley from Muller behind, but he was unable to keep out Pavard's powerful header from the resulting corner in the 29th minute.

Bayern scored a brilliant third before half-time. Lewandowski's flick released Kimmich, who cut the ball back to Muller and he teed up the Poland striker to sweep into the net.

Lewandowski doubled his tally by instinctively using his trailing leg to steer Gnabry's driven cross home between the legs of Kastenmeier.

The onslaught continued when Davies dispossessed Kevin Stoger on the edge of the Dusseldorf box and slid a shot underneath Kastenmeier.

Andre Hoffman missed the target with a header and Niko Giesselmann was kept



out by Manuel Neuer in rare chances for Dusseldorf, but they were able to stop Hansi Flick's side adding to the score as they continued what looks sure to be a march to glory.

### LEWA COMPLETES THE SET

In his sixth Bundesliga game against Dusseldorf, Lewandowski finally scored his first goal in a meeting with them.

Although he was unable to complete his hat-trick from close range in the 70th minute, the prolific 31-year-old has now been on target against all 18 clubs playing in Germany's top flight this season.

Lewandowski has also scored 43 goals in 37 games in all competitions in 2019-20, equalling his personal best from 2016-17.

### DELIGHTFUL DAVIES

It was another exemplary display from converted left-

back Davies. He used his incredible pace to halt a counter-attack ahead of Bayern's opener and made a last-ditch block to deny Kenan Karaman a goal in the 33rd minute, before helping put the game beyond doubt early in the second half.

### DAY TO FORGET

Things got off to a bad start for the Denmark international with an own goal and he continued to be ran ragged at the back. He failed to track Lewandowski on his first, was not quick enough to get across to stop the striker getting a second and failed to prevent Davies barrelling through when Bayern got their fifth.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Bayern face a tricky trip to Bayer Leverkusen next Saturday, while Dusseldorf are at home to Hoffenheim on the same day.

## UK Govt authorises return of Live sport

LONDON: British Government has approved the return of domestic competitive sport behind closed doors from June 1.

Major professional competitions have been shut down since March because of the coronavirus.

But with much of the country still in effective lockdown, Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Oliver Dowden, said on Saturday the Government wants to "re-establish some normality in other parts of our lives" as he announced the return of Live sport.

"For more than two months after sport stopped and after weeks of round-the-clock discussions with medical experts and professional sports bodies, I'm delighted to announce today that the Government has published guidance which allows competitive sport to resume behind closed doors from Monday (June 1) at the earliest," Dowden told a Downing Street news conference.

"Football, tennis, horse racing, Formula One, cricket, golf, rugby, snooker and others are all set to return to our screens



shortly."

Horse racing is set to be the first major sport back in action at Newcastle on Monday, with the first Classic meeting of the season, featuring 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, on June 6.

The guidance, drawn up in consultation with public health officials and governing bodies, forms the third stage of British sport's return from lockdown.

Stage two, which allowed for close-contact and competitive training for elite athletes, was published last Monday.

It will now be up to individ-

ual sports to carry out their own risk assessments, with Dowden saying they "know their sport best". As well as ensuring no spectators are present, sports bodies must ensure everyone entering a venue is screened for the coronavirus and anyone suspected of having Covid-19 must be placed in isolation.

Movement channels will be established, while social distancing must be maintained "where possible", with players warned against physical contact celebrations with their teammates.

AFP

## NORTHERN RAILWAY'S STATION/TERMINAL-WISE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR THE TRAINS ANNOUNCED TO RUN W.E.F. 1st JUNE, 2020 AND ONWARD

For the convenience of rail passengers, Northern Railway will start train operations of announced Mail/Express trains w.e.f. 01.06.2020 from the following major Terminals/Stations of Northern Railway:-

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT NEW DELHI

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02230/29	Lucknow Mail	New Delhi	Lucknow Jn
02392/91	Shramjeevi Express	New Delhi	Rajgir
02394/93	Sampoon Kranti Exp.	New Delhi	Rajendra Nagar
02418/17	Prayagraj Express	New Delhi	Prayagraj
02420/19	Gomti Express	New Delhi	Lucknow
02452/51	Shram Shakti Express	New Delhi	Kanpur
02560/59	Shivganga Express	New Delhi	Manduadih
02630/29	Karnataka S.K. Exp.	New Delhi	Yesvantpur
02724/23	Telangana Express	New Delhi	Hyderabad
02802/01	Purushottam Express	New Delhi	Puri
02218/17	Mahamana Express	New Delhi	Varanasi
02554/53	Vaishali Express	New Delhi	Saharsa
02382/81	Poorva Express	New Delhi	Howrah
02303/04	Poorva Express	New Delhi	Howrah
02055/56	Jan Shatabdi Exp.	New Delhi	Dehradun
02057/58	Jan Shatabdi Exp.	New Delhi	Una Himachal
02566/65	Bihar S.K. Express	New Delhi	Darbhanga
02806/05	APR Express	New Delhi	Vishakhapatnam

### PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT NEW DELHI

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02716/15	Sachkhanda Express	Amritsar	Nanded
02926/25	Paschim Exp. (Delux)	Amritsar	Bandra Terminus
02556/55	Gorakhdham Express	Hisar	Gorakhpur

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02156/55	Bhopal Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Habibganj
02618/17	Mangla Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Ernakulam
02963/64	Mewar Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Udaipur City
02182/81	Jabalpur Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Jabalpur
02284/83	Duronto Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Ernakulam
02285/86	Duronto Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Secunderabad
02060/59	Jan Shatabdi Exp.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Kota
02918/17	Gujarat S.K. Exp.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Ahmedabad
02780/79	Goa Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Vasco-da-gama

### PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02904/03	Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
02716/15	Sachkhanda Express	Amritsar	Nanded

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT ANAND VIHAR T.

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
04010/09	Champaran Satyagrah Exp.	Anand Vihar T.	Bapudham Mothari
02558/57	Saptkranti Express	Anand Vihar T.	Muzaffarpur
05274/73	Satyagrah Express	Anand Vihar T.	Raxaul
02220/19	Suhaildev Express	Anand Vihar T.	Gazipur
02234/33	Gazipur Express	Anand Vihar T.	Gazipur

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT DELHI JUNCTION

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02916/15	Ashram Express	Delhi Jn.	Ahmedabad
05484/83	Mahananda Express	Delhi Jn.	Alipurduar
05956/55	Brahmaputra Mail	Delhi Jn.	Dibrugarh

### PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT DELHI JUNCTION

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT DELHI SARAI ROHILLA

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02463/64	Sampark Kranti Exp.	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Jodhpur
02066/65	Jan Shatabdi Express	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Ajmer

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT LUCKNOW JN

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02229/30	Lucknow Mail	Lucknow Jn	New Delhi
02419/20	Gomti Exp.	Lucknow Jn	New Delhi
02533/34	Pushpak Exp.	Lucknow Jn	C Shivaji Maharaj Terminus

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02392/91	Shramjeevi Exp	New Delhi	Rajgir
02556/55	Gorakhdham Express	Hisar	Gorakhpur
02554/53	Vaishali Express	New Delhi	Saharsa
02558/57	Sapt Kranti Express	Anand Vihar T.	Muzaffarpur
02220/19	Suhaildev Express	Anand Vihar T.	Gazipur
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
09037/38	Awadh Express	Bandra Terminus	Gorakhpur
09039/40	Awadh Express	Bandra Terminus	Muzaffarpur
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata
02218/17	Mahamana Express	New Delhi	Varanasi Jn
09167/68	Sabarmati Express	Ahmedabad Jn	Varanasi Jn
09165/66	Sabarmati Express	Ahmedabad Jn	Darbhanga

