



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight — news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

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₹1,000-CR RELIEF

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee conduct an aerial survey of areas affected by Cyclone Amphan in West Bengal on Friday. Modi announced an advance assistance of Rs 1,000 crore for the state. *ANI*

REPORT, PAGE 6

Lockdown has averted 14-29 lakh infections, 37-71,000 deaths: Govt

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

AS FRESH cases of the novel coronavirus disease touched a new high of 6,088, the government claimed on Friday that the nationwide lockdown had averted 14-29 lakh cases and 37,000-71,000 deaths, based on modelling projections by various independent agencies and individuals.

In the last 24 hours, 148 Covid-19 deaths have been reported across the country. The total number of cases is now 1,18,447, and the disease has killed 3,583 people so far.

Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, said the lockdown decision “by the Prime Minister was early and timely”, and “the way the country effectively implemented it, is an international example”.

He said: “The gains of lockdown 1 and 2 (March 25-April 14 and April 15-May 3) are visible now as these gains show after a delay. India’s lockdown was part and parcel of overall strategy

starting with travel restrictions, social distancing and mobilising people and state governments. We decided to shut down to stop the chain of transmission to the extent possible...

“Growth rate of new cases till April 3 was increasing at the rate of 22.6%, behaviour of the virus was exponential. After April 4 there is clear slowing of the growth and then it settled at 5.5%. This shows that the country stopped the progression of the virus... Overall we averted between 14-29 lakh cases and 37,000-71,000 deaths.”

The lockdown has “made it difficult for the virus to travel”, Dr Paul said. However, he stressed the need to stay cautious, as a measure like the lockdown could not “go on forever”.

The doubling time of the epidemic is now 13.3 days against the 3.5 days before the lockdown, and the outbreak has been limited, he said.

“We have limited the virus by the efforts of the Union government, state governments and people; 60 per cent of our cases

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TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

LOCKDOWN DAY 59 **CASES: 1,18,447** RECOVERED: 48,533 DEATHS: 3,583 TESTS: 27,19,434 DOUBLING RATE: 13.33**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HRS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	41,642	2,345	6.09%	11.82
■ Gujarat	12,910	371	4.34%	16.61
■ Delhi	12,319	660	4.76%	15.12
■ Tamil Nadu	13,967	776	5.39%	13.37
■ Bihar	1,987	380	10.32%	6.98
■ West Bengal	3,197	94	4.32%	16.65

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days

** Calculated over 7-day growth

CONCERN

BIHAR: More than half of all infections among incoming migrants. Big jump of 380 Thursday.

CAUTION

TAMIL NADU: Koyambedu cluster still adding cases. 2 straight days of 700+ cases.

A GLIMMER

GUJARAT: Still has the country's third highest case load but growth rate is falling steadily.

Based on daily data by Centre, ICMR, state governments

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THE POLITICAL THERAPY
BY SUHAS PALSHIKAR
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WORLD

AT LEAST 57 KILLED AS PLANE CRASHES IN KARACHI
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Oppn seeks cash transfer, clear Covid exit strategy

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

MEETING for the first time since the imposition of a nationwide lockdown on March 25, leaders of 22 opposition parties — among them chief ministers Mamata Banerjee, Uddhav Thackeray and Hemant Soren — Friday asked the BJP-led government to desist from indulging in “showmanship” and “one-upmanship”.

The parties asked the government to announce a revised economic stimulus package, articulate a clear exit strategy, and restore Parliamentary functioning and oversight.

Many opposition leaders believe it was time to counter the government's claims politically in a coordinated fashion.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi told the meeting that the Modi government has “abandoned any pretence” of being democratic as all power was now concentrated in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the

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RBI PANEL MEETS 13 DAYS BEFORE SCHEDULE

Economy to contract, says RBI, cuts repo, extends moratorium

Normal rains, monetary and fiscal actions will create conditions for a revival

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MAY 22

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Friday offered the first official acceptance that GDP growth will slip into negative territory this year, blaming it on the collapse in demand due to a slide in private consumption following the Covid-19 lockdown. The central bank has, however, pointed to the likelihood of some pick-up in growth impulses beginning the second half of 2020-21.

At an out-of-cycle meeting of its six-member monetary policy committee (MPC), 13 days before schedule, the panel cut the repo rate — the key policy rate at which RBI lends short term money to banks — by 40 basis points to its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

A temporary relief to banks

STRESSED BORROWERS will get significant relief with RBI extending the loan moratorium facility, but bankers expect a spurt in Non-Performing Assets down the road as nearly six months of non-payment of debt would likely affect credit culture. A slump in economic activity would have an adverse impact on incomes of people, and impinge on their capacity to repay. Roughly a third of the loan book of banks is under moratorium. This may only rise as stress builds up in the system.

Banks worried, see ballooning of bad loans in second half of 2020-21

SUNNY VERMA & GEORGE MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, MAY 22

EXTENDING the moratorium on term loan instalments will provide a much-needed relief to companies stressed due to lockdown, but banks are likely to take a hit since this is also expected to significantly add to their non-performing assets (NPAs) from the second half of 2020-21.

According to data provided by different banks, nearly 25-30 per cent of their outstanding loans have come under moratorium so far with micro-finance borrowers facing extreme stress, followed by automobile finance,

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Calamity cess on GST: plan on Govt table to tide over Covid crisis

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

IN LINE with the disaster relief cess introduced in Kerala last year following the monsoon floods of 2018, the central government is considering a calamity cess on Goods and Services Tax (GST) to tide over the economic crisis triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources said that a proposal to raise additional revenue from GST, excluding goods and services in the five per cent slab, is with the Finance Ministry.

However, when contacted by *The Indian Express*, at least two

state Finance Ministers — from Kerala and Assam — said that such a move would “not be a good idea” as the industry is already facing a “huge crisis”. The issue will be raised at the next GST Council meeting, which is expected to be held in a few weeks, sources said.

Kerala is the only state to have levied such a cess using the Constitutional provision, Section (4) (F) of Article 279 A, which refers to “any special rate or rates for a specified period to raise additional resources during any natural calamity or disaster”.

The GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 also provides for the imposition of cess up to the

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Select OCIs can now fly home from overseas

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

AFTER ALLOWING “calibrated” domestic air travel and evacuation of Indians stranded abroad, the Centre Friday allowed Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) to fly to India from abroad. This relaxation, however, is allowed only for a certain category of OCI card holders which includes students, minors, OCI spouses of Indian nationals and those who are travelling to meet family emergencies.

A day before the lockdown was announced March 24, all international flights were

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Chinese troops focus on 4 LAC locations, test new areas in Ladakh

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

ALTHOUGH INDIA and China share a boundary that stretches 3,488 km from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, official data show that 80 per cent of Chinese transgressions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since 2015 have taken place in four locations, three of them in eastern Ladakh in the western sector.

Along with Pangong Tso, where Indian and Chinese troops came to blows earlier this month, Trig Heights and Burtse have wit-

nessed two-thirds of the total transgressions across the LAC.

New areas of Chinese forays into Indian territory have come up in 2019 — the Doleatango area opposite Dumchele suddenly saw 54 Chinese transgressions in 2019, after having recorded only three transgressions in the past four years.

In the eastern sector, the highest number of transgressions by the Chinese — 14.5 per cent of the total — was recorded in Dichu Area/Madan Ridge Area. Transgressions recorded in other areas in the eastern sector were very low, including Naku

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In Bihar district, 100 beds, 200 rooms in place, need ventilator & ambulance

TEST REPORTS FROM THE FIELD
HOSPITAL INVENTORY
AN EXPRESS SERIES

SANTOSH SINGH
KHAGARIA (BIHAR), MAY 22

REFLECTING TRENDS elsewhere in the state because of the migrant influx, Bihar's Khagaria district, 170 km east of Patna, has seen a surge in the number of Covid cases from 0 to 96 in just 14 days. But except for two deaths — of a severely ill patient from Delhi and a diabetic from Mumbai — all are in the Level-I

Migrants at a quarantine centre in Mansi, Khagaria. *Express*

stage of “pre-mild” or “mild”, requiring isolation or quarantine. Yet, officials have their fingers crossed.

The Indian Express visited Khagaria on the first stop of a countrywide series that will track

hospital inventory in Covid-care facilities far from urban areas.

And what it found in the district was that in the precious time the lockdown gave, the local administration cobbled up a basic first line of defence: a swab col-



lection centre, a 100-bed Level-II dedicated facility for moderate cases with pneumonia symptoms, and a Level-I care centre of 200 single rooms in two buildings of a training institute. But then, what Khagaria doesn't have is its big challenge:

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



HCQ MAY HARM COVID PATIENTS, SAYS NEW STUDY IN THE LANCET
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PAGE 1 ANCHOR

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

A SECOND-hand cycle bought with the Rs 2,000 that was left in the house, and a bottle of water, was all that 15-year-old Jyoti Kumari Paswan had when she decided to take her ailing father from Sikandarpur in Haryana to Darbhanga in Bihar.

But now, a fortnight after they set off on that “desperate” migrant journey on the national highway when Jyoti pedalled close to 1,200 km across eight days with her father sitting behind, she has got unexpected

fame — and the promise of a sporting career.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump joined social media to salute what she called a “beautiful feat of endurance”. Cycling Federation of India chairman Onkar Singh has invited Jyoti for a trial. And several others are keen to offer financial help to the girl in the bright salwar kameez with the pink cycle — the frame that has gone viral on the Internet.

It was on May 7 that Jyoti helped her father Mohan, an e-rickshaw driver who was nursing a fractured knee from a road accident, on to the back of their

newly acquired cycle. Running out of savings, struggling to afford two meals, and with no train or bus available, the daughter decided to take the road, “on an impulse”.

“We were desperate to return to our village, but we never knew if we could make it. But my daughter refused to give up. I don't know how she thought about this. She has courage, and I'm really proud of her,” Mohan told *The Indian Express* from a quarantine centre in Darbhanga where he has been placed along with his daughter.

“I was recuperating from the knee injury and then came this lockdown. Within two months,



Jyoti with father Mohan during their 8-day, 1200-km journey from Sikandarpur in Haryana to Darbhanga in Bihar.
(Twitter)

my savings were over. Thankfully, my wife, who is an anganwadi worker in our village, and my eld-

est daughter and son-in-law, had already returned to the village in February. For the last three

months, Jyoti and I were stuck in our two-room rented apartment in Sikandarpur,” he said.

The turning point, Mohan said, was when the landlord asked them to vacate for failing to pay rent. “Thankfully, Jyoti had Rs 2,000 with her. With that, she bought a second-hand bicycle and we decided to return to our village,” he said.

Looking back on that journey, Mohan says they survived with the help of “several well-wishers” on the road. “We were lucky, Jyoti pedalled for eight days, making brief stops at Palwal, Agra and Mathura. At some places, we would get a proper meal, some-

times just biscuits, but we managed,” said the father.

The cycling federation chief, meanwhile, is “extremely impressed”. “It's no mean feat for a 15-year-old to pedal with her father for eight days at a stretch over more than 1,200 km. It shows her endurance levels,” Singh said.

“Once she is out of quarantine, we will bring her to Delhi to conduct trials, where we will ascertain if she can be groomed into a serious cyclist. And then, it's up to her if she wants to pursue a career in cycling. We can even transfer her to Patna or any other centre that's closer to her village. Ultimately, she has to make the choice.”

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

ACROSS CONTINENTS, A FAMILY UNITES TO HELP STRANDED MIGRANTS GET HOME

While the family initially set out to help migrant labourers, it has also started assisting students, travellers, or young professionals stuck outside their home cities.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

CYCLONE AMPHAN'S EFFECT IN MEGHALAYA

Heavy rainfall has left Meghalaya's capital Shillong waterlogged

EXPLAINED

THE IMPACT OF RBI'S DECISIONS

RBI has slashed the repo rate and extended loan moratorium

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EXPRESS AUDIO

What's sports without a live audience?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this week's episode of the Express Sports podcast, we discuss what the absence of a live audience means for the players and the fans

FROM PAGE ONE

Calamity cess

rate of 15 per cent ad valorem (based on estimated value) on “any other supplies”.

Kerala, for instance, started levying 1 per cent cess on GST for two years from August 1, 2019, on the value of goods and services taxed at 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent.

When contacted, Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is the Finance Minister of the BJP-led NDA government in Assam, said “the situation is not so appropriate for any cess”.

“The industry is not in a mood to absorb any cess now. The mood is low, and there are already pay-cuts, retrenchments and so on,” said Sarma, who is a member of the GST Council.