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT VARANASI JN

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
01072/71	Kamayani Express	Varanasi Jn	Lokmanyatilak T.
01094/93	Mahanagri Express	Varanasi Jn	Mumbai CST
02217/18	Mahamana Express	Varanasi Jn	New Delhi
09168/67	Sabarmati Express	Varanasi Jn	Ahmedabad Jn

### PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT VARANASI

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
01061/62	Darbhanga Exp.	Lotmanya Tilak (T)	Darbhanga
02792/91	Express	Danapur	Secunderabad Jn.
09045/46	Tapti Ganga Exp.	Surat	Chhapra

### PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT MORADABAD

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02091/92	Jan Shatabdi Express	Dehradun	Kathgodam
02408/07	Karambhum Express	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri
02230/29	Lucknow Mail	New Delhi	Lucknow Jn
02218/19	Mahamana Express	New Delhi	Varanasi
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata

### TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM/TERMINATING AT AMRITSAR

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
02716/15	Sachkhanda Express	Amritsar	Nanded
02926/25	Paschim Exp. (Delux)	Amritsar	Bandra Terminus
02904/03	Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
02408/07	Karambhum Express	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri
02054/53	Jan Shatabdi Exp.	Amritsar	Haridwar
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata

### PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE AT AMBALA

Train No.	Train Name	From	To
02053/54	Jan Shatabadi Exp.	Haridwar	Amritsar
02057/58	Jan Shatabadi Exp.	New Delhi	Una Himachal
04650/49	Saryu Yamuna Exp.	Amritsar	Jaynagar
04674/73	Shaheed Express	Amritsar	Jaynagar
02716/15	Sachkhanda Express	Amritsar	Nanded
02904/03	Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar	Mumbai Central
02408/07	Karambhum Express	Amritsar	New Jalpaiguri
02358/57	Durgiana Express	Amritsar	Kolkata

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2) Passengers are advised to bring their own meals and light blanket.

## La Liga clubs to resume full training next week

AFP ■ MADRID

La Liga have confirmed Lplayers will be allowed to return to full training on Monday, giving them 10 days to work together before the season restarts in Spain on June 11.

This is the final phase of La Liga's staggered training programme as teams get set to complete the remaining 11 rounds of the season, which will finish on July 19.

European competitions, including the Champions League, could then resume in August.

"La Liga clubs will start collective training on Monday, June 1," the league said in a statement on Saturday.

"The fourth phase, which starts next Monday, is the last step in this protocol that will lead to clubs starting competition on June 11."

La Liga president Javier Tebas has said the plan is for games to be played every day. The Spanish football federation (RFEF) gave its permission last week for matches to be staged on all days of the week.

Players in Spain's top two divisions began training in

groups of up to 10 from May 18 and then 14 shortly after, having initially begun working individually at training grounds from May 4.

La Liga suspended fixtures due to the coronavirus pandemic on March 12, meaning the break between games stopping and restarting will be almost exactly three months.

Matches will be held behind closed doors, with the Seville derby between Sevilla and Real Betis expected to be the first game back on June 11. Barcelona, who are two points clear at the top of the table, will resume away at Real Mallorca while their closest challengers Real Madrid are at home against Eibar.

Madrid have the approval of La Liga to stage their remaining home games at their Valdebebas training ground to allow construction work to go ahead at the Santiago Bernabeu.

All games will be played according to strict medical protocol, with players and officials undergoing tests for coronavirus the day before games and having their temperatures taken before entering stadiums.



## Yashaswini claims pistol Gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tokyo Olympics quota winner Yashaswini Deswal of India shot 243.6 to claim the top spot in 10m air pistol event of the 4th Online International Shooting Championship on Saturday.

Austria's Martin Strempl, also a Tokyo Games quota winner, shot 253.8 (one point more than the World Record) to finish on top in the 10m air rifle.

He also shot 633.7, which is 0.2 point more than the qualification world record.

In the 10m air pistol event, Ashish Dabas (243.1) was second, while Anish Bhanwala finished third with 222.3 in an all-Indian affair.

Indian Rudranksh Patil shot 251.7 to bag the second place in the 10m air rifle event, while Visnu Shivaraj Pandian was third with 226.5.

Shooters from 11 countries participated in the championship.

## SPECIAL TRAIN FROM NEW DELHI TO LUCKNOW JN. (One way Single Trip)

Northern Railway will run a single trip one way special train from New Delhi to Lucknow Junction on 01.06.2020 as per following details given below:-

02232 New Delhi - Lucknow Junction Mail Special Train		
STATIONS	Train No. 02232	
	Arrival	Departure
New Delhi	-	22:05
Ghaziabad Junction	22:48	22:50
Hapur Junction	23:22	23:25
Moradabad	1:05	1:13
Rampur Junction	1:40	1:42
Bareilly Junction	2:39	2:41
Shahjahanpur	3:45	3:47
Hardoi	4:43	4:45
Alamnagar	6:19	6:20
Lucknow Junction	6:55	-

Day of Run: 02232 New Delhi - Lucknow Junction Mail Special (Monday) 01.06.2020.

Accommodation: First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

### PLEASE PAY ATTENTION :-

As passengers are aware, Railways have already been running 15 pairs of Rajdhani Special trains from 12.05.2020 including the 02425/02426 New Delhi - Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Special train.

Keeping in view the passengers' convenience it has been decided by the Ministry of Railways to provide additional stoppage to 02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi- New Delhi Rajdhani Special at Pathankot Cantt Railway station in both directions from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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2. Mrs. Anita Rai, Flat No.127, 3rd Floor, DDA MIG Flat, Pocket-1, Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

3. Mr. Prabhat Kumar Rai, Flat No.127, 3rd Floor, DDA MIG Flat, Pocket-1, Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

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In view of the above default, ABFL hereby calls upon you the addressee to discharge in full your liabilities towards ABFL by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 Days (Sixty Days) from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, ABFL shall be entitled to take possession of the Secured Asset and shall also take other actions as is available to ABFL in law.

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AUTHORIZED OFFICER

PLACE : New Delhi

DATE : 31-05-2020



# BCCI nominates Rohit for Khel Ratna

Shikhar, Ishant and Deepti in contention for Arjuna award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's prolific limited overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma was on Saturday nominated for the prestigious Khel Ratna award by the BCCI for his stupendous performance in 2019 when he dazzled with five hundreds in the 50-over World Cup.

Rohit's opening partner Shikhar Dhawan and Ishant Sharma, the most-capped Test cricketer in the current set-up, have been nominated for the Arjuna Award.

In the women's section, Deepti Sharma got BCCI nomination for her consistent show across formats in the last three years.

Dhawan was earlier nominated in 2018 alongside Smriti Mandhana for Arjuna but missed out on the award.

As skipper Virat Kohli has got the highest sporting honour, Rohit with his magnificent white-ball record over the years was an automatic choice. Having scored 9115 runs in 224 ODIs with 29 hundreds and 43 fifties.

He also has 2141 runs in 32 Tests with six hundreds and 10 fifties. In 108 T20Is, the 33-year-old has scored 2773 runs with four hundreds apart from being ICC's *Cricketer of the Year*.

"We went through a lot of data and considered various parameters before shortlisting the nominees. Rohit Sharma has set new benchmarks as a batsman and achieved scores people thought were not possible in the shorter formats of the game," BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said, referring to his three double hundreds in 50-over



cricket.

"We feel he is worthy of getting the prestigious Khel Ratna award for his commitment, conduct, consistency and his leadership skills," Ganguly added.

Secretary Jay Shah termed Rohit as perfect "teamman" who led well in absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli.

"In the last five years, Rohit Sharma

has not only raised the bar with his individual performances but has also led the Indian team with distinction in Virat Kohli's absence," Shah was quoted as saying in a BCCI press release.

For 31-year-old Ishant, it was a long wait to earn the nomination as he is the senior-most member in the current Test set-up with 97 Tests under his belt apart from 80 ODIs and 14 T20Is.

## Vaccine will bring cricket back to normal: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The world was in a "sheer shock" in the past few months due to the Covid-19 pandemic but BCCI president Sourav Ganguly is confident that life will be back to normal once the vaccine for the virus is developed.

"This is something that has got the world in sheer shock. I think things will be back on track. We did not have the medicines to take care of it. But over a six-seven months' period once the vaccine comes up everything will be normal," Ganguly said during a Live class on *Unacademy* app.

"We have this tremendous resis-

stance in ourselves. I think cricket will be back to normal. Yes, there will be some changes in schedule but I think the BCCI and the ICC will be hell bent to get cricket back to normal.

Ganguly believes once the vaccine is out, the virus will be like any other health issues like flu or jaundice but with a cure. "Cricket will be very strong. There will be different tests, medical examinations for players, but I don't see it coming in the way of sport and it will go forward. As the vaccine comes out, it's going to be normal life I think. If you fall sick, whether you have fever, jaundice you pick those medicines and get better."

Ishant has 297 Test wickets under his belt and by the end of the year is expected to be second pacer in the country after Kapil Dev to complete 100 Test matches.

"Fast bowlers are prone to injuries and Ishant has had a fair share of them but he has fought hard to be back on the park every time," Ganguly commented on his nomination.

The 34-year-old Dhawan holds the record for the fastest Test century on debut and is the only batsman in the world to have won two consecutive golden bats (for most runs) in the ICC Champions Trophy.

He is also the quickest Indian batsman to reach 2000 and 3000 runs in ODIs and second-fastest Indian to score 4000 and 5000 runs in ODIs.

In 136 ODIs, he has scored 5688 runs with 17 hundreds apart from 2315 runs in 34 Tests (7 hundreds) and 1588 runs in 61 T20 Internationals.

The 24-year-old Deepti has already played 54 ODIs and 48 T20 Internationals for the country. She also holds the record of highest individual score by an Indian woman in ODIs — 188. She has so far scored 1840 international runs and taken 117 wickets across two formats.

## IPL can't happen without foreign stars: Wadia

NEW DELHI: The IPL is a tournament with global appeal and it does not make sense to host it without foreign stars, says Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia, who also feels that it's too early for the BCCI to decide on the fate of the T20 league, given the unpredictability caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

Franchisees have expressed mixed opinions on how they would want the cash-rich event to be organised this year with Rajasthan Royals proposing an IPL of only Indian players, considering the travel restrictions in place.

Three-time champions CSK have already rejected Royals' idea and now Kings XI Punjab too have echoed the same sentiment.

"IPL is an international tournament made by Indians. It is the premier cricketing event in the world, therefore it needs an international platform and international stars," Wadia said. "But it remains to be seen which of the foreign players are allowed to travel at that time (considering the restrictions). I feel there are too many variables for the BCCI at the moment to even have a calculated guess on when it might happen.

"What if tomorrow the cases keep rising, what happens then? It would be unwise to think of anything other than Covid-19 for the moment," he said.

With some experts pointing



that the pandemic is likely to peak in India in July-August, Wadia said it is premature to talk about IPL.

"The most important thing for all of us is to deal with the current situation. It could last another month or two, may be more. Once the virus diminishes, then we can have more clarity on when the IPL can be held and where it can be held.

"I am sure the Indian audience will happy to see the IPL after what we have been through. Football in Germany has already started and EPL is starting soon but they have already peaked while we have not. "I see the possibility of IPL happening but it is all about combatting the virus for the next two months at least," added Wadia.

PTI

## Large part of me becoming captain has to do with Dhoni observing me: Kohli

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli on Saturday said his elevation to captaincy has a lot to do with Mahendra Singh Dhoni keenly observing his cricket smarts for six-seven long years.

During an *Instagram* chat with teammate Ravichandran Ashwin, Kohli spoke about how he was always keen on taking responsibility and becoming the India captain was a part of that process.

"I think a large portion of me becoming captain was also to do with him (MSD) observing me for a long period of time. It just can't happen like he goes and selectors say 'you become captain,'" Kohli replied to a specific question on the process of becoming the leader of the team.

"The guy who is there, he takes responsibility and says okay I think this is the next guy and I will tell you how he is going and then slowly that transition is formed.

"I think he played a big role in that and that trust you have to build over, say six seven years, it just doesn't happen overnight," Kohli said.

The transition happened when Kohli would station himself at the first slip and pick Dhoni's brains on tactical moves.

"I think that is the transition that slowly happens, then with your entry in the game you start talking to the captain regularly.

"I was always in MS's (Dhoni) ears, standing next to him, 'yeh kar sakte ho, woh kar sakte ho' (can we try these things), what do you think, he would deny a lot of things



but he would discuss a lot of things as well, so he got a lot of confidence that I can do this (captain) after him," the skipper said.

Taking responsibility is something he has always liked, Kohli said during the interaction. "I was inclined to taking responsibility. Becoming captain of India was not even in my wildest dreams, to be honest. We all started playing at a similar time. I made my Test debut before you, you (Ashwin) made it just after in the next series.

"And after that it was all about wanting to play, wanting to be in the XI regularly, wanting to put my foot down and say I didn't play all the games but I wanted to be discussed whether this guy is good enough to play or not."

## One option is to cancel T20 World Cup this year: Sanga

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sri Lankan batting great Kumar Sangakkara feels that one of the options is to cancel the T20 World Cup this year as many questions around the Covid-19 pandemic remain "unanswered". Sangakkara, who is the president of the prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), feels the situation needs to be monitored.

"Everyday, there are new learnings, new things being found out, so we will have to wait and see, but the options may be to cancel it this year, postpone it to another year, but to have in place anticipatory procedures that take into account health and safety of both the players and the spectators, and make sure that's iron clad," he said.

Sangakkara said there are many unanswered questions around the pandemic, which has

brought sporting activity across the world to a grinding halt.

"The real thing is what's going to happen with the virus. Is it going to disappear like SARS and MERS, or is it something that's going to come back seasonally?

"Will we have to live with this particular virus or different strains of it from time to time or do we have to live with it long term?" Sangakkara asked on *Star Sports* show *Cricknet Connected*.

The former Sri Lanka captain added, "If that's the case, then some of the changes that we have seen in our lives now, may be the new normal for us for a few years until a vaccine is found or until there's enough immunity globally among the people to withstand this.

"So, those are really questions that I don't think anyone can answer at the moment. We will get more clarity as time goes by."

## ECB seeks virus replacements from ICC

LONDON: The cricket authorities in England are hoping that ICC would allow coronavirus replacements when the West Indies and Pakistan travel the country for upcoming Test series.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is in talks with the world governing body (ICC) over changes to the playing conditions, according to a *BBC* report.

"There are still some

considerations from an ICC perspective about a Covid-19 replacement. That still needs to be agreed. I would hope that would be in place well before the Test series starts in July," ECB director of events Steve Elworthy said.

The change would apply to Test cricket but not ODIs and T20Is.

As of now, a player can be replaced in a match if he is suffering from a concussion. For all other injuries and

illnesses, a substitute fielder may be permitted, but that player cannot bat or bowl.

The ICC has banned the use of saliva to shine the ball amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"From a planning point of view, we have got everything in place. We're ready for it, but clearly we don't want to stray outside of Govt guidelines & Govt decision-making," said Elworthy.

## IPL must go on: Anirudh Chaudhry

NEW DELHI: Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry feels the Indian Premier League (IPL) show must go on as it important not only from the revenue point of view, but also for domestic cricketers.