The Minister, however, pointed out that a proposal to levy cess on “sin goods” — alcohol and tobacco products — could be considered. “You can consider additional cess, may be in 6-7 months,” he said.

Sarma also said that the “situation is improving”, as the GST collection in his state “is going up from 20 per cent during the full lockdown to 50 per cent now and is expected to go up to 80 per cent next month”.

“There’s a loss of one quarter, and to cover that we should make use of other monetary instruments, such as borrowing, increase in WMA (Ways and Means Advances), overdraft, etc, provided the central government pays the devolution funds,” Sarma said. Last month, the RBI announced a 60 per cent increase in the WMA limit of state governments.

Asked about the proposed move, Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said: “The states are not able to collect the GST, how can there be an additional cess?”

According to Isaac, the only way out is to lean on the fiscal deficit and take back concessions given to the corporate sector. “The Centre should borrow from the RBI to provide funds to states,” he said.

Meanwhile, sources indicated that the next GST Council meeting would be convened only after the Centre has prepared a response to the states’ demand for pending compensation.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said earlier this week that GST compensation is due for all the states for the four-month period from December to March.

37-71,000 deaths

are in five cities, 70 per cent are in 10 cities. This is a result of the lockdown. Of the deaths, 80 per cent are in five states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Delhi). 95% are in 10 states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka). It is an urban disease. Of these, 60% deaths are in five cities (Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata), 70% are in 10 cities (Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Delhi, Kolkata, Indore, Thane, Jaipur, Chennai and Surat),” Dr Paul said.

Dr Paul chairs the Empowered Group constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the medical emergency management plan. He is also member of the Empowered Group on strategic issues related to the lockdown, which is headed by Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla.

Dr Paul is also co-chair — along with Principal Scientific Adviser to the PM, K Vijayaraghavan — of a task force set up to coordinate among science agencies, scientists, industries, and regulatory bodies. In an interview to The Indian Express last month, he had said that June and July would “test the country’s resolve” in fighting Covid-19.

On the way forward, Dr Paul said: “Lockdown is a special measure necessitated at some stage when you fight a pandemic without medicine and vaccine. But it cannot go on for an unlimited time, livelihoods are at stake... we have to create a balance. Lockdown was for a purpose and it was achieved to a large extent. It is very important to continue in a manner which creates headwinds for the virus. We have to continue with hand washing, social distancing etc.”

Quoting various modelling projections done by independent agencies, Praveen Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, said: “According to Boston Consulting Group, using a scientific advanced model based on change in reproduction rate, cases could have been 36 lakh-70 lakh without lockdown. Lives saved is about 1.2-2.1 lakh. Public Health Foundation of India estimated that 78,183 deaths have been avoided. Two independent economists have estimated that we have averted 23 lakh cases and 68,000 deaths. According to some retired scientists from National Institute of Medical Statistics, about 15.9 lakh cases and 51,000 deaths have been avoided. Our Ministry worked with the Indian Statistical Institute and found that 20 lakh cases, 54,000 deaths were averted.”

The models, Srivastava said, were based on publicly available Covid-19 data.

Dr Paul apologised for a slide presented earlier by the government that had seemed to suggest that the number of cases in the country would be zero by May 15. “I never made that claim. I am sorry if the slide created confusion,” he said. He added that the lockdown had helped the country ramp up health infrastructure in a big way within two months.

Over 27 lakh tests have been done so far. “This is the fourth day when we have done over 1 lakh tests in one day, of which 85,542 were in government labs, 18,287 in private labs,” Dr R R

Economy to contract, says RBI, cuts repo

lowest level in over 20 years, a move that is being seen as more of a signal rather than aimed at actual outcomes. With this, the RBI has slashed the repo rate by 115 points since the lockdown commenced March 25.

Analysts are, however, guarded on its impact since short-term rates have already slipped below the policy rate due to surplus liquidity, even as the absence of demand for credit and the lack of risk appetite among banks puts into question the effectiveness of the cut in stimulating growth.

Alongside the cut in its key policy rates, the central bank extended its moratorium on loan repayments by another three months to August 31 to tackle the economic fallout from the ongoing nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The six-member MPC which met for three days in an off-cycle meeting — which was otherwise scheduled for June 3-5 — opted for the rate cut in a 5:1 majority decision. However, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the economic growth in 2020-21 is likely to be in the “negative territory” as the “macroeconomic impact of the pandemic is turning out to be more severe than initially anticipated”.

“Beyond the destruction of economic and financial activity, livelihood and health are severely affected, judging that the risks to growth are acute, while the risks to inflation are likely to be short-lived, the MPC believes that it is essential now to instill confidence and ease financial conditions further,” Das said while listing reasons for the rate cut. A combination of fiscal, monetary, and administrative actions, alongside the indications of a normal monsoon, is expected to create conditions for economic revival in the second half of FY21, he said.

While the 40 bps cut in the repo rate will make funds cheaper for banks, thus aiding them to bring down lending rates, even though the rate of transmission of the cut in policy rates has been a concern. Banks will also slash deposit rates on various tenures to manage its asset-liability position, which would mean savers and pensioners will see their returns coming down.

The RBI has also extended the moratorium on term loan repayment by another three months to August 31. On March 27, the RBI had announced a three-month moratorium till May 31. This will help borrowers, especially companies, which have halted production and are facing cash flow problems, to get more time to stabilise their operations and restart their units. All borrowers, including home loan, term loans and credit card outstandings, will get the benefit of the moratorium extension.

says Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) Ram Niranjan Singh.

For Khagaria, then, the fight against a pandemic of unprecedented scale starts at the station.

Here, *The Indian Express* found a team of paramedical staff and policemen on duty with an ambulance stationed outside. As migrants arrive from Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Haryana, they are registered, screened and taken to quarantine centres at blocks, panchayats and villages.

The second step is the swab collection centre at the ANM training school, which also receives samples from the seven primary health centres in the district. On duty are two nurses and two lab technicians, all wearing PPE kits and collecting samples in the presence of a doctor.

“The samples are sent to the Rajendra Medical Research Institute in Patna for testing, and we usually get the reports in two days,” says Shashi Kant Kumar, in-charge of the centre and also manager at the civil hospital.

“We have 400 cover-all kits that are used by lab technicians collecting swabs and nurses on duty at the Level-I and Level-II centres. The hospital needs at least another 400 cover-alls for a month. There are 250 PPE kits but we need about 2,000 for a month,” says Kumar.

The doctor on duty at the swab centre, Barun MR, says the staff is “trying to be equal to the task”. “So far, we have had no moderate cases with pneumonia. But once we have these cases, we would need eight doctors in all for four shifts in a day. At the moment, if such a situation arises, we will divert doctors from the civil hospital. We have an adequate number of oxygen cylinders, including 33 smaller versions to be kept by the bedside of patients,” he says.

The next stop is the Level-I facility for “pre-mild and mild cases” at the District Institute for Education and Training. The entrance is well-guarded. No one is allowed to meet the patients, each of whom has a separate room.

Officials say most are migrant workers who are being provided additional food, apart from breakfast, lunch and dinner, on demand. “The patients have been asked not to interact with each other, but they share the toilets. Food is served outside their rooms while patients are asked remain inside with doors closed,” says DM Ghosh.

The Level-II facility at the General Nurses & Midwifery (GNM) institute does not have a patient yet. And, for Level-III treatment in severe cases, the nearest dedicated hospital is Nalanda Medical College and Hospital, Patna.

“Khagaria is ready for the challenge,” the DM insists. “It is an unprecedented situation for all of us. We have to tide over it.”

Barun, the doctor, is more spe-

cial: “With the present infrastructure, we can deal with about 1,000 cases. But we need more doctors. And if we get ventilators, it would be a great asset.”

But the lasting takeaway is a chilling incident narrated by DDC Singh, who witnessed the ravaging effects of the virus. “On May 19, I was on duty at the station when a man got off a Shramik train from Delhi, and started vomiting. He was running a high temperature. He was taken in the ambulance to the civil hospital, where he died within an hour. His test report has come, it’s positive.”

This, says Singh, is why the district’s public healthcare system needs those ventilators.

“Had there been a ventilator at the hospital, the patient could have been put on life support and even referred to a hospital in Patna for better treatment. He was the only son of his widowed mother. He was just 21.”

Select OCIs

suspended. OCI card-holders were not allowed to come to India even after the government began an evacuation exercise for Indians stranded abroad.

An office memorandum issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said that OCI card holders who will be allowed to come to India include: “Minor children born to Indian nationals abroad and holding OCI cards; OCI cardholders who wish to come to India on account of family emergencies like death in family; Couples where one spouse is an OCI cardholder and the other is an Indian national and they have a permanent residence in India; University students who are OCI cardholders (not legally minors) but whose parents are Indian citizens living in India.”

According to a government reply to a question in Lok Sabha, there were 35.79 lakh OCI card holders as on March 12. Of these, most are residents of the US (13 lakh) followed by the UK (7.8 lakh), Australia (4 lakh), Canada (3 lakh) and Portugal (87,299).

The office memo went on to say that travel restrictions earlier imposed vide an order of May 7 “would not apply to any aircraft, ship, train or any other vehicle deployed for bringing back the above mentioned categories of OCI cardholders who are stranded abroad. All other terms and conditions laid down by MHA on 07.05.2020 would continue to remain in effect.”

The May 7 orders dealt with continuing restrictions on international travel barring for those Indians being evacuated from a foreign country or for foreigners stranded in India.

Earlier, the MHA had issued orders which said that “the right of multiple entry life-long visa facility for visiting India for any purpose granted to persons registered as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders would continue to be kept in abeyance till the prohibition on international air travel of passengers from/to India is lifted by the Government of India.

“Any foreign national holding an OCI card who intends to travel to India for compelling reasons during this period would have to contact the nearest Indian Mission. Further, in case of persons holding OCI card who are already in India, the OCI card shall remain valid for their stay in India for any length of time.” International flights continue to be suspended except those engaged in bringing stranded Indians back.

Cadila Pharma

sanitisations of the facility and state government health officials had already conducted an audit for the same.”

A company official said: “Umesh and Ashok were among those who tested positive initially, while Himanshu picked up the infection later.”

“Umesh was

being treated at home in Bhat after the hospital sent him back because he had been responding well. However, after three days, he developed complications,” the official said.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that five employees tested positive on May 5, and another 21 were found infected the same week. “Now the total number of employees who have tested positive stands at 35,” the spokesperson said.

Eight employees and three relatives are currently in a quarantine centre created by Cadila on the campus of a Jain temple in Dholka town of Ahmedabad district.

Cash transfer

“spirit of federalism is all but forgotten”. Terming the Rs 20-lakh crore package as a “cruel joke” on the country, she said, “Far from offering succour and support, the government has embarked on a wild adventure of so-called reforms including a grand clearance sale of PSUs and repeal of labour laws. There is not even a pretence of consultation with stakeholders or debate in Parliament. We deplore these unilateral moves.”

A joint statement issued after a four-hour long meeting said, “(The) Union Government has unabashedly usurped powers vested in the States undermining the constitutionally guaranteed federal democracy.”

Together, the 22 parties have 138 MPs in Lok Sabha.

NCP Chief Sharad Pawar said the government should devise a strategy to bring back migrants who fled the cities and argued for new policies for encouraging industrial growth to attract investment in states. “This is the time for a collective endeavour to bring India out of this crisis,” he said.

Putting forth a 11-point charter of demands, the parties asked the government to make direct cash transfer of Rs 7,500 per month to all families outside the I-T bracket for six months, reverse all unilateral policy decisions, particularly the annulment of labour laws, release substantial funds to states in the frontline of the war against Covid, provide accurate information on infections and goal-posts vis-à-vis testing, infrastructure for all migrant workers to their native places, and consult states while allowing international and domestic flights.

The parties also asked the Government to distribute 10 kilograms food grains to all needy individuals each month for the next six months, increase the number of MGNREGA work days to 200, free transportation for all migrant workers to their native places, and consult states while allowing international and domestic flights.

The Left parties said the opposition should organise joint street protests against the government’s handling of the crisis, especially the migrant exodus. It was decided that a sub-committee will be formed to chalk out modalities.

The BSP and SP did not attend the meeting. Sources said the Aam Aadmi Party was not invited.

The meeting was attended by former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (S) leader HD Deve Gowda, DMK chief MK Stalin, Left leaders Sitaram Morcha, NK Premchandran of the RSP, Kerala Congress (Mani) leader Jose K Mani, Raju Shetty of the Swabhimani Paksha, Thol Thirumavalavan of the VCK and Prof Kondandaram of the Telangana Jana Samiti also attended.