Chaudhry also backed MS Dhoni, saying one of the greatest cricketing brains still has much to offer to Indian cricket.

"It is the IPL GC's decision, but my view is that effort has to be made to try and have that situation where

the show must go on," Chaudhry said.

"It is important for domestic players also. The revenue is also important from it."

Asked about the possibility of the IPL being moved away from India keeping in mind the health crisis,

Chaudhry said: "Even if the GC decides to shift the match-es...it has to be in a country where time difference is not too much. Broadcasters will want that 8 pm slot. It is important for them."

## WI approves 'bio-secure' Eng tour

PTI ■ ST JOHN'S

The West Indies cricket board has approved next month's tour of England where the regional side will play three Tests in a "bio-secure" environment.

The series, if it gets the nod of the UK Government, will mark resumption of international cricket which has been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Board gave approval in principle for the proposed upcoming West Indies Test tour of England," Cricket West Indies (CWI) said in a statement.

"The decision comes only after CWI medical and cricket-related representatives and advisors have been involved in detailed discussions with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), and their own medical and public health advisers."

The ECB has proposed two venues for the Test series starting July 8, Hampshire's Ageas Bowl and Lancashire's Old Trafford, both of



which have on-site hotels.

"CWI's management is now in the process of seeking to put all of the approvals and logistics in place within the Caribbean, including seeking permission from the various National Governments to facilitate the movement of players and

Speaking of decorated former India captain Dhoni, whom he has seen from close quarters, Chaudhry said: "Dhoni is fit, he is the best wicketkeeper in India and one of the finest minds in the game.

"During a match you would see him asking a player to move to his right, and then to the left. The player would end up standing in the same place, but the idea is to make him alert. Before that his mind might have been wavering a bit," Chaudhry said. "If I would be a decision maker, I would have him in the team."

PTI



## F1 season to open in Austria

AFP ■ VIENNA

Formula One's truncated coronavirus-hit season will finally get underway with the Austrian Grand Prix on July 5, the Austrian Government announced on Saturday.

The Spielberg circuit has also been given the green light to stage a second race the following weekend.

"The two Formula One races on July 5 and 12 at Spielberg will be staged without spectators," announced Austrian Health Minister Rudolf Anschober.

He said that the two races had been approved after F1 organisers "had presented a complete and professional plan" to combat the spread of Covid-19.

Anschober added a caveat to Saturday's statement, insisting the season's belated restart would only go ahead if all the health assurances made by F1 were fulfilled.

"In addition to strict hygiene measures the plan also involves regular testing and health check-ups for teams and all the other employees," he said.

"The crucial element will be the close coordination between the organisers and the regional and local health authorities," he added.

The F1 season was thrown into chaos with the cancellation of the traditional curtain-raising Australian Grand Prix in March only hours before practice was due to begin.

## Anand back in India

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand finally returned to India on Saturday after being stuck in Germany for over three months due to the travel restrictions imposed in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chennai-based chess maestro arrived by an Air India flight (AI-120) from Frankfurt via Delhi and reached the Kempegowda Airport in Bengaluru around 1.15 pm. He will undergo 14 days quarantine as per the rules laid down by the Karnataka government before leaving the state capital for Chennai.

Anand was in Germany to play in the Bundesliga chess league in February and was to return to India in March, but was forced to stay put after the Covid-19 outbreak disrupted sporting schedules across the globe apart from restricting movement.

"Yes...Anand has arrived. He is fine and settling down," his wife Aruna Anand said.

According to her, Anand said he is fine and happy to be back in India.

"We are happy that Anand is back after a long time. He will complete quarantine procedures and come to Chennai as per protocol," she had said earlier.

As per the protocols for those



returning to Karnataka, Anand will be under institutional quarantine and later he will be home quarantined for 14 days.

Anand left Frankfurt on Friday night and reached Bengaluru on Saturday afternoon. The flights from Germany are scheduled to land only in Delhi and Bengaluru.

Anand was staying near Frankfurt and did online commentary for the Candidates tournament in Russia before it was called off midway due to the pandemic and led the Indian team in the Online Nations Cup earlier this month.

He had been in touch with his family in Chennai on a regular basis via video calls and kept himself busy with chess related work.



## NBA eyes July 31 return

NEW YORK: NBA commissioner Adam Silver told team owners he's targeting a July 31 return to play, US media reported, although the format for completing the season remains unclear. The *Los Angeles Times* was among the outlets reporting Silver suggested July 31 as a potential re-start date when speaking on a conference call with the board of governors, citing unnamed sources familiar with the call.

The NBA suspended play on March 11 in response to the coronavirus pandemic and multiple scenarios for resuming and completing the season are still being considered.

One option would be to bring back all 30 teams to complete the tail end of the regular season before staging the playoffs — an idea that appears to have little support with many of those teams out of post-season contention. Also under discussion is the return of 20 teams, with competition being split into World Cup-style pool play that virtually serves as the first round of the playoffs.

Another suggestion would bring back up to 22 teams — all that were within six games of a playoff spot when play was halted. The scenario would include some regular season games and a play-in tournament for berths in the playoffs to follow.

## De Kock, Ngidi dominate CSA award nominations

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Limited-overs skipper Quinton de Kock and speed merchant Lungi Ngidi dominated the nominations for the 2019/20 Cricket South Africa (CSA) men's international awards.

All-rounder Marizanne Kapp and Laura Wolvaardt have both won nominations in four categories in the women's section.

"The gala event to honour our South Africa's top performing professional cricketers over the past year will take place on Saturday, July 4 2020, in a virtual ceremony because of the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus," the CSA said.

De Kock and Ngidi have both been nominated in the following three categories: SA Men's Cricketer of the Year, ODI Cricketer of the

Year and T20 Cricketer of the Year.

In addition, the wicketkeeper-batsman has been nominated Test Cricketer of the Year along with Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje as well as for the SA Men's Players' Players award, while Ngidi has been nominated for the Streetwise Award.

Nortje, in his first year of international cricket, has also been nominated in the South Africa Men's Cricketer of the Year.

Makhaya Ntini (2005/06), Jacques Kallis (2004/11), Hashim Amla (2010/13), AB de Villiers (2014/15) and Rabada (2016/18) have won the South African cricket of the year award twice.

Other South African men's players nominated in the various categories are Temba Bavuma (T20 Cricketer of the Year), Heinrich Klaasen (ODI Cricketer of the Year), David Miller (SA Men's Players' Player of the Year) and Vernon Philander (RAM Delivery of the Year).







# ‘Music is my first love’

## ■ What made you come on board as a judge for Big Golden Voice?

The concept of Big FM's Big Golden Voice presented by IDFC First bank was extremely unique to begin with. The fact it's a radio show and everything is about the voice you hear for the first time of the contestant basis which they get selected and not for their personality and screen presence. Their voice is the only criteria here.

The medium and concept being so different, and at the same time challenging, is what attracted me to the show. Also the team was excellent to work with.

## ■ What next for the winners?

I will be doing a video with the winners Shalini and Ankit Damami soon. I will also give them a break in my forthcoming songs for sure.

## ■ You don various hats — actor, singer, music director, composer. Where do you find yourself most comfortable working in?