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

20 NEW CONTAINMENT ZONES, TOTAL 92 NOW

Toll crosses 200, cases now over 12,000

ASTHA SAXENA & SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

DELHI REPORTED 660 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours — the highest single-day spike so far — taking the total count to 12,319 on Friday. The death toll breached the 200 mark, with 14 more deaths updated in the government’s bulletin to reach 204.

Over 500 cases have been reported for the fourth consecutive day. “Chances are high that the numbers are expected to rise in the coming days. Challenges will increase for health services, administration and policy makers... Hospital preparedness has been planned but for us, every single case matters. Society will have to start following social distancing norms,” said Dr S K Sarin, head of the committee set up by CM Arvind Kejriwal to gauge healthcare infrastructure in the city.

The spurt in cases comes as the city opened up after three phases of lockdown. While May 19 saw 500 cases, this rose to 534 cases on May 20 and to 571 on May 21.

Around the same time, 20



At Connaught Place on Friday. The spurt in cases — 2,265 cases in four days — continues even as the city has opened up after three phases of lockdown. Praveen Khanna

new containment zones have been created since May 18. Overall, the number of containment zones stands at 92, out of which scaling down orders have already been issued for nine.

On Friday, the Southwest district administration notified six containment zones that have col-

lectively registered 39 cases — Vikaspuri’s Deep Enclave Part-II; DG3 Block; F-Block and Palam Colony areas; Kanganheri village; and Sadh Nagar, all of which fall under the Dwarka sub-division.

The Central district administration also sealed three new areas on Thursday, which fall in

parts of Bapa Nagar.

Previously, North saw five new localities being sealed (three new blocks of Jahangirpuri, a lane in Azadpur, part of a slum in Badli), and two areas were sealed in South (Dakshinipuri and Zamrudpur).

Among the new areas to have

been sealed in Northwest include a village at Naharpur and a block in Mongolpuri.

No new areas, barring one in Northwest district, were sealed between the last leg of April of May 18. While no new areas have been sealed in East district, an apartment complex in Mayur Vihar has been placed under heightened restrictions after a positive case cropped up. West district authorities also said more areas are likely to be sealed soon.

It was after Centre gave full autonomy to states to categorise zones based on severity of outbreak that the Delhi health secretary wrote to the district magistrates red-flagging the rise in number of cases and decrease in sealed areas.

The Health Ministry guidelines state that the objective of cluster containment is to break the cycle of transmission and decrease morbidity and mortality due to Covid-19. “As a working definition, less than 15 cases in an area can be treated as a cluster. There could be single or multiple foci of local transmission,” it says.

Once an area is contained, the administration is expected to mount enhanced surveillance, regulate entry and exit into that

area, bar all movement except for medical emergencies and essential goods and services. Authorities are also expected to search for cases through physical house-to-house surveillance, test all cases as per sampling guidelines among other measures.

In fact, in her May 17 letter to the states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan had written that “for effective control it is advisable to err on the side of caution”, implying that DMs should not wait for a large outbreak to seal an area.

Meanwhile, a total of 5,897 people have recovered in the city. The recovery rate of Delhi is almost at 47%, higher than the national average of 41%. At present, there are 1,835 people admitted in 14 Covid-19 designated hospitals and 9.2% of them are in the ICU. There are 27 people on ventilators. A total of 2,881 people are in home isolation.

The government is working on increasing the number of beds in the city. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the government has readied 2,000 beds with oxygen support for Covid-19 patients and in the next few days, the city will have 4,000 beds to deal with severe patients.

Def Col store owner positive, scramble to quell rumours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

THE 53-YEAR-OLD owner of a popular grocery store in Delhi’s Defence Colony has tested positive for coronavirus, following which his family members and staffers have been tested. While the man is admitted at Max Hospital, Saket, his family and employees are under home quarantine and awaiting test results.

The man’s brother told *The Indian Express*, “He is in the hospital and is responding well to treatment. We are under self-quarantine and awaiting test results.” The store is shut, and the area around it has been sanitised, said Defence Colony RWA president Major (retd) Ranjit Singh.

As word spread, many rumours were afloat about other stores in the market and the head cook of a restaurant testing positive. In a bid to counter this, stores such as Defence Bakery and The Taste released pamphlets asking residents to not believe in rumours.

Gaurav, who runs Defence Bakery, said, “This was needed so people don’t fall for rumours at a time like this. We are open. We are using thermal scanner at the entrance, even on people who are picking up delivery. We are equipped with masks, gloves, sanitisers, and prefer contactless payment.”

Last month, three cases were reported in the locality, of which one died

A resident who is part of the colony WhatsApp group said messages have been sent out to those who might have visited the store in the last few days to self-isolate themselves.

Another store owner in Defence Colony said that in the last three days, many people have confused him for the owner of the grocery store.

Singh said, “We are using the WhatsApp group to quell rumours. As far as the head cook of a popular restaurant is concerned, it has come to our notice that he lives in Defence Colony but is only under preventive quarantine as he had returned from a hospital after receiving treatment for something else.”

The Taste too sent messages on WhatsApp groups which said, “Defence Colony today is reeling from rumours... Confirm the truth. Give us a call, message us, use the mediums available.”

Last month, there were three reported cases of the virus in the locality, and one of them — a senior citizen — passed away. Singh said there are four Covid-19 positive cases in Defence Colony, including the store owner, as of now.

Heatwave hits Delhi-NCR, likely to persist till May 25

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

HEATWAVE CONDITIONS were recorded over Palam and Lodhi Road Friday as the city recorded its highest maximum temperature of the season so far.

The IMD’s Safdarjung observatory, which is representative of the city, recorded 43.8 degrees Celsius as maximum temperature, while Palam in Southwest Delhi recorded 45.4 degrees. At Lodhi Road, temperature soared up to 44.4 degrees Celsius.

Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD’s regional forecasting centre in Delhi, said, “Heatwave is likely to continue over Delhi-NCR be-

WEEK'S FORECAST		
Day	Min	Max
Saturday	24°C	44°C
Sunday	25°C	44°C
Monday	25°C	43°C
Tuesday	26°C	43°C
Wednesday	27°C	43°C
Thursday	27°C	42°C

tween May 23 and 25 due to dry and northwesterly winds prevailing over Northwest India.”

A heatwave is when the maximum temperature reaches 40 degrees or more in plains and 30 degrees or more in hilly regions.

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

THE SOUTH Corporation faced flak for spraying disinfectant on migrant workers waiting in line for medical screening, before boarding Shramik special trains, Friday. The incident took place at Lajpat Nagar’s Hemu Kalani Secondary School.

Around 3.30 pm, *The Indian Express* saw a tanker bearing the initials of SDMC, along with four workers, pull up on the road outside the school. One of the workers began spraying disinfectant on the road and in the direction of the migrants. Another worker asked



Grab from a video of the incident in Lajpat Nagar

them to turn around and sprayed disinfectant directly on them. Some migrants could be seen coughing, some running as the spray hit their legs. Children in the queue rushed to hide behind steel pillars or bags.

According to SDMC, the official at the spot “apologised” to the migrants, and said food and water were distributed to them. Officials said their workers have been asked to be “careful” in future to prevent such an incident.

Lajpat Nagar councillor Sunil Sahdev said it was not done “intentionally”. “Screening of migrants who have registered for Shramik trains is going on opposite Lal Sai Market at Hemu Kalani school in Lajpat Nagar III. As the school is in a residential colony, residents and representatives demanded that disinfection of the compound be carried out. As per protocol, disinfectant spraying was being done in the evening in

and around the school. Due to pressure from the jetting machine, the worker could not manage it for some moments. Staff have been instructed to be more careful in the future,” he said.

The migrants said they have been waiting over 48 hours, hoping to find a seat in a train to UP and Bihar. “We braved the heat, police indifference, and we are being subjected to this. At this point, nothing matters but to reach home. I have to go to Samastipur, Bihar, and I am not sure if my train is on schedule. I have been waiting here since last night, I am ready to wait more if I can get on the train,” said Taufeeq (30), who walked from Batla House.



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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DP/9237/2020

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Development Bank of the Nation for Fostering Rural Prosperity



Audited Financial Results for the year ended March 31, 2020				
Sr. No.	Particulars	6 Months ended 31 March 2020 Audited	6 Months ended 31 March 2019 Audited	(₹ crore)
1	Interest earned (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)	16,112.44	16,091.35	32,611.26
(a)	Interest on loans and advances	14,170.27	14,089.49	28,744.66
(b)	Income on investments	1,942.17	2,001.86	3,866.60
(c)	Interest on balances with Reserve Bank of India and other inter-bank funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
(d)	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Other Income	61.94	46.84	81.04
3	Total Income (1+2)	16,174.38	16,138.19	32,692.30
4	Interest Expended	11,573.49	11,933.77	23,782.98
5	Operating Expenses (i) + (ii)	968.29	1,201.98	2,275.07
(i)	Employees cost	689.14	913.26	1,814.81
(ii)	Other operating expenses	279.15	288.72	460.26
6	Total Expenditure (4+5) excluding provisions and contingencies	12,541.78	13,135.75	26,058.05
7	Operating Profit before Provisions and Contingencies (3-6)	3,632.60	3,002.44	6,634.25
8	Provisions (other than tax) and Contingencies (Refer Note No.3 below)	1,249.51	406.77	1,399.93
9	Exceptional Items	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Profit (+)/Loss (-) from Ordinary Activities before tax (7-8-9)	2,383.09	2,595.67	5,234.32
11	Tax expenses	705.05	838.41	1,375.09
12	Net Profit (+)/Loss (-) from Ordinary Activities after tax (10-11)	1,678.04	1,757.26	3,859.23
13	Extraordinary Items (net of tax expense)	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Net Profit (+) / Loss (-) for the period (12-13)	1,678.04	1,757.26	3,859.23
15	Paid-up capital	14,080.00	12,580.00	14,080.00
16	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves	34,410.99	30,688.75	34,410.99
17	Analytical Ratios			
(i)	Capital Adequacy Ratio	21.20%	18.96%	21.20%
(ii)	Earnings Per Share (EPS)	NA	NA	NA
18	NPA Ratios			
(a)	Gross NPA	1,236.99	168.06	1,236.99
(b)	Net NPA	719.88	0.00	719.88
(c)	% of Gross NPA to Gross loans & advances	0.2565	0.0389	0.2565
(d)	% of Net NPA to Net loans & advances	0.1494	0.0000	0.1494
19	Return on Assets	0.81%	0.89%	0.79%

NA = Not Applicable Return on Assets = Net Profit (after tax) divided by total average assets

Notes:

- The financial results were reviewed by Audit Committee of the Board and approved by the Board in its meeting held on 22 May 2020 at Mumbai.
- The amounts for six month ended 31 March 2020 are balancing figures between the amounts as per financial statements for year ended 31 March 2020 and six months ended 30 September 2019.
- Provisions and Contingencies includes Floating Provision of ₹ 500 crore created during the year.
- During the year GOI contributed ₹ 1500 crore towards the capital of NABARD.
- The management of the Bank assessed the impact of the COVID19 considering its internal and external inputs for ascertaining the same on the financial reporting numbers. In the opinion of the management of the Bank, such impact on the reported numbers would not be significant.
- Previous period figures have been regrouped / rearranged wherever necessary.

Place: Mumbai
Date : 22 May, 2020

Taking Rural India >> Forward

Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
Chairman

4 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

BRIEFLY

AIIMS staffer dies, tests positive

New Delhi: A 65-year-old man who used to cut vegetables in a canteen at the AIIMS Delhi campus died on Thursday evening. He reportedly suffered respiratory failure, and his Covid report returned positive on Friday, said Dr Adarsh Pratap Singh, president of the AIIMS RDA.

Action against e-rickshaw, auto drivers

New Delhi: Over 20 cases have been filed against autorickshaw and e-rickshaw drivers for allegedly flouting lockdown norms in the last four days.

HC adjourns plea on release of Tablighis

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday adjourned for May 26 the hearing on a plea seeking the release of 916 foreigners, who attended the Tablighi Jamaat meet and are held in quarantine despite testing negative.

NGT officer tests positive

New Delhi: An officer in the General Administration of the National Green Tribunal, principal bench has tested positive for Covid-19. The NGT will remain shut for public access from May 23. **ENS**

Can't seek removal of healthcare workers over Covid fear, govt to ensure residents' safety: HC

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

OBSERVING THAT "no one has a right to ask for removal of resident health workers from their neighbourhood because of an unrealistic fear of Covid-19", the Delhi High Court noted that the Delhi government "cannot es-

cape their obligation to provide a protected environment to senior citizens and other residents adjacent to such buildings which are occupied by the health workers".

The single bench of Justice Asha Menon passed the order on a PIL seeking directions to the Delhi government to ensure that no guesthouse is run illegally

and no portion of the said property is rented out to any person who can be a threat to the life and safety of residents.

The petitioner had submitted that he is a senior citizen and that occupants of a property on Cariappa Marg are not following measures for proper hygiene. The property was used as a guesthouse for frontline

workers.

Rishikesh Kumar, who appeared for the District Magistrate (South), argued that "health workers are the frontline warriors of the Covid-19 pandemic and cannot be asked to move away from the property in question".

On the other hand, Neha Jain, the counsel for the petitioner, ar-

gued that since the "petitioner is a senior citizen living with five other senior citizens, with what is described as 'co-morbidities', they are anxious about their health and well-being as measures relating to hygiene are not being adhered to by the occupants of property".

After taking these submissions into consideration, the

court noted: "Senior citizens above the age of 65 have their movement restricted as they are not even allowed to leave their homes, and their concerns cannot be wished away by the government authorities, who are obligated to take care of all citizens."

The court directed the Delhi government as well as DM

(South) to take all action such as fumigation and sanitisation, similar to measures being adopted for containment/buffer zones, in the area in question. The court said such measures may also be adopted in other zones/areas where health workers are residing, which would also assuage fears of other residents.

As govt further scales up testing, pending samples still a concern

SOURAV ROY BARMAN & ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

THE DAILY average of swab samples collected for Covid-19 testing, pending in government accredited and private labs in Delhi, remained over 4,600 till May 15, according to last available official data. Till date, 1,60,225 tests have been done in the city.

Since May 16, the format of sharing testing data has been changed.

According to date-wise data between May 4 and May 15, an average of 1,756 samples have been collected on a daily basis. During the same period, the daily average of pending samples has been 4,719.

The situation has remained unchanged even after the Delhi Health Department's order, dated May 7, to private labs to release test results within 24 hours of collecting samples, warning that a 48-hour delay will lead to cancellation of payments. The order was issued following di-

rections of the Delhi High Court, which had also asked the government to regularly share testing figures along with the number of pending samples.

On May 7, when the order directing private labs to expedite testing was issued, 4,262 samples were pending, out of which 1,728 were from government labs. On May 15, 5,080 samples were pending. According to data shared in the new format, between May 16 and May 20, an average of 3,592 samples have been tested daily, while the average of pending samples collected by the government stands at 2,140.

The pendency of samples has also been attributed to rising cases of Covid-19. "Any symptomatic patient is tested twice before being discharged, while the asymptomatic patient is tested once.. Also, more hospitals are now asking patients for tests before admission, and with that more healthcare workers are being tested for the disease," said Dr SK Sarin, head of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS). Dr Sarin also headed the

committee formed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to assess the preparedness of health infrastructure in the city.

"Labs were obviously planning for patients, but now testing has gone beyond patients. We may need more testing facilities in the coming days," said Dr Sarin.

There are 21 approved labs — 13 private and 8 government — to test Covid samples in Delhi. Until last month, Delhi also sent samples to the National Institute of Biologicals in Noida before discontinuing it owing to the large number of pending samples.

Private labs in the city have blamed the exhausting clerical exercise as the reason behind the delay in reports. "We have been clearing all reports. Reports of the positive cases are less and are immediately conveyed. But to compile the data of all the negative reports takes time. We have also increased the number of data entry operators to manage the load," said Dr Arvind Lal, chairman and managing director of Dr Lal PathLabs.



HELPING HAND

Food is distributed to people on Friday. *Amit Mehra*

ED to attach MNC assets for 'collusion'

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday got the Supreme Court nod to attach JP Morgan's properties in India for allegedly colluding with real estate group Amrapali to divert funds of the homebuyers in violation of foreign investment rules.

This came after Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the agency, told a bench of Justices Arun Mishra and U U Lalit that it had prima facie identified Rs 187 crore in the accounts of JP Morgan, as proceeds of crime under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and sought permission to attach properties towards recovery.

The bench also asked whether the Centre can provide loan of Rs 500 crore to the National Building Construction Corporation which has been given charge of completing the unfinished projects of the beleaguered real estate group. The court said it is asking as there is no private player involved and the stalled projects. Additional Solicitor General Vikramjeet Banerjee told the bench that he will seek instructions in this regard. **ENS**

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

AT A market in Shahdara district, passersby Thursday "stole" mangoes worth Rs 20,000 from unattended crates. The video of the incident, which took place in Jagat Puri, shows several men picking up mangoes and running away.

Some, with helmets on, pick up as many fruits as they can and rush towards their vehicles, some fill their pockets, and a few even throw crates away in the chaos.

An FIR has been filed for robbery against unknown persons at Jagatpuri police station.

The fruit-seller, Chote (33), told *The Indian Express*, "I was standing under a tree when a group of rickshaw pullers asked me to leave as they wanted to park under the shade. At first, I didn't agree, but they got angry. I ran away with my cart but couldn't pick up the crates."

Minutes later, Chote said he saw people picking up the mangoes and running away with them. "All 12 crates were empty. It was fruit worth Rs 20,000 at least," he said. The fruit-seller had

'OPEN GYMS, OTHER GROUP ACTIVITIES WON'T BE ALLOWED'

Mandatory masks, Aarogya Setu as parks open partially to the public

ANANYA TIWARI & ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

PARKS IN Delhi under the jurisdiction of MCDs and the Delhi Development Authority are set to open on Saturday, with a set of riders. Children below 10 years and people aged above 65 will not be allowed entry, and wearing of masks is mandatory for visitors.

Parks in colonies are owned by South, East and North MCDs, and the bigger community ones are managed by DDA.

According to the South MCD, jogging on tracks is allowed from 7 am to 7 pm. "Visitors will ensure the Aarogya Setu app is installed on their phones... Wearing masks is mandatory," state the guidelines issued by the South MCD.

"Open gym, children's play areas, yoga and group activities will not be allowed," said an official.



At Lodhi Gardens, Friday. Most parks will open today. *Express*

A North MCD official said all parks will be open by Saturday from 7 am-10 am and 3.30 pm-6.30 pm. While East and DDA are yet to release guidelines, officials said protocol will be along the lines of that mandated by the Delhi government in public places.

The New Delhi Municipal Council, which manages parks in Central Delhi, said Lodhi Gardens, Nehru Park, Talkatora Park have been partially opened. "Only walking tracks can be used, activities such as yoga or other events are not allowed. Other parks are not gated, so public still had ac-

cess to them," said S Schelliah, director of the horticulture department, NDMC.

"We are complying with government orders and have opened up parks," he added. While Delhi government guidelines for Lockdown 4.0 doesn't specifically refer to parks, CM Arvind Kejriwal, in an interview to a news channel, had said parks can open.

Ashok Kumar, director of DDA's horticulture department, said, "We are in the process of formulating the guidelines but they would be open by Saturday."

Meanwhile, Sunder Nursery received 20 guests after several weeks of being shut. Till June 1, the nursery is open from 7 am to 6.30 pm only to annual pass holders. Ratish Nanda, project director, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, said, "A pass-holder can bring in guests, and those interested can buy the annual pass. This will help track down visitors if there's an issue."

जयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

ई-नीलामी कार्यक्रम जून-2020 (प्रथम)

क्र. सं.	सम्पत्ति का विवरण	क्षेत्रफल (वर्गमीटर)	अमानता राशि (रु.)	बोली प्रारम्भ करने की दर (रु. प्र. व. मी.)	अमानता राशि जमा कराने एवं बोली प्रारम्भ करने की दिनांक	अमानता राशि जमा कराने की अन्तिम दिनांक	बोली समाप्ति की दिनांक
1	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. डी-274, गोविंदपुरा, करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	162.00	110160	34000	22/5/2020	02/06/2020	03/06/2020
2	व्यवसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एस-38, हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	40500	18000	22/5/2020	02/06/2020	03/06/2020
3	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. 351 (कॉर्नर), स्वर्ण विहार, जयपुर (राज.)	104.70	41880	20000	22/5/2020	02/06/2020	03/06/2020
4	व्यवसायिक भूखण्ड सं. सी-131-बी, लालकोठी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	13.93	153230	550000	22/5/2020	02/06/2020	03/06/2020
5	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. 315, विद्याधर नगर, सेक्टर-4, जयपुर (राज.)	45.00	54000	60000	22/5/2020	03/06/2020	04/06/2020
6	दुकान सं. 27, विद्याधर नगर, सेक्टर-6, ब्लॉक-1, जयपुर (राज.)	18.00	39960	111000	22/5/2020	03/06/2020	04/06/2020
7	मिश्रित उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. 10/ओबीजी/130 (कॉर्नर), रिंग रोड परियोजना, ग्राम : बगराना, जयपुर	137.11	49360	18000	22/5/2020	03/06/2020	04/06/2020
8	व्यवसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एस-42, हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	40500	18000	22/5/2020	04/06/2020	05/06/2020
9	दुकान सं. 28, विद्याधर नगर, सेक्टर-6, ब्लॉक-1, जयपुर (राज.)	18.00	39960	111000	22/5/2020	04/06/2020	05/06/2020
10	व्यवसायिक भूखण्ड सं. सी-1 (जी) (कॉर्नर) खसरा नं. 74, 73 (पार्ट) एवं 66 (पार्ट), ग्राम : सुखालपुरा, न्यू आतिश मार्केट विस्तार, जयपुर (राज.)	54.50	152600	140000	22/5/2020	04/06/2020	05/06/2020
11	मिश्रित उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. 11/ओई/1958 (कॉर्नर), रिंग रोड परियोजना ग्राम अचरावाला, जयपुर (राज.)	143.75	34500	12000	22/5/2020	04/06/2020	05/06/2020
12	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ई-40 (कॉर्नर), हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	157.50	34650	11000	22/5/2020	05/06/2020	08/06/2020
13	दुकान नं. बीएस-3(एससी), ए.सी. मार्केट, राजा पार्क योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	27.20	29920	55000	22/5/2020	05/06/2020	08/06/2020
14	दुकान नं. एफएस-11, ए.सी. मार्केट, राजा पार्क योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	15.72	22010	70000	22/5/2020	05/06/2020	08/06/2020
15	दुकान नं. एफएस-12, ए.सी. मार्केट, राजा पार्क योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	19.83	27770	70000	22/5/2020	05/06/2020	08/06/2020
16	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. एफ-66 (कॉर्नर), हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	157.50	34650	11000	22/5/2020	08/06/2020	09/06/2020
17	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. 394, खूसर विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	45.00	27000	30000	22/5/2020	08/06/2020	09/06/2020
18	मिश्रित उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. 11/ओई/1985 (कॉर्नर), रिंग रोड परियोजना ग्राम : अचरावाला, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	27000	12000	22/5/2020	08/06/2020	09/06/2020
19	व्यवसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एस-18, हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	40500	18000	22/5/2020	08/06/2020	09/06/2020
20	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. बी-266, (कॉर्नर) मालवीय नगर, जयपुर (राज.)	100.28	170480	85000	22/5/2020	09/06/2020	10/06/2020
21	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. ए-395, गोविन्दपुरा, करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	264.00	179520	34000	22/5/2020	09/06/2020	10/06/2020
22	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. बी-92-1, तिलक नगर एन्क्लेव, जयपुर (राज.)	295.75	295750	50000	22/5/2020	09/06/2020	10/06/2020
23	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. आर-1, शिव एन्क्लेव योजना, जयपुर (RERA Registration No. RAJ/P/2019/1153)	1240.00	744000	30000	22/5/2020	09/06/2020	10/06/2020
24	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. 234 (कॉर्नर), विद्याधर नगर, सेक्टर-4, जयपुर (राज.)	60.00	84000	70000	22/5/2020	10/06/2020	11/06/2020
25	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. 8/418, विद्याधर नगर, सेक्टर-8, जयपुर (राज.)	198.00	237600	60000	22/5/2020	10/06/2020	11/06/2020
26	मिश्रित उपयोग भूखण्ड सं. ए-253, चित्रकूट योजना, सेक्टर-4, जयपुर (राज.)	48.00	72000	75000	22/5/2020	10/06/2020	11/06/2020
27	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. सी-49 (एससी), पत्रकार कॉलोनी, जयपुर (राज.)	72.00	72000	50000	22/5/2020	10/06/2020	11/06/2020
28	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. एस-56, हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	112.50	40500	18000	22/5/2020	11/06/2020	12/06/2020
29	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. सी-29 (कॉर्नर), हाथोज करधनी विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	157.50	34650	11000	22/5/2020	11/06/2020	12/06/2020
30	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. बी-184, सालिगरामपुरा योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	90.00	27360	15200	22/5/2020	11/06/2020	12/06/2020
31	दुकान सं. 13 (एससी), विद्याधर नगर, सेक्टर-6, ब्लॉक-1, जयपुर (राज.)	18.00	39960	111000	22/5/2020	11/06/2020	12/06/2020
32	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. सी-131-सी, लालकोठी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	13.93	153230	550000	22/5/2020	12/06/2020	15/06/2020
33	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. डी-342, गोविंदपुरा करधनी योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	264.00	179520	34000	22/5/2020	12/06/2020	15/06/2020
34	आवासीय भूखण्ड सं. सी-3/401, चित्रकूट योजना, सेक्टर-3, जयपुर (राज.)	252.00	277200	55000	22/5/2020	12/06/2020	15/06/2020
35	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड सं. सी-1 (एफ) (कॉर्नर) खसरा नं. 74, 73 (पार्ट) एवं 66 (पार्ट), ग्राम : सुखालपुरा, न्यू आतिश मार्केट विस्तार योजना, जयपुर (राज.)	58.45	163660	140000	22/5/2020	12/06/2020	15/06/2020