Music is my most comfortable area and because of that and my brand, I have been able to do other things as well. Besides the music being a blockbuster hit, my latest film as an actor, *Happy Hardy and Heer* received a lot of critical acclaim from the best of the critics in the industry

## Talktime

HIMESH RESHMIYA

Known for songs like Jhalak Dikhlaa, Aap Ka Suroor and Tandoori Nights, Reshammiya dons several hats. He speaks with Musba Hashmi about what made him come on board as a judge for Big Golden Voice, his lockdown routine and upcoming

I AM WORKING ON MY MUSIC, SCRIPTS AND FUTURE PROJECTS BESIDES ENJOYING QUALITY TIME WITH MY FAMILY DURING THIS LOCKDOWN. I AM ALSO BUSY WORKING ON MY NEW LOOK. BESIDES WORK, MY FITNESS ROUTINE ALSO KEEPS ME BUSY DURING THE DAY

along with me getting a lot of acclaim for my performance as an actor. I am extremely happy about the response.

## ■ What does music mean to you?

Music means the world to me. It's my identity and my first love.

## ■ A song that you have most memories with?

Lately, *Teri Meri Kahani* from *Happy Hardy and Heer* went viral and became the most searched song of 2019. I have fond memories of the song as it was a very different experience of giving a break to someone whom I had heard on a reality show.

## ■ An advice for aspiring singers, who are taking the digital route?

My advice to all singers, no matter what route they are taking, is that they should also start composing if they want to be in the game for a longer time.

## ■ Any changes that you have seen in the music industry?

The music industry is growing exponentially with each passing day, and great melodies will be back soon. I'll also be coming up with 700 new songs soon.

## ■ What keeps you busy during this lockdown period?

I am working on my music, scripts and future projects besides enjoying quality time with my family during this lockdown. I am also working on my new look and my fitness routine also keeps me busy besides the work.

## ■ What next?

In addition to the huge 700 song project which is almost ready, I am also doing three films as an actor, one is *Main Jahan Rahoon* directed by Rajesh Seth which has lyrics by the veteran Javed Akhtar *sahab* whom I am teaming up with after the landmark music of *Namaste London*.

Post this, there is a sequel of *The Xpose* which is — *The Xpose Returns*, and one more film which will be announced soon. I will also be doing a web show. I am also doing three films as a composer for Raj Santoshi, Ratna Sinha and Sandeep Singh. I am also doing a song in Salman *bhai's* movie *Radhe*. Also, I will be coming back again with my new reality show on TV as a judge. So I have got a jam packed schedule ahead.

# A SUMMIT FEAT

MUSBA HASHMI chats up MAJOR HARI PAL SINGH AHLUWALIA on International Everest Day, which falls on May 29. He talks about how he was the member of the first Indian team to scale the peak and the fond memories associated with the climb

The rising Coronavirus cases and deaths around the world are making headlines every day. During this time people are yearning to hear some positive news. But, sadly there are not many. To give you a break from all that and also to salute our heroes who are not in the lime-light these days but have served the country all their life, here is a piece of positivity and courage.

Meet 83-year-old Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia, a 1965 war veteran and an Arjuna and Padma awardee, who is a part of the first Indian team to climb Mount Everest on May 29 (celebrated as International Everest Day), 1965.

For those of you all who don't know what it is — at 11:30 am on May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, a sherpa of Nepal, became the first explorers to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day since 2008, when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

Ahluwalia comes from an army background, his father and grandfather both served the armed forces. It goes unsaid that Ahluwalia was to join the forces too. He was initially interested in joining the Merchant Navy but destiny had something else in place for him. He got selected as a Second Lieutenant in the Indian Army's Electrical-Mechanical Engineering Branch in 1958.

What got him interested in mountaineering were the trainings that he had to undergo in his army camp. Following an advanced training at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, at the age of 26, he then became a member of the first Indian team to scale Mount Everest.

"Those were the days. I still remember the feeling that I had when I was on top of the mountain. The view was fascinating. I was left spell-bound. That's when I truly felt the beauty of the nature. Not to mention, the proud feeling of being a



Major HPS Ahluwalia on Mount Everest during his expedition in 1965

member of the first Indian team to do so," Ahluwalia recalls.

Back then, with no advanced equipments, scaling the highest peak in the world seems a herculean task. But Ahluwalia feels they have the best equipments they could have had at that time. "We had as advanced equipments as possible, back then. We never felt we needed something better. Also it is more about one's determination. We were determined to do that, hence nothing felt like an obstacle to us," he says and tells you that the Government bore the cost of the expedition.

However, scaling the highest peak is not a bed of roses. It comes with its share of challenges. "We started the expedition on May 24. There was a time when during the journey, an avalanche happened. The leader asked



us to return to the base camp because it was not safe to go ahead. The team members started preparing for the return. I insisted to give it a try. I told the leader if we won't try at all then we won't have an answer to give to the people, who are waiting for us back in Delhi with a million hopes. We can't

give up. After a healthy discussion, he agreed. And we started our journey," he tells you with much enthusiasm.

Ahluwalia along with a sherpa and a team member, also became the first three people to reach the summit together. "People usually do it one by one. Like, when one reaches the summit, he returns and then the other one goes up to the top. However, we three did it together," he tells you with a smile.

During the walk up to the summit, not even for once did Ahluwalia felt to return. "I had only one thing in mind, that I have to do that. And nothing could stop me. I had faith that I could do it," he says.

During the descend, Ahluwalia's oxygen got finished due to a leak in the cylinder and it made him hallucinate. His team members managed to bring him to the camp safely and he got back to normal.

"What I have learnt from the

mountains is courage, patience, value of nature and love for all. There are a million life lessons that one can learn just by being on the mountains. My love for them is infinite and it can never fade away," he tells you. Ahluwalia has written 15 books, including his autobiography *Higher than Everest* while others focus on mountaineering and the Himalayan range's flora and fauna. He has also authored two books on disability rehabilitation.

The turning point in Ahluwalia's life came when he suffered a bullet injury during the 1965 Indo-Pak war resulting in his confinement to a wheelchair for life. "I suffered a spine injury. I was suggested to go to England for rehabilitation. That was time, when I realised that the country is in dire need of a good rehabilitation center and we came up with The Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi," Ahluwalia, who currently resides in the hospital campus and is the Chairman, tells you.

But that doesn't mean, he gave up on his passion for mountains. "I drew strength and inspiration from mountains. Life is all about conquering the other summit — the summit of the mind. I continued doing that," he tells you. Ahluwalia after his return from England continued organising adventure sports events.

Ahluwalia's 36-year-old daughter, Sugandh and wife are proud of him. "He is a fighter. Giving up is not his thing. He still talks about mountains with the same enthusiasm that he had back then. I grew up listening to his stories of the mountains," Sugandh tells you.

Ahluwalia's success *mantra*, she says, is a quotation from Guru Granth Sahib — *Mann Neeva, Matt Uchchi*, meaning one should always be humble but keep his thinking high.

"My only advise to the young generation is to be respectful of the nature and if they have a passion for something they should never give up on that," he says.

# ‘I have always been a drama queen’



ZAYN MARIE KHAN, daughter of Mansur Ali Khan, speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about her debut — Netflix's *Mrs. Serial Killer* and preps that she had to do for the role

## ◆ What is your role in *Mrs. Serial Killer*?

I play Anushka Tiwari, a young, tough and uncompromising girl. It is an exciting role to play. Although she is a victim but one doesn't look at her like that because she comes out of the problems that she is put in. When I read the script, I thought of how different I am from the character. But then slowly, I started getting into the skin of the character. So this was like I could live out my fantasy. It was great fun.

## ◆ Since this is your debut, did you have to do any extra preparations?

I had done theatre for three years before bagging this project, so acting was not much of a concern. But the bigger challenge was to do martial arts. I had never learnt it in my life. So I had just one and a half month for the preparations and I joined martial arts classes. I never missed out on a single class. Then I would go to the gym. It was like a total of four hours of workout regularly. I was that obsessed. That was about the physicality. Talking about the lines, dialogue delivery and characterisation, Imran *bhai*, helped me get through it. I would go to his place and rehearse. He would play Jacqueline's part and help me revise. He gave me a lot of guidance as this was a completely new medium for me.