एन.एस.एस.सी. 2020-21/1537

नीलामी की मुख्य शर्तों के लिए जयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखें।

नीलामी के उपर्युक्त भूखण्डों की अन्य जानकारी के लिए मोबाइल नम्बर +91 9462 569 696 पर सम्पर्क करें।

इन्दिरा सर्किल, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, जयपुर- 302004

5 THE OUTBREAK NATION

MUMBAI: 12:57 PM



A family sets off on foot from Mumbai for Beed, in Maharashtra, on Friday. *Pradip Das*

LUDHIANA: 2:30 PM



A migrant worker waits with family at Guru Nanak Stadium on Friday for screening. *Gurmeet Singh*

PICKING UP, SETTING OFF

PUNE: 6:10 PM



Migrant workers waiting at the state transport bus depot in Pune for the last four days scuffle for their share of bananas on Friday. An unidentified person had brought the fruit to hand them out at the station but as the crowd grew restless and a row began, the Good Samaritan left the spot. *Arul Horizon*

DADRI: 7:30 PM



Children in tow, they arrive at Dadri station, in Uttar Pradesh, to board a train *Abhinav Saha*

AHMEDABAD: 11: 48 AM



A group of workers on way to a railway station on Friday to board a Shramik Special train. *Javed Raja*



CORONA WATCH

PUNJAB

Only one new case reported

Chandigarh: Punjab recorded only one new coronavirus case on Friday. The lone new patient was an RPF personnel from Ludhiana, taking the state's tally of Covid cases to 2,029. Meanwhile, the recovery rate of the state further improved to 91 per cent as 1,847 Covid patients have recovered. **ENS**

WHO

Minister takes charge

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has taken charge as Chair of the World Health Organization's Executive Board for 2020-21. The minister replaced Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan. According the post, Harsh Vardhan paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Covid-19 pandemic. **ENS**

MUMBAI

Liquor home delivery

Mumbai: Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has allowed home delivery of liquor in Mumbai from Saturday. The service will not be allowed in containment zones. Officials said shops can use e-commerce platforms for delivery. The service is to begin from Friday midnight, but customers can avail it from Sunday as retailers need to take permission. **ENS**

MP starts campaign to employ unskilled workers in rural areas

Bhopal: With lakhs of migrant workers having returned in the last few days, the Madhya Pradesh government Friday launched Shram Siddhi Abhiyan that promises work to every unskilled worker in rural areas, and also collect a database of skilled workers that can be shared with industries.

A door-to-door survey will be carried out to find people without job cards and give them work under MGNREGA. Simultaneously, surveyors will collect information about skilled workers now without work and the government will share the data with industrial units in respective areas.

Additional chief secretary Manoj Srivastava said such a survey was carried out in 2006. He said the government expects nearly a million people to get new job cards. He added the government was providing jobs to nearly 21 lakh workers in 22,809 gram panchayats under MGNREGA.

MILIND GHATAWAI

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS START MONDAY

Five states say incoming fliers to stay in quarantine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, GUWAHATI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, HYDERABAD, BENGALURU, MUMBAI, MAY 22

WITH DOMESTIC flight operations set to resume on Monday, at least five states and one Union Territory have decided that incoming passengers would have to stay in home or institutional quarantine.

The governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Assam, and the administration of Jammu and Kashmir have decided that arriving passengers will have to stay in quarantine.

The Kerala government Friday said the passengers would have to stay in home or institutional quarantine for 14 days.

Kerala, which had only 16 active cases on May 8, has seen 200 new cases in the past two weeks. The surge is attributed to the arrival of evacuation flights from the Middle East and the entry of people from other states. On Friday, Kerala recorded 42 fresh cases, the largest single-day hike since the state reported its first case on January 30.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media, "Quarantining would be mandatory for all those who reach Kerala via domestic flights. Whatever be the mode of travel to Kerala, all those who come from outside have to go into

quarantine. However, it would not be binding on those who come to the state for 1-2 days for business purposes and then go back. But, this category of passengers will also have to observe necessary preventive guidelines."

Meanwhile, with at least 15 flights expected to arrive in Srinagar from next week, Kashmir divisional commander P K Pole told *The Indian Express*, "All those passengers arriving at Srinagar airport will be put under administrative quarantine and tested."

In Karnataka, domestic passengers from high-risk states — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh — will have to stay in institutional quarantine for seven days, followed by 7 days of home quarantine. Those returning from other states will have to stay in home quarantine for 14 days.

The governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have decided to quarantine people arriving on flights as well as other modes of transport.

Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that people arriving by any mode would have to stay in quarantine for 14 days.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has, meanwhile, said it plans to screen all passengers on arrival at the Mumbai airport and quarantine them at home for 14 days. It said the state and the Centre will discuss this subject to formalise the guidelines.

Karnataka to pay for travel on Shramik trains till May 31

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, MAY 22

THE KARNATAKA government on Friday announced that it would fund travel on all Shramik trains until May 31.

The announcement comes after questions were raised by the Karnataka High Court on the legality of the state government's refusal to bear the cost of train travel of migrant workers

when their home states fail to deposit funds to cover the fares.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on social media, "The government has considered the plea of migrant workers who were unable to bear the travel expenditure to go back to their home town. Karnataka government will bear the cost of travel of migrant workers and stranded persons to their respective states by Shramik trains up to 31st May, 2020."

NITI Aayog to states: Speed up medical colleges on PPP model

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

AMID THE growing demand for healthcare facilities in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the NITI Aayog has asked states to accelerate the process of setting up of medical colleges on PPP model and augmenting district hospital facilities with private partners.

In a communication to chief secretaries of all states, a NITI official has also advised them to use the facility of Viability Gap Funding (VGF), available for social sectors, for this purpose.

"As you are aware, to address the endemic shortage of qualified doctors across the country especially the Aspirational Districts, NITI Aayog developed and circulated the guidelines for setting up medical colleges

through public private partnership," the communication said.

"The model provides for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) requirement/premium as the bidding parameters. Where, depending on the viability of the project, a bidder may either seek grant from the government to support their capital investment and operational expenditure, or offer to pay a premium (in case of viable projects)," it said.

"The grant can be made available under the applicable VGF scheme of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Whereby, for social infrastructure projects such as these, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, in 'the fourth tranche of economic stimulus', has announced the enhancement of the quantum of VGF to 30 % of the total project cost..."

The move comes a week after

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an outlay of Rs 8,100 crore for "boosting" private sector investment in social infrastructure through revised VGF scheme, as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

NITI has also shared the final drafts of concession agreement and request for proposals with states. "For your immediate use and reference, these finalized draft of Request for Proposals (RFP) and concession agreement are enclosed herewith. These can be used as guiding principal for developing state/project specific concession bidding documents to accelerate scaling up of medical education and augmentation of district hospital facilities," it said.

Earlier this year, Sitharaman had announced a proposal to set up VGF funding window for setting up hospitals in the PPP mode.

Bihar: Only migrants coming from 11 cities to be sent to quarantine centres

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, MAY 22

THE BIHAR government on Friday decided to send to quarantine centres only those migrants who come from 11 high-risk and moderate-risk cities of Surat, Delhi, Pune, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Kolkata, Noida and Bengaluru.

District magistrates can add any town to this list depending on Covid-19 infection trends.

People coming from places

other than these cities will be sent for home quarantine, provided they do not have symptoms, and monitored. Random tests of migrants will continue as well.

The order of the disaster management department, which followed a high-level meeting presided over by the chief secretary, will be enforceable with immediate effect.

In a letter to all DMs, SSPs and SPs, Disaster Management Principal Secretary Pratayya Amrit said: "Those who would be sent to home quarantine will self-at-

test a form to follow quarantine norms. Migrants of 11 listed cities, who would be discharged after 14 days quarantine, would live seven days in home quarantine."

Amrit told *The Indian Express*: "We have taken the decision after observing the pattern of infection." Asked if the government would continue the same quarantine policy in case of those coming on non-Shramik trains, Amrit said: "It is not necessary. If any traveller has any apprehensions about a Covid infection, he will be tested... no need to be paranoid.

HCQ may harm Covid patients: Lancet study

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & ABANTIKA GHOSH
PUNE, NEW DELHI, MAY 22

A STUDY published on Friday in *The Lancet* has found links between the use of chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine and increased rates of mortality and heart arrhythmias among hospital patients with Covid-19.

The study's authors say that these drug regimens should not be used to treat Covid-19 outside of clinical trials, and that urgent confirmation from randomised clinical trials is needed. United States President Donald Trump has been a persistent and vocal promoter of hydroxychloroquine.

Prof (Dr) Frank Ruschitzka, Director of the Heart Center at University Hospital Zurich and one of the co-authors of the study told *The Indian Express* over the phone that treatment with the antimalarial drug chloroquine or its analogue hydroxychloroquine (taken with or without the antibiotics azithromycin or clarithromycin) offers no benefit for patients of Covid-19.

"This is the largest observational study done so far. Clearly the use of the drug for treating Covid-19 patients shows harm, and I am very concerned. It is reasonably safe to treat malaria. But there is no benefit of this drug for Covid patients. We have studied patients from across the world and there is no reason to assume Indian patients would do any better," Dr Ruschitzka said.

On Friday, India reiterated its recommendation for prophylactic use of HCQ, and the treatment recommendation for HCQ and azithromycin in certain cases.

"Joint Monitoring Group and NTF have now recommended the prophylactic use of HCQ in all asymptomatic healthcare workers involved in containment and treatment of COVID-19 and asymptomatic healthcare workers working in non-COVID hospitals/non-COVID areas of COVID

hospitals/blocks, asymptomatic frontline workers, such as surveillance workers deployed in containment zones and paramilitary/police personnel involved in COVID-19 related activities and asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed cases," a revised advisory issued late on Friday night said.

The drug, though, is not to be used in people with retinopathy, hypersensitivity to the disease, cardiac problems, or glucose 6 phosphate deficiency. It is also not to be used in pregnant or lactating mothers of children aged less than 15 years. Use has to be preceded by an ECG.

The *Lancet* study analysed data from nearly 15,000 patients with Covid-19 receiving a combination of any of the four drug regimens and 81,000 controls.

"Several countries have advocated use of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, either alone or in combination, as potential treatments for Covid-19. Justification for repurposing these medicines in this way is based on a small number of anecdotal experiences that suggest they may have beneficial effects for people infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. However, previous small-scale studies have failed to identify robust evidence of a benefit and larger, randomised controlled trials are not yet completed. However, we now know from our study that the chance that these medications improve outcomes in Covid-19 is quite low," Dr Ruschitzka said.

Prof (Dr) Mandeep R Mehra, lead author of the study and Executive Director of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Advanced Heart Disease in Boston, said: "This is the first large scale study to find statistically robust evidence that treatment with chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine does not benefit patients with Covid-19. Our findings suggest it may be associated with an increased risk of heart problems and increased risk of death..."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Tech opens a learning window as Covid shuts many a door

UMA VISHNU
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

ONCE upon a time, two years before Covid, Rakhi was among the toppers in her class, a confident nine-year-old who held out her hand and asked, in English, "How are you? How was your day?" That was 2018, when *The Indian Express* visited her school in Dhaultpur, Rajasthan.

Today, with her school shut in the pandemic lockdown, her question is starkly different. "Papa ke liye koi naukri hai Dilli mein (Is there a job for my father in Delhi)?"

Her father, a daily wage labourer, has been out of work for months. While the state government has launched an online programme linking 13 lakh fam-

ilies through WhatsApp groups, Rakhi isn't among them.

Her family doesn't have a smartphone.

Rakhi's story shows how learning in lockdown is more messy than what advocates of online teaching would admit. Every roadmap is riddled with uncertainties. What will happen to the countless like Rakhi? Will they be the new drop-outs? And when schools reopen, what will change?

Nobel-winning economist and MIT professor Abhijit Banerjee is not despairing. His work at MIT's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) has underscored the potential of technology to improve learning levels.

"Schools are wonderful ways for children to socialise, learn to



Studying at home lays bare class divide. *Express*

sit in one place, listen to the teacher drone on and on. Those are essential skills. But the paradox is, some of the stuff online is so good, so compelling — a Khan Academy session, for instance —

that without schools, children won't learn these essential skills of learning to sit in one place, being bored, etc," he says.

Getting bored may be a needed skill, suggests Anurag

LOCKDOWN LESSONS

AN EXPRESS SERIES

PART 3

Kundu, member of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights. He says education is more than about "learning algebra on a tab".

"It's about social behaviour, learning to understand others' emotions and your own. When schools reopen, yes, educational technology will play a more dominant role than was earlier, but I don't think it will change how we look at education in the first place."

The Delhi government, which Kundu represents in DCPCR, has tried to keep learning going in its

schools with live YouTube sessions and WhatsApp messages. Yet, Shailendra Sharma, principal advisor in the Delhi government's Department of Education, says the government isn't all gung-ho.

And that has to do with the realisation that in a country with deep social inequities, where barely 23.8% households have access to Internet, lakhs of children could be left behind.

"That's why we are taking a very calibrated approach. We are not in a race to complete the syllabus. Personally, even if one child is left out of this learning process, it's alarming. Because this is not about numbers or percentages. This is about children," says Sharma.

Shashi Banerjee, principal of Shiv Nadar School, Noida, said:

"What this moment tells you is that machines should be allowed to do what machines can do; what they can't do - pastoral care, music, art, dance, theatre - schools will continue to do."

But for an education system that's long been criticised for being unimaginative and hackneyed, could this moment be the one of essential disruption?

"Yes, this disruption was needed in terms of how we were only becoming consumers, how we were relegating, delegating to a lesser someone, the excessive materialism that had seeped in, etc. So we needed someone to stick their neck out and say let's redefine what school means," says Banerjee.

(SERIES CONCLUDED)
FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, HAV RAJBINDER SINGH, ARMY NO.4474939X R/O VPO MASTER COLONY TARN TARAN TEH-TARN TARAN DISTT-TARN TARAN (P) PIN-143401 HERE BY INFORM THAT MY SON NAME GURDIPAK SINGH,TO GURDEEPAK SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES BOTH NAME BELONGS TO SAME PERSON.

0040537999-7

I, Sidartha Kumar, father of Siddhi Dhyamna, holder of Indian Passport:- No-M3456103, issued at Delhi on 24/11/2014, Permanent resident of E-38, Budh Vihar, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, and presently residing at-306-118 Edinburgh Place, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5J7, do hereby change the name, of my daughter from SIDDHI TO SIDDHI DHYAMNA with immediate effect.

0040537987-1

HAV SHIV SINGH ARMY NO. 44745037P R/O AKBARAPUR PO CHHIBRAMAU TEH CHHIBRAMAU DISTT KANNAUJ (UP) PIN-209721 HERE BY, INFORM THAT MY WIFE NAME SMT-SUBODH TO SMT SUBODH KUMARI FOR ALL PURPOSES BOTH NAME BELONGS TO SAME PERSON.

0040537999-8

HAV BRAJESH SINGH ARMY NO. 4474493N R/O VILL NAGLA MAHUA PO JOJ TEH BHONGAON DISTT MAINPURI (UP) PIN-209720 HERE BY INFORM THAT MY WIFE NAME SMT-SANDHYA TO SMT SANDHYA DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES BOTH NAME BELONGS TO SAME PERSON.

0040537999-6

I SONU S/O NARENDRA R/o. H.No-467-2, Ward No.2, Garhi Mohalla, Rohtak-124001, haryana. have changed my name to Sonu Jangra.

0040537999-2

I Shikha Chadha W/O, Ajay Chadha R/o 201, Ground Floor Bank Enclave, Near Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Shikha Singh for all purposes.

0040537988-1

I, PRAKRAM SINGH S/O- JAGDISH PRASAD SINGH RATHORE, H.NO.C-23A, MAHINDRA-PARK PANKHA-ROAD, UTTAMNAGAR, DWARKA DELHI-110059, changed my name to PARAKRAM SINGH RATHORE.

0040537999-4

I, Ranjit Jain, S/O late Jhanwar Lal Golcha, R/O G-3/43, 44 First Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi 110085, have changed my name Ranjit Jain to Ranjit Golcha, for all purposes.

0040537975-1

I, SMT.SUREKHA SHAHDEV HIRATTI W/O NO-3206139A L/NK HANAMANTH BASAPPA VYAPARAKI R/O-VPO TUKKANATTI, TEH-GOKAK, DISTT-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591224, have changed my name, from SMT.SUREKHA SHAHDEV HIRATTI to SMT.SUREKHA HANAMANTH VYAPARAKI, for all, future purposes.

0040537999-5

I, Samta Jain, W/O Ranjit Golcha, R/o G-3/43, 44 First Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi 110085, have changed my name Samta Jain to Samta Golchha, for all purposes.

0040537975-2

I, Satnam Singh S/o Bhupinder Singh Gahlila R/O-72-A, Pocket-A-9, Gombi-Apartment, DDA-Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-19, have changed my name to Satnam Singh Gahlila, for all purposes.

0040537999-3

I, Shiv Kumar Soni S/o Lal Chand Soni R/o-A-1/35, Upper-Ground Floor, Rohini Sector-8 Delhi, changed my name to Shiv Soni.

0040537999-1

LOST & FOUND

I, have lost my Original Property documents including C-Form, D-Form, Occupancy Certificate, M.C.D Factory Licence and Sanction Letter of Property- No-A-81/1, G.T.Karnal Road, Industrial Area, Near Azadpur, Delhi-110033. Finder please return papers to Arun Singal, R/O-A-35, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-49, Ph-011-46021110

0040537987-2

WESTERN RAILWAY-RAJKOT DIVISION

MECHANIZED AND MANUAL CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, SWEEPING, RAG PICKING AND UP-KEEP

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) Western Railway - Kothi Compound - Rajkot for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites e-tender through open tender for the following Commercial work:- (1) **Name of work:-** E-Tender for Mechanized and Manual Cleaning, Housekeeping, Sweeping, Rag picking and Up- keep for the period of four years at HAPA Railway Station; (2) **Tender Notice No:** NO.C. 331/MECH/RAG/HAPA/2020/1; (3) **Name of Station:** HAPA; (4) **Estimated cost of work:** ₹ 64.48,827/- For four years; (5) **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 1,29,000/-; **Tender Fees:** ₹ 5,000/-; (6) **Date & Time of submission:** 26.06.2020 upto 15:00 hrs; **Date & Time of Opening:** 26.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs; (7) **Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased & location of Notice board:-** Office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager – Western Railway – Kothi Compound, Rajkot; **Website details:-** www.irops.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client DATARAM R/O H. No. C-50, PALAM VINOD PURI RZC-50, PALAM VILLAGE, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110045 has disowned/debarred his son "RAVI SHANKAR" his wife "NEHA" from his movable/ immovable properties and has severed all relations due to their misbehavior, out of control nature any body dealing with them. My client will not be responsible for their acts/deeds.

RAJESH KUMAR (ADVOCATE)
Ch. No. 337,
Lawyers Chamber Block
ROHINI COURT, NEW DELHI-110085
Mobile No.: 9266314430

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that under instructions from and on behalf of my client **VED PAL SINGH** S/o Jay Singh & **SMT. MUNNI DEVI** W/o Ved Pal Singh, both R/o S-128, Sanjay Camp, Okhla Phase-II, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020, have debarred their son, **SANDEEP KUMAR** and his wife **NEELAM DEVI**, from all their immovable properties & moveable assets & severed all relations with them due to their disobedience and misbehavior. Anybody dealing with them, will do at his/her/their own risks, costs & responsibility & my client & all their other family members shall not be responsible for any acts done by themselves. **J.C. Tripathi (Advocate)**
Ch.No.M-4, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sh. Mukundraj Rao Late Sh. Karam Chand R/o RZA-32, Suraj Vihar, Kakrola, Delhi-110078**, has severed all relations and disowned his son **Rajesh Kumar Samra**, his wife **Meenakshi** and their children **Surbhi & Nishant**, debaring them from all his moveable & immovable properties & assets due to their misbehavior and misconduct. Anybody dealing with them in any manner whatsoever shall be doing so at his/her own risk & costs. My client will not be responsible for the same.

Kamal Singh (Advocate)
Ch.No.512, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that my client **Ms Mala W/o Shri Ravi, R/o Hous No. W/2-5, OM Vihar face-II, Near Hareesh Public School, New Delhi-110016** has disowned and dis-inherited her both sons **Sagar** and his wife **Neha, Amit** and his wife **Meena**, from all the movable and immovable properties of my above client. My client shall not be liable for the any act of the said Persons.

Viary Mehta Advocate
Chamber No. 707, 7th Floor,
Dwarka Court Complex, Dwarka,
New Delhi-110075

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुकदमे (1) अश्विनी चौहान देवी पत्नी श्री सुनील जी (2) श्री सुनील पुत्र श्री राहुल देवी देवारी B-64 प्लाट नगर, गाँव नं.-2, सुनील दिल्ली-110054, ने अपने दोनों पुत्रों (1) रवि व उनकी पत्नी नीतू सिंह व उनके बच्चों (2) कन्नु व उनकी पत्नी प्रीति व उनके बच्चों को उनके दुर्बलता, गलत निर्णय तथा अन्य कारणों के कारण अपने सारा संप-सम्पत्ति अपने बेटे कन्नु को अपने बेटे रवि के संवत्स विवाह कर दिने है। रविजी में उनके कोई भी हितकी भी प्रकार का लेन देन करना है जो उनका विवाह कर स्वयं होना मेरे मुकदमों को कोई प्रभावित नहीं होगा।

Parkash Chand (Advocate)
Enrol. No. D-9065/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, **Vijay Kumar Meena S/o Tulsi Ram R/o D-39, Sector Gama 1, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201306** declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as **Vijay Kumar** in my Educational documents. The actual name of mine is **Vijay Kumar Meena** respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT MS. SANGITA RANI D/O SH. K.R.ARYA R/O H.NO-305, 1ST-FLOOR, POCKET-1, SECTOR-22, ROHINI, DELHI, DESIRES ALL HER RELATION AND DEBAR HER HUSBAND SURENDER GOSWAMI FROM ALL HER MOVEABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO HIS MISCONDUCT AND MISBEHAVIOUR WITH MY CLIENT. IN FUTURE MY CLIENT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT/DEED COMMITTED BY HIM & ANYONE DEALING WITH HIM DONE AT THEIR OWN RISK AND CONSEQUENCE.

VIKASH TRIVEDI (ADVOCATE)
LAWYER CHAMBER NO. 704,
SAKSHI COURT COMPLEX
NEW DELHI-110017
ENRL. NO. D48475/2015
MOB: 9804454543

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that my client **SMT. BENUKA AGGARWAL, W/O LATE SHRI HARI MOHAN AGGARWAL** resident of BM-2, (West), Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, disowned and severed all relationship with her son namely **SH. MADHUR AGGARWAL** and his wife **SMT. SALONI AGGARWAL**, and all shares and interest in movable and immovable properties acquired or to be acquired because of family dispute, so my client have broken all relations from them. Any person dealing and having relation with them in any manner shall be at their own risk, cost & consequences and my client shall not be responsible for any act and deed of the aforesaid.

Sd/-
VISHAL SINGH (Advocate)
Enrl. No. D-74820/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Pushp Lata Nigam W/o Karan Singh Nigam R/o O-145 Extn, Geeta Enclave, Gali No. 5, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi has disinherited/disowned her natural son Varun Kumar Nigam & Promila Nigam W/o Varun Kumar Nigam from both her built-up Property No. O-145 Extn, Geeta Enclave, Gali No. 5, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi & moveable/ immovable properties with immediate effect by him against my client and loyal to the family responsibilities. Anybody dealing with him in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility thereto & my client shall be in no way responsible for any acts, deeds and things done by them.