## ◆ Some best moment from the sets of the film.

This project was like a dream come true. Working with Jacqueline Fernandez was great as she was always sweet and motivating. Getting a chance to work with Manoj Bajpai and acting right in front of him and seeing him act was a fantastic experience. But one moment that will always stay with me is how Jacqueline and I would run down the streets, chasing each other while shooting in Nainital in the freezing weather.

## ◆ The film is trending No 1 and many memes are also being churned out. What are your thoughts on it?

A few days ago, a friend of mine sent me a meme which had me and I felt so happy. It felt as if I have made it in life and can retire now. It's our generation's way of appreciating things that they have enjoyed. Also, I am glad that my film has been able to bring joy to people's life at a time when people are low. People are clearly loving it.

## ◆ How did acting happen?

Everyone who has known me will tell you how I have always been a drama queen. But I had always thought that I would be a director like my father. When I was in college, I was casted for a play. I was not interested at all, but the girl who was directing it showed a lot of confidence in me. Also, when you act on stage and the live audience reacts, you get an instant response and review from them. And that is a high that I have been chasing since then. That was a turning point.

## ◆ Any actor or director that you would like to work with?

Would love to work with Farah Khan, Zoya Akhtar and Meghna Gulzar. They have a phenomenal body of work. Not just because they are women but it's just that they are my top three directors to work with. Also, it would be fun to work with someone from my family.

## ◆ Farah Khan spoke on how life came a full circle for her. What do you remember of Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikander?

I wasn't born when the movie was released. But I have seen it so many times that I feel I was always a part of it. Farah is someone whom my father has always spoken of with a lot of love, so much that I felt I knew her since ages. My father had a lot of stories to tell about Farah and then when my brother and I grew up we fell in love with *Main Hoon Na*. So when I met her for the first time, it didn't feel as it was my first time with her. Also, I was so glad and relieved that she was going to produce my debut. She made me so comfortable. It was like the universe conspired this to happen.

## ◆ Upcoming projects.

There were a few things in the pipeline but going by the current scenario, everyone is unsure about what the future holds for them and when will we be able to work again. I just hope that we all come out safe from the pandemic and can get back to working again.

# The strongest coffee is here

SHALINI SAKSENA ■ NEW DELHI

Given the rising number in the COVID-19 cases and the scare that one can get infected from the delivery person, ordering anything from any of the delivery apps may not be a cup of coffee for many. But rest assured, every delivery person is taking all the precautions necessary to ensure you are safe and yet to be able to enjoy your junk craving including a cup of the strongest coffee in the country — a perfect way to kick-start one's day.

If you love coffee and believe in the mantra, stronger is better then, two variants by SLAY: Wrong Turn (with milk) and The Graveyard (black) are a true delight. If you have been scouring shops to find that perfect blend your search is over.

One is told that coffee which is at present, considered as the strongest in India contains 500 mg of caffeine per 100 gm of coffee.



Internationally, brands that claim to be the strongest coffee in the world like the Death Wish Coffee contains 1750 mg per 100 gm of coffee. The Wrong Turn Graveyard has 2250 mg of caffeine per 100 gm. A definite jolt to your taste buds but if you are a connoisseur, the blend of Robusta Cherry and Robusta Parchment from the high-altitude estates of

Chikmagalur is unique making these two coffees perfect. Interestingly, even though these coffees have high caffeine content and bitter, they are definitely palatable. And given the soaring temperature, two iced variants: The Sinister and The Redemption will soon be added to the menu.

Next time you have a craving for a coffee, order online.

## FOR MANGOLICIOUS CRAVINGS

### BAKED MANGO YOGURT

#### INGREDIENTS:

- ◆ Milkmaid ½ tin — (200gm)
- ◆ Hung Curd a+ Nourish — 1 cup
- ◆ Fresh cream — 1 Cup
- ◆ Nestlé a+ Nourish Milk (Warm) — 3 tablespoon
- ◆ Saffron — Few strands
- ◆ For garnish — Pistachio
- ◆ Chopped mango (or any fresh fruits) — 1 Cup

#### METHOD:

- ◆ Soak few strands of saffron in two-three tsp of warm milk and keep it aside.
- ◆ In another bowl mix Nestlé Milkmaid, fresh cream and hung curd and give it a good mix.
- ◆ Pour it into ramekins and bake in a water bath in a preheated oven at 180 degrees for 20-25 minutes.
- ◆ Let it cool down completely. Then pour little saffron milk on top and garnish with fresh mango and pistachio.
- ◆ Serve it cold or at room temperature.

By Chef Bhakti Arora, runner up, Master Chef India's Season 4



### MANGO MOJITO MOCKTAIL

#### INGREDIENTS:

- Mango Puree: 100 ml
- Some crushed ice
- Club soda: 1/2 cup
- Mint leaves: 4
- Lemon: 1/2, cut into wedges
- Sugar: 1 1/2 tbsp.
- A sprig of mint leaves and lemon slice to garnish.

#### METHOD:

- Into a serving glass add in the mint leaves, lemon wedges, and sugar.
- Muddle them with a muddler or with the back of a wooden spoon. Muddle or squash the lemon, mint, and sugar.
- Add in the mango puree, and give it a stir.
- Top with crushed ice and pour in the sparkling soda.
- Stir well, serve with a sprig of mint leaves and a slice of lemon.



By Executive Chef, Suresh Shelar, Banjara Restaurant, Mumbai





**A different planet**

A graphic artist imagines the “new normal” post lockdowns to contain Covid-19, from a child’s perspective

2



4

**Freewill versus fate**

You can make a conscientious choice purported to deny the implication of fate

I'm going to do what I want to do. I'm going to be who I really am. I'm going to figure out what that is — Emma Watson



During the pandemic that has hurt most the vulnerable pockets of the population, we need solutions that cater to scale and affordability, says MINIYA CHATTERJI, as she shares the first hand experience of the work being carried out by her and her team in the battle against Covid-19. Chatterji has developed a PPE model where builders are incentivised to collaborate and offer their vacant buildings for Covid-19 recovery facilities

# A NOVEL PARTNERSHIP

It was business as usual in Paris. The cafes were crowded. Pavements busy with hurrying office goers and students. The manicured parks filled with more adults than children. Long queues at bakeries. Joggers out in the winter sun as much as in the gyms and health clubs. Subway trains packed. The shops luring in customers to the last discounts of the winter sale. Only the media was abuzz with around 800 new COVID cases being discovered in France every day.

So much so that the Indian government announced that the country would close its borders to any foreign national entering from France. My family and I had to scramble to get our air tickets for the very next day to leave Paris where we live three months every year to return to our home in Goa — my husband and toddler son are New Zealand citizens.

It was March 13, 2020 when we landed at Delhi international airport, where COVID related messages to socially distance were blasting on loudspeakers and all passengers had to undergo thermal tests. At that time India had 74 cases in total.

India has about 12 million children on the streets. Migrant workers often live in overcrowded temporary rooms in our cities. India is home to about one-third of the global slum population, with an average of one in six city residents living in slum zones where population densities vary between 277,136 persons per square kilometre (sq km) in Dharavi to 125,000 persons per sq km at the Rasolpoora slum in Hyderabad. In fact, in Dharavi, there is one toilet per 1,440 residents. How are they expected to ‘socially distance’ themselves?

Yet in India, that was our best bet and worth a try because with our size of population and low healthcare facility, we clearly have our own unique challenges to beat the Coronavirus. Testing is expensive and if the number of cases increase at the pace it did in Italy and France, then India would not have adequate numbers of beds to treat patients.