Adv Mukesh B Khandyal
UG-14A, Jyoti Shikhar, Ck, Jankapuri

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION

REPAIRS / REPLACEMENT TO DEFECTIVE PARTS OF WATER COOLERS AND HIRING OF NON AC VEHICLE

E - Tender - Notice No. Sr. DEE/ADI/05 (20-21) dttd 18.05.2020 Sr.No. (1) Tender No EL-50-1-ADI-06-2020-21; Name of work:- Ahmedabad division: Repairs / replacement to defective parts of water coolers at various location for the period of three years; **Estimated Cost: ₹ 49,66,223.48; Earnest Money: ₹ 99,300/-**. **Sr. No. (2) Tender No EL-50-1-ADI-7-2020-21; Name of work:-** Ahmedabad: Hiring of Non AC vehicle for Electrical department for three years; **Estimated Cost: ₹ 17,53,897.68; Earnest Money: ₹ 35,100/-**. **For all tenders:- Date and time of submission:-** Not later than 15:00 hrs. of 16.06.2020; **Date and time of opening:-** 16.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs; **Address of the office:** Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, D.R.M. Office (W.R.), Near Chhannunda Bridge, Opp. G.C.S. Hospital, Naroda Road, Amdapura, Ahmedabad- 382 345; **Website details:-** www.irops.gov.in

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DME/O&F/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender (retender) against Tender No. M.1-OT-Vehide-MB-19, Closing Date & Time 17.06.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. and will be opened on the same day at 15:30 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is also available on website www.irops.gov.in on internet & can be seen/download. The tenders/bidders will have to make payment towards Tender document cost & Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net Banking, debit/Credit cards etc. available on IREPS portal, Manual / offline mode of payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Cash Deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.

Name of work	*Hiring of one Multi-utility Road Vehicle (Scorpio, Innova, Tata Storm/Safari, Tata Sumo/Tata Sumo gold, Bolero, Xylo, TUV 300, TUV 500 or similar) for crew management and breakdown duties in operating wing of Mechanical Department. DRM's office N.Rly, Moradabad with minimum running 2500 KMs per month for a period of one year.		
Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Single Packet System
Tender Closing Date & Time	17.06.2020 15:00 hrs.	Date & time of Uploading Tender	22.05.2020
Pre-Bid (Yes/No)	No	Pre-Bid Query Date Time	Not Applicable
Advertised Value without GST	₹4,99,385.28 (Inclusive of all taxes and charges excluding GST)	Tendering Section	O & F
Bidding Style	Single Rate for each schedule	Bidding Unit	% Above/Below/ At par
Earnest Money	₹10,000.00	Validity of Offer	90 Days
Tender Document Cost	₹1,000.00	Period of Completion	12 Months
Bidding start Date	03.06.2020	Contract Type	Service
No.: M.1.-OT-Vehide-MB-19 Dated: 22.05.2020			1168/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, J&K
Jammu Office: Regional Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Nagrota, Jammu - 181221

Fax: 0191-2674114; Telephone: 2674244; e-mail: mdnhmj@gmail.com
Kashmir Office: Block A, Ground Floor, Old Secretariat, Srinagar Pin: 190001
Fax: 0194-2470486; 2477309; Telephone: 2477335; e-mail: mdnhmj@gmail.com
NHM Help Line for Jammu Division: 18001800104; Kashmir Division: 18001800102

Notice Inviting Proposal(s) from ICMR approved Labs for undertaking RT-PCR Testing, alongwith Reporting as per ICMR Testing Protocols of Samples from J&K for COVID-19

In view of heavy in-flow of returnees to J&K, including students, labourers, etc., and in reference to the Standard Operating Procure (SOP) for regulating the movement of migrant workers, stranded students and others, as approved by the Competent Authority, proposal(s) are hereby invited from ICMR approved labs for undertaking RT-PCR testing, and reporting, of samples from J&K for COVID-19, in time-bound manner, strictly on following terms & conditions:

- Concerned Medical/ Para-Medical Staff at the designated COVID-19 facility(ies) shall collect the samples and pack the same, duly labelled, in transport container(s) having requisite temperature as per the protocol;
- Empanelled Lab(s) shall have to arrange for transportation of samples from the concerned Health Institutions/ other Collection Centres to its respective Testing Site(s) at own cost and risk;
- Samples, and patient details, will be provided by the State (Divisional) Surveillance Officer(s), Jammu/ Kashmir;
- Empanelled Lab(s) should take all precautions required for handling and transportation of samples collected and make sure that the samples should reach to Testing Site within 10-14 hours from collecting the samples;
- Empanelled Lab(s) is required to provide a tool to register/ track the samples;
- Designated carrier of the Empanelled Lab(s) will collect packed samples from the concerned Location(s), or any other location specified by the State (Divisional) Surveillance Officer(s), Jammu/ Kashmir, and issue receipt of the same before transporting the same to the Testing Site;
- Empanelled Lab(s) shall ensure testing and reporting of samples strictly as per ICMR protocol;
- Reporting TAT would be between 24 to 36 Hours post receipt of samples at Testing Site and reports will be shared with the respective State (Divisional) Surveillance Officer(s), Jammu/ Kashmir. In view of sensitivity of the matter and exigency of reports, no payment shall be made for the samples reported after TAT;
- Empanelled Lab(s) will have to share test results with Govt. of J&K/ other Competent Authority(ies)/ State (Divisional) Surveillance Officer(s), Jammu/ Kashmir, on daily basis, through e-Mail(s);
- Empanelled Lab(s) will assign District-wise coordinators for smooth coordination with concerned Chief Medical Officer(s), Epidemiologists, Microbiologists and IDSP;
- In case the Health & Medical Education Deptt., J&K augment the in-house testing capabilities, job assigned to Empanelled Lab(s) may be suspended. If the need arises, Health & Medical Education Deptt./ NHM, J&K may consider to reduce/ increase the total tests to be assigned to Empanelled Lab(s). In such case, rates and other terms & conditions shall be re-negotiated and all such modifications shall be agreed in writing;
- Empanelled Lab(s) will submit weekly Invoice(s) to respective State (Divisional) Surveillance Officer(s), Jammu/ Kashmir, who will forward the bills, alongwith verified reports of all the samples reported within TAT, to the State Health Society, NHM, J&K for release of payment in favour of the Lab, on weekly basis;
- Cost of the proposed testing services will be met out from the funds provided under "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Strengthening Preparedness Package";
- In order to ensure time bound reporting of all the samples, all such proposal(s) which are within the price range of 15% from the L-1, be accorded an opportunity to match rate(s) with L-1, and in case any such proposer(s) is willing to match its rate(s) with L-1, suitable opportunity will be provided to such proposer(s).
- NMH, J&K reserves the right to split the total samples among the empanelled ICMR approved laboratories for undertaking testing and reporting. While sending/ allocating the samples, preference may be given to a lab with large capacity that can be allocated for J&K; and
- By submitting the proposal(s), concerned Labs agrees that NHM, J&K is not assuring any Minimum Order Quantity (MOQ) and may discontinue the services, if required as per the circumstances, without assigning any reasons therefor. Such discontinuation, if required, shall not hamper release of any pending payments towards tests already reported by the concerned Lab(s).
- Current engagement shall remain valid till 30th June 2020, unless terminated earlier. If required, NHM, J&K may consider to extend the validity of the engagement beyond 30th June 2020. Further, depending on the market conditions, and in the broader interest of public healthcare, NHM J&K may request for downward revision of rate(s) per test. All such changes shall be effective only after mutually agreed in writing.
- NHM, J&K reserves the right to cancel the notice without giving any reasons thereof and not bound to accept the proposals received.

Detailed Proposal(s), with following format, shall reach to the undersigned on e-mail Id: mdnhmj@gmail.com from three (3) days from the date of this notice:

S. No.	Particulars	Response from Proposer
1.	Name of ICMR Approved Lab	
2.	Authorised representative & Name, Email and Phone No	
3.	Address	
4.	ICMR Approved ID/ Reference No., if any	
5.	Address of Lab where Testing and Reporting will be made with respect to Samples from J&K	
6.	Total Daily Testing Capacity of the Lab for COVID-19	
7.	Daily capacity engaged for testing of COVID-19 work orders from other States/ UTs	
8.	Daily capacity offered to be reserved for testing of COVID-19 samples from J&K	
9.	Plans to enhance testing capacity. If yes, details thereof	
10.	Rates offered, inclusive of transportation cost, taxes/ other charges, for testing & reporting of samples from J&K – Rate per sample tested & reported	

Proposal shall be submitted on the letter-head of ICMR approved laboratory and proposal shall be duly signed by the authorised representative(s) of the lab. Proposal shall be password protected. On the date of proposal opening, Proposal Evaluation Committee will write an email to the authorised signatory of the laboratory, who have submitted the proposal, for sharing of password of the proposal. Accordingly, proposals shall be opened by the Committee and rates quoted by the agencies will be documented and results shall be published on the website www.jknhm.com.

Sd/- Mission Director
National Health Mission, J&K.

No: SHS/NHJM/J&K/COVID-19/ DIPKNB-356/20

Top court adjourns hearing on ex-BSF constable's plea against Modi election

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday adjourned for two weeks the hearing on a plea by former BSF constable Tej Bahadur Yadav challenging the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi Lok Sabha seat.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde adjourned the hearing on a request by Yadav,

who sought four weeks.

The top court, in May 2019, had dismissed his petition challenging the EC's decision to reject his nomination papers for contesting the general elections from the Varanasi.

Yadav hit the headlines in 2017 when he posted a video complaining about the quality of food served to troops. **ENS**

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
TENDER NOTICE			
Name of work	Cleaning/House keeping of Electrical Coaching Complex area at New Delhi, Delhi and Delhi Sarai Rohilla for two years.		
Tender No.	30-Elect-10TR-Chg-2019-20		
Approx cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 44,31,991.90		
Cost of tender form	Rs. 3,540/-		
Address of the Office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.		
Earnest Money	Rs. 88,600/-		
Period of completion of work	02 Years		
Last date & time of submission of tender	16.06.2020 upto 15.00 hrs.		
And opening of tender	16.06.2020 at 15.01 hrs.		
Website & notice board	www.irops.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			1164/20

PUNJAB INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (PIDB) DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC NOTICE
Development, Completion, Operation & Maintenance of Circuit House at Amritsar under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode on DBOFT basis

PROJECT DETAILS
Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB) is the Nodal Agency of Government of Punjab, for Development of Infrastructure Projects on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode, in the State of Punjab. PIDB, Department of General Administration has decided to take up the Development, Completion, Operation & Maintenance of Circuit House at Amritsar under Public Private Partnership (PPP).

BRIEF PROJECT STRUCTURE
The Private Sector Player (hereinafter referred as the "Concessionaire") shall be required to Complete, Develop, Operate and Maintain Circuit House at Amritsar with 5-Star Hotel rating as per Ministry of Tourism (MoT) guidelines. Private Sector Player (PSP) shall Complete and Develop the project and thereby operate and maintain the facility for the entire Concession Period. The period of the Concession for this project shall be 30 (Thirty) years which includes construction period of 18 (Eighteen) months. PSP shall Develop, Complete, Operate and Maintain all 70 Rooms. Total 17 Rooms including 2 VVIP Suites shall be reserved with the Department of General Administration. The project shall be awarded to such bidder who shall offer the highest Annual Concession Fee (ACF) over and above an amount of INR 30 Lakhs for the Concession granted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

As part of the procedure defined in the provisions of Punjab Infrastructure Development & Regulation Act 2002, (PIDRA-2002), before the bidding for the Development of the Project is carried out, a Public hearing is required to be conducted by the Punjab Infrastructure Regulatory Authority (PIRA)/Inviting Objections/ Suggestions/ Comments from the Public.

Accordingly, Punjab Infrastructure Regulatory Authority (PIRA) has decided to conduct the Public Hearing. The proposed Development of the said (Project) is hereby published for general information. A copy of the Feasibility Report can be obtained by submitting a Demand Draft of Rs. 2500/- (Rupees Two Thousand and Five Hundred only) in favour of Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB), payable at Chandigarh, from its office on or before 04.06.2020.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned to file Suggestions/Views/ Comments and objections, if any, on the proposed project, to the Managing Director, PIDB, SCO: 33-34-35, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh within 15 days of the publication of this Notice. Besides, a Public Hearing will also be held under the Chairperson, Punjab Infrastructure Regulatory Authority (PIRA) which can be attended by any person including bonafide residents, Non-Government Organizations and Others, located at the project sites of displacement likely to be affected by the proposed Infrastructure Project and other members of Public. Oral and Written submission can also be made during the Public Hearing. The time schedule for public hearing is as below:

Sr. No.	Project Name	Timings	Venue
1.	Development, Completion, Operation & Maintenance of Circuit House at Amritsar on PPP mode	08.06.2020 at 11.30 A.M.	Bachat Bhawan, Ranjit Avenue, Block-A, Amritsar

No TA/DA will be admissible for attending the Public hearing.
Managing Director,
Punjab Infrastructure Development Board,
SCO: 33-34-35, Sector 34-A,
Chandigarh.