It was for this reason that on April 2, at the time that India had about 2,543 cases of COVID-19, that my team at Anant National University submitted a detailed proposal to the Prime Minister’s Office about how to transform vacant community halls, marriage halls, office spaces, and residential buildings into temporary hospitals and quarantine facilities for COVID-19 patients in an effective yet highly affordable way.

I set up the Anant Centre for Sustainability as a think-teach-do tank about two years ago, and since the past 10 months the team there had been collecting primary data at a city level to unravel the reasons why 7.5% homes in India are vacant as well as what we could do with them to close the housing gap in the country. In our proposal to the PMO, we included intricate details about the vacant spaces that were suited for specific COVID-19 conditions, room layouts, list of equipment required, costs, vendors, as well as a financing structure that did not require the government to pay for the costs to set up COVID-19 recovery facilities in vacant buildings.

Yet wondering if we would ever even hear back from the Prime Minister, I also reached out to friends who I thought might help us implement our proposal. Anil Antony, who is national coordinator of the Parliamentarians for Innovators of India, a multi-party parliamentary organisation to which I too serve as a mentor, readily connected me to the Kerala state government. Milind Deora, former Minister of State, immediately connected me to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Before the end of the week, I did hear back from the Ministry of Commerce who requested immediate assistance for creating new categories on GeM, GOI’s e-market for government projects, for building COVID-19 recovery facilities as we had proposed to the PMO. Indeed, AnantU was registered on GeM as well. But by that time we already had two spaces in Thiruvananthapuram and in South Mumbai that were ready to be converted in to a 20 bed temporary hospital for moderate cases of COVID-19 patients and a 100 bed quarantine facility for mild cases, designed, implemented, and funded by AnantU.

Within the same fortnight we had transformed three more facilities totalling 700



beds in Mumbai in to quarantine facilities, at one tenth of the cost of traditional quarantine centres. Milind Deora generously arranged for CSR funds from Godrej. Dhaval Monani, Director of Affordable Housing at AnantU came up with an incredibly ingenious design of making hospital furniture out of laminated corrugated cardboard that were durable, water proof, priced at 10% of the cost of a steel bed. The equipment is at manufacturing cost and the cheapest in the market, while mine and the university team’s efforts are at zero cost and completely on a voluntary basis. Due to the relentless efforts of Professor Monani and the team, within three days we built up the capacity of manufacturing 2,500 beds, tables, room separators every week, and transporting them to any place in India. Now every week we are setting up about two new facilities across India.

This extraordinary pace of scale of an innovative solution during a nationwide lockdown will probably make it to the bunch of stories I would tell my grandchildren one day. For now, I am convinced that it has been made possible only because of a government-university-private sector partnership which came with its share of challenges that essentially pointed to the lack of habitude for this.

For instance, is each entity a partner or a vendor? When the government-university-private sector come together as partners,

“WHEN THE GOVERNMENT-UNIVERSITY-PRIVATE SECTOR COME TOGETHER AS PARTNERS, EACH ENTITY IS CONTRIBUTING IN MONEY OR IN KIND. THIS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM A TRANSACTIONAL APPROACH WHERE THE FUNDER IS THE OWNER AND THE PROVIDER OF GOODS IS SEEKING A PROFIT”

each entity is contributing in money or in kind. This is very different from a transactional approach where the funder is the owner and the provider of goods is seeking a profit. Another example is the ability for the three entities to tango, given that each would have their unique interests and concerns. And finally, the role of universities anywhere in the world is to further knowledge, with no bias and without seeking profit. The understanding of this is still at a nascent stage and must be mainstreamed in our country. At a time when some individuals and organisations (even while declaring to be non profit) might be trying to make a buck out of the desperation that this crisis creates, the advantage of partnering with good universities is that its mandate is only to push new thinking and research instead of profiteering. Overcoming these minor hiccups in government-university-private sector endeavours will only lead to greater innovation and accelerated implementation, besides attracting the best talent of the country to teach and implement research driven projects within universities.

During the pandemic that has hurt most the vulnerable pockets of the population, we need solutions that cater to scale and affordability. For instance another innovation we are bringing to market this week is a mobile testing facility fitted within the humble

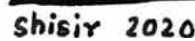
autorickshaw — once again offered by a university and therefore at only the exact cost of the materials needed to manufacture it. We are putting mobile x-ray and swab collection centres upon an autorickshaw platform using insulated tarpaulins. It dramatically brings down the cost of testing while bringing the opportunity to test at the doorstep of residents living even in overcrowded zones.

In the wake of the relaxation in the lockdown in India, we must be prepared to live with the virus for an extended amount of time. Being prepared will help India avoid the path that France initially took with their ‘business as usual’ approach. Unless there is a vaccine, the virus is not going away. The rate of spread might flatten at some point and then spike again. No amount of modelling and simulations can predict the course of this. While those who have shelter and livelihoods during this crisis, can afford to physically distance (more apt than ‘social distance’!) from others, we need to tap in to frugal innovations to scale up solutions for those who need to choose between hunger and the virus.

Dr. Miniya Chatterji is CEO of Sustain Labs and Adjunct Professor at SciencesPo Paris. She is also a columnist and author of the 2019 best-seller Indian Instincts — essays on freedom and equality in India



What happens when you realise that the normal that you believed to be is no longer that? That the world has changed and there is no turning back? As the world grapples to get a grip of the “new normal” amidst restrictions post lockdowns imposed by the various governments to check the spread of novel Covid-19, SHISIR BASUMATARI, a graphic artist looks at this new world from the eyes of Bon Bon and imagines what might be going on inside the little heads... Basumatari recently authored *The Real Mr Barkotoki*, published by Speaking Tiger Books, 2019





# US Presidential poll in times of Covid



US President Donald Trump speaks during an event in the Rose Garden White House

AP/File



In this March 15, 2020, file photo, former Vice President Joe Biden, participates in a Democratic presidential primary debate at CNN Studios in Washington

AP/File

Among many grey areas which will decide the fate of the Democratic and the Republican candidates, the most striking is the desire of the 70 per cent people to go for voting by mail

US President Donald Trump has bumped his way along from one revolutionary decision to another. Not a bumptious fellow he is! President Trump has dedicated all his energies in opposing former US President Obama's health-care plan and the immigration conundrum and other electoral battleground issues such as the context of the terror outfits and other geo-economic non-State actors and institutions operating in the larger international system. President Trump's term has been a mixed one with both positive and negative consequences but the positive proclivities of tackling the terror infrastructure and the Chinese threat should go down well with the American electorate in the upcoming Presidential elections.

The Democrat presumptive candidate has hopped on to the popular bandwagon which tarnishes President Trump's striving at containing the Covid-19 malady through a grand American lockdown along with other palliative measures. Such a partisan way of politicking will not go down well for the Democratic Presidential candidate, Joe Biden, though it can be contended that during the intra-Democratic primaries, none of the candidates posed a viable threat to his nomination for the Democratic Presidential candidature. The current

President has to do well to keep his Wasp constituency intact and make further forays into the Red States in United States of America. Despite the reading of the international media, immigration amendments, the judges' recruitment and his acerbic replies and tweets might not become brickbats for Democrats to beat and chide President Trump with, as it's a stable constituency of homeland and inward-looking Americans which stays intact with President Trump and the roaring Republicans but the Covid-19 theme has to be cannily dealt with by the Republican electoral machinery and the attendant war-room.

The question that can be raised is that will the US elections be disrupted by the intervention of the Covid-19 outbreak which as a possibility has been negated as a non-probability in one of the policy statements of President Trump while Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden has ranted otherwise. Moving away from it, it has to be kept in mind that the Pew Research Centre, a public opinion think tank, reports in one of its releases that the American electorate prefers voting mail, which as a rankling theme by the Opposition in the America's hustings. The Pew Research Pool contends, "The national survey by

Pew Research Center, conducted from April 7 to 12 among 4,917 US adults on the Center's American Trends Panel, finds broad public support for giving voters the option of voting by mail — and less widespread but growing support for conducting all elections by mail." The poll further suggests, "Overall, 70 per cent favour allowing any voter to vote by mail if they want to, including 44 per cent who strongly support this policy. About half of the public (52 per cent) favour conducting all elections by mail. The share supporting this proposal has increased 18 percentage points since 2018."

It can also be surmised that the Asian Americans are the largest growing electorate in the US and have to be wooed by both the political parties, but traditionally this ethnic group has been voting for the democrats since they found their feat in the homeland. The number of Asian American electorate has nearly doubled since the benchmark year of 2000 till the rabid and Covid infected contemporary context in 2020. They make up for a handsome and decisive 5 per cent of the total American electorate and are mostly constituted by the naturalised citizenship and not originally born in the American homeland. Indian-origin denizens are the largest section of the Asian

Americans who have at least a bachelor's degree along with high annual incomes of the order of 105,000 dollars in comparison with other African and Latin American groups which amount to annual incomes much below the 80,000 benchmark for the other bevy of immigrants in the American homeland.

The Vice President's kitty of votes is formidably constituted by African Americans while other Presidential hopefuls such as Bernie Sanders and Michael Bloomberg had a lesser quantum of African Americans supporting them. This analysis posits and pits President Trump squarely in the face of the following enjoyed by the Democratic Presidential Candidate, Joe Biden. The rally behind the flag phenomenon has been marred by both President Trump and Joe Biden containing themselves to campaign indoor and to shun the rallies at least for the time being.

The presumptive candidate Joe Biden has already faced a key allegation of debauchery by a Capitol Hill staffer in 1993 and if Richard Nixon had the debilitating tapes and candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016 had her emails serving as their bête noire, it is yet to emerge as to what will prove to the failing of the Democratic Presidential nominee, Joe

Biden. One element going in Joe Biden's favour is his vast Senatorial experience with reams of white papers and other Government and public opinion documents prepared by himself and his Governmental team which posits him undeniably as an insider. The archives of Joe Biden had been transferred to the University of Delaware in 2012 which can serve as a treasure trove of his seat success in the upcoming elections.

*The Guardian* pinpoints towards the fact that the Democrat Presidential nominee might have information in the closet which might be good staple fare for investigative reporters. *The Guardian* cites three such grey areas which are of the order of, "His long political career includes the 1991 confirmation hearings for supreme court justice Clarence Thomas, accused of sexual harassment, as well as his support for a 1994 crime law that contributed to mass incarceration. Then there was his 2003 vote authorising the invasion of Iraq, which he has since said he regrets."

President Trump has made a comeback with his slogan and acts of MAGA, which in the expanded for amounts to, "Make America Great" and will definitely echo in the hearts and minds of the homeland electorate but for the Covid outbreak and

an iota of 85,000 deaths as a result of the outbreak. Still, what needs to be rummaged through the idiom that it's not President Trump but any other President would have had to go through the same firestorm and the outbreak does not categorically poses questions for the Presidential policies, but, for the larger preparedness of the American health infrastructure and attendant resources. And, this is no laughing matter by any context.

With the Chinese dragnet hanging over the American homeland and a review still adrift, President Trump can conveniently pose as a victim of the Wuhan Lab's ministrations. No nation would want a military conflict at the cusp of these testing times but other predominant issues are up for the tasking. Candidate Joe Biden's job eradicating Green New deal in the past, his support for NAFTA and TPP and his repeated nonchalance over the fact that the Chinese are responsible to a certain extent for the employment scenario in the American homeland are some of the power keg themes which have been rumbustiously ratcheted up by the Republic election war room.

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MANAN DWIVEDI

## PERSPECTIVE

# Maoist mayhem under new leadership

The March 21, 2020, horrific Naxal attack on the security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma, killing 17 personnel and injuring 15 others, after a long time highlights a critical shift in the ideological moorings of the CPI-Maoist. Arguably, a critical factor leading to such a tactical change in the Maoists' approach can be attributed to the new leadership under Namballa Keshava Rao, alias Basavaraj.

Considering the involvement of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and the elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in a joint operation against the Maoists, the Maoists carried out the brutal attack with surgical precision. It is important to mention that Sukma district continues to be a hotbed of Maoist activities as it accounts for 25 Maoist-related deaths so far in 2020. At a time when the State has been claiming the Maoist violent movement is on a terminal decline in terms of its diminishing activities and reducing number of recruits, the Sukma attack, the audacious acts against the elite security forces, warrants revisiting the Maoist movement. Also, as the Maoists are continuously losing their support base substantially and are limited to a few pockets, the high-level attack confirms a tactical shift in the Maoist strategy.

In the last two years, especially since Basavaraj took over as CPI-Maoist general secretary following the resignation of Muppala Lakshmana Rao, alias Ganapathy, as Maoist chief in September 2018, there has been a major tactical shift in the Maoist activities. Under the leadership of Basavaraj, who was also the chief of Maoists' Central Military Commission (CMC) prior to his elevation as chief, the Maoists are carrying out "spectacular" attacks, choosing elite commandos and high-profile political leaders, to scotch the growing understanding that the Maoist movement is on its last legs. Ever since Basavaraj has taken over the leadership, the Maoists have carried out four major attacks in the last two years. On May 1, 2019, the Maoists killed 15 personnel belonging to the commandos of the C-60 force of the Maharashtra Police and a civilian with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Gadchiroli district. Preceding the incident, the ultras had torched 26 vehicles used for construction work at the National Highway-136 site to lure the security forces in their trap. Earlier on April 9, 2019, the Maoists attacked the convoy of Chhattisgarh BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi, killing the MLA and two others just before the first phase of the general election. A critical commonality among all the above-mentioned attacks is the surgical precision in which they were carried out.



The surgical precision of these attacks is stressed as the Maoists are believed to be in a Tactical Counter Offensive Campaign (TCOC) under the new leadership of Basavaraj. As the Maoist activities have been largely contained, the new leadership aims to revive the strength and reclaim the areas through militant activities. Considering his experience as the chief of the Central Military Commission of the CPI-Maoist, Basavaraj believes in

instilling fear through the attacks, especially against the state machinery and leaders. This is a critical shift in the ideological framework that instills new tactics into the new recruits and legitimise the "revolutionary causes" via violent activities. Such a tactical shift also highlights the shrinking space of the Maoists which have caused the state wholesome measures — security, development, surrender, and rehabilitation and ensuring

rights and entitlements of the local communities. These state measures have prevented the Maoists to garner local support and recruit trusted cadre.

Ganapathy was held responsible for not being able to spread to the new areas and for losing the areas of influence. This was a major factor for Ganapathy to step down. However, as the ideology takes a backseat under the new leadership and selective violent activities take prominence, the

Maoists seem to expose their vulnerability like never.

When it comes to carrying out guerrilla attacks, the Maoists seem to have an edge over the security forces which have been a major drawback that the later must overcome sooner. In more than five decades of their existence in multiple forms and shades, the Maoists have never been so delegitimised before in terms of popular support. As the romanticising of "revolutionary" ideas doesn't have many takers,

the Maoists under this new leadership would continue to resort to such attacks now and then. The important motives of the Maoists behind killing the security personnel in large numbers are to highlight the vulnerability of the state and to boost the morale of its cadre so that they could plan a possible revival of the movement.

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Basavaraj's prime strategy, it seems, is to scotch the growing understanding that the Maoist movement is on its last legs



ANSHUMAN BEHERA