C-915/Pb

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर टूल्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड
ई-निविदा सूचना सं०-०१ /विजोतापठम०/आगरा/2020-21 के निविदा समयविरस्तार का प्रकाशन
E-Tender Notice No. 01/ECTC/2020-21 पर अंकिता ई-निविदा जिसकी निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या-०१ Providing & Fixing of Electronics Accessories for Guest House at 220 KV S/S Gokul (Mathura) एवं विशिष्टीकरण संख्या-०२ Providing & Fixing of Furniture for Guest House at 220 KV S/S Gokul (Mathura) है जिसको दिनांक 22.05.2020



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

ARREST THE SLIDE

War of maps and words points to deterioration of India-Nepal relationship. Delhi needs to reach out, mend ties

INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS HAVE touched an unfortunate low with a spat over territory that was barely in the public domain before last year. The allusion by the Army Chief, General M M Naravane, of a China hand behind Nepal's new assertiveness, did not help. It made the issue seem bigger by making it appear as if Nepal has no mind of its own, provoked more anti-India nationalism in that country, and has helped Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli, who is perceived in Delhi as pro-China, to shore up his fraying domestic popularity. Nepal's claim over Kalapani is not new. It came up before this most recently when India published a new map in November 2019 to show the August 5 bifurcation of Jammu & Kashmir. The new map showed Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as part of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand state. Nepal had protested strongly then against India's "unilateral" act, referring to an "understanding" between the two prime ministers that the issue would be resolved through negotiations. There were street protests in Nepal at the time. There were more protests earlier this month when India inaugurated a road up to Lipulekh Pass on the border with China, even as Indian and Chinese soldiers eyeballed each other in Ladakh. Nepal has now retaliated with a new map that includes all the territory that it claims, which Delhi has described as "unjustified cartographic assertion". Oli, for his part, played to the gallery by describing India as a "virus more dangerous than coronavirus".

What this war of maps and words really points to is the steady deterioration of the India-Nepal relationship that dates back to 2015, when Delhi's publicly aired unhappiness over the new Nepal Constitution, and its tacit support to a six-month-long blockade of the landlocked country went a long way in shaping the anti-India sentiment prevalent in Nepal today. Contrary to what sections of the RSS and BJP had imagined — that the coming to power of the BJP would cement ties between two Hindu majority nations — the old bonhomie between the political elites has all but evaporated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2018 visit to Nepal could not undo the damage done early in his tenure. It is not surprising that it was during the 2015-16 blockade that Oli, who was prime minister then too, began looking to China for assistance. What has been more difficult to understand is Delhi's apparent bullheadedness in dealing with a smaller neighbour.

India's relations with Nepal go back deep in history. It is only when Delhi stops looking at Nepal purely through a security prism, and at bilateral relations only as transactional and part of a zero sum game with China, can Delhi turn around the potential of this multifaceted relationship to the advantage of both nations. Foreign secretary-level talks with Kathmandu were to be held after the pandemic passes. It would be better to hold them at once.

EASY GOING

Monetary policy may have greater space to operate. But there are limits to what it can achieve

IN AN UNSCHEDULED meeting, the monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) slashed the benchmark repo rate by 40 basis points. Cumulatively, since the imposition of the national lockdown in March, the MPC has cut rates by 115 basis points. The repo rate now stands at 4 per cent. The dovish tone of the policy, as well as the RBI's own assessment of the inflation trajectory, going forward, signals room to cut rates further. It also suggests that the committee will continue to prioritise economic activity over price management — inflation is not the challenge, growth is. The central bank also noted that the economy is likely to contract this year, though it refrained from providing an estimate. The negative growth projection doesn't come as a surprise — though the RBI's reluctance to offer an estimate underlines the extent of uncertainty over the state of the economy.

The question now is: Will monetary easing help? Or is it losing its effectiveness? Demand for credit is likely to remain low as, with continuing economic and health uncertainty, firms and households will postpone their decisions. Moreover, risk averse banks are likely to hold back even if there are borrowers. The challenge of ensuring liquidity flows to the stressed parts of the system will remain. Higher-rated borrowers are likely to continue to get easy funding, while lower-rated borrowers will struggle — evidenced in higher credit spreads. The credit guarantees provided by the central government for lending to MSMEs, NBFCs, MFIs could help moderate sectoral risk aversion, but only to some extent. The reaction of the bond market to the policy statement was also muted. Perhaps greater clarity over the scale of the RBI's open market operations, and the Centre and states' borrowing programme for the year, is being awaited. Alongside monetary easing, the central bank also extended the moratorium on paying instalments on term loans for another three months, providing further relief to borrowers, both industry and households — though this means that the extent of the stress stemming from this lockdown on the financial system will only be accurately gauged once this period is over.

The dovish tone of the policy indicates not only further monetary easing, but also the use of both conventional and unconventional measures down the road to ease the economic stress. But while monetary policy may have greater space to operate, there are limitations to what it can achieve. It cannot do the heavy lifting alone. Fiscal support is needed.

2D ISN'T ENOUGH

Working from home is being hailed as the future of work. But the workplace is about more than just work

THE ALMOST PLANET-WIDE need for physical distancing has, in some ways, brought people closer together. There's more time with family — too much, at times, for many — and catching up remotely with friends across the world. Yet, for those used to the workday and the workplace, something is missing. Call drops and pixellated video calls are just the tip of the iceberg — and these small inconveniences are more than made up for by the mitigation of the risk of contracting COVID-19. The Zoom boom — online video conferencing — is being hailed by many as a glimpse of the future. In the long run, having people work from home will cut the overhead costs for companies by a huge margin. For employees too, the argument goes, there will be greater flexibility and "work-life balance". But as everyone who has ever ridden a see-saw will tell you, balance needs two elements, on either side of the fulcrum. And for home to be a respite from work, and work from home, you need both.

That human beings are social animals, and the internet has enabled and even magnified that aspect of ourselves is evident in the age of social media. But as psychologist Doreen Dodgen-Magee told *The Guardian*, "Speaking over video is such a static way of connecting with people. We're used to a full sensory experience, which is lost when we're limited to a small square of someone's face with audio delays." The two-dimensional view, with a little square with our own image playing, is also likely to breed self-obsession (exacerbating the perils of the age of the selfie). At work, we fight, crib, become friends, get advice — live a full life. Working from home, there is just work. Not the full experience of labour as a part of life.



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

THE PAST TWO months have thrown up an incongruous image of the politician and the political party. They are the wielders of power, they talk of the "people", but betray an instinctive choice of "law and order" and a techno-bureaucratic idea of governance. Most parties have been on a holiday. Politics was never a dirtier word than it is today. At best, it is the season of social work or "constructive criticism". Except for some moral indignation uttered on social media, most "Opposition" parties have remained both clueless and pathetically silent in the midst of this unprecedented crisis which is only worsened by callous policy and a bureaucratic cobweb of regulations.

Where they are ruling in a state, non-BJP parties have made the usual noises about discrimination and neglect by the Centre. But unlike the Left Front in Kerala, they have rarely come up with a robust alternative route to governance. In Opposition, non-BJP parties have been lazy in not responding politically at all. It took two full months for the UPA and some other non-BJP parties even to think of talking formally to each other. Even that meeting is marked by the absence of the BSP, SP and AAP.

While the Congress finally took the initiative in calling the non-BJP party meet, the "grand old party" has been in the forefront of the syndrome of non-political wait and watch. The Congress has manifested its usual indecision, lethargy and incomprehension in its response. It has been wary of being seen to be opposing the government. This may be partly due to the pressure of public perception. But one suspects that the party itself subscribes to the idea that moments of crisis are moments of non-political and non-contested governmental authority. Another problem for the Congress is that it is a ruling party in some states where its governments are happily using all the powers that the lockdown has extended to governments. In its approach to governance and politics, the Congress fails to distinguish itself from the BJP.

The biggest worry for the Congress, however, is its indecision over how much to cater to the middle classes. This is a genuine dilemma. The middle classes control public discourse. The Congress keeps hoping that

The political therapy

Amid pandemic, politics needs to resume in its core sense — politicians, parties need to connect with people

After two difficult months of lockdown, India stands humbled - by the virus, of course; but more than that, by the treatment meted out to its most vulnerable sections; humbled, also, by the fact that a large lower stratum of so-called middle classes will have lost its source of livelihood. At a moment when governments needed to be more deliberative, we have a government beset with uncontrollably delusional self-belief. At a moment when governance needed to be ever more responsive and democratic, we have chosen to celebrate the culture of obedience, inculcate bureaucratic authoritarianism and be happy with platitudes.

by talking the language of governance it can woo the middle classes. Hence, it took two months to take up the issue of the suffering of the vulnerable sections and migrants. And when it did, it was not sure who leads the party and what other party stalwarts are supposed to be doing.

Yet, there are two elements in the latest Congress approach that indicate the return of politics at last. One is the decision to focus on migrant labour and their plight. Though it decided to take this line eight weeks too late, this emphasis allows the party to sharply contrast itself to what the government did or did not do. If the Congress were to sustain this, the party would be moving towards a social coalition of the lower half of society that it has for some time shied away from.

The second element — very weak for the moment — is the political action such an approach will require. Over the past few weeks, thousands of helpless workers have been struggling to reach their homes. This has been chronicled mainly through valiant journalism. It is a shame that such a gigantic tragedy and human suffering has not stirred the politicians out of their comfort zones. Rahul Gandhi's nominal outing may just symbolise what the political actors need to be doing. Unless party workers hit the roads, talk with suffering workers, walk with them, they will not realise that taking a stand also means mixing with the people. What Rahul Gandhi did the other day was hugely inadequate and far too late and yet, very important — a message to (his) party workers that politics needs to resume in its core sense — connecting with the people. If leaders of state parties were also to take a cue, an opening up of the political arena might be facilitated in these times of political quiet. Given the fact that many state parties have more active cadres locally than the Congress, much of the political action and agenda setting will depend on state parties.

On its part, the BJP, too, is caught in the trap of regulation and denial. Its inadequate political response to the pandemic has been three-fold. First, it hoped that Modi magic will turn the virus away. If one listens again to the first speech by Narendra Modi (March 19) when he announced a day-long Janata

curfew, one would be aghast about the naiveté publicised by it. But it is also about the collective willingness to believe in the impossible. The claim that a 14-hour-long curfew, and then, a 21-day lockdown will break the "chain", constituted the BJP's initial response (the lockdown did break many a life chain, but the claim was about chains of infection). The BJP went about doing what it does best: Turn everything into an event feeding into pseudo-nationalist sentiment. Thus, outworn clichés about national pride, war, etc kept circulating.

Cut to the PM's latest speech on May 12 indicating the second and third response. That speech was significant for its careful underplaying of the COVID issue and its frantic effort to divert attention to India's glorious future by adopting an "atmanirbhar" approach. Suddenly, COVID was a non-issue and India's march to power was the issue. The third stage of the BJP's response followed immediately — and was, in fact, included in that speech. It consisted of a combination of claims of massive financial relief package and "reforms".

After two difficult months of lockdown, India stands humbled — by the virus, but more than that, by the treatment meted out to its most vulnerable sections; humbled, also, by the fact that a large lower stratum of so-called middle classes will have lost its source of livelihood. At a moment when governments needed to be more deliberative, we have a government beset with uncontrollably delusional self-belief. When governance needed to be more responsive and democratic, we celebrate the culture of obedience, inculcate bureaucratic authoritarianism and are happy with platitudes.

Resumption of democratic contestation is a must. Our main challenge is to revive and build politics. If at this historic moment Opposition parties truly engage in politics, they would be ensuring a possibility of a political response to the pandemic. Politics alone can be survival therapy for democracy — perhaps in doing that Opposition parties would be ensuring their own survival too.

The writer taught political science at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, and is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics



KHALED AHMED

THE RECENT VIOLENCE in Afghanistan has highlighted its multi-pronged conflict. The IS or Islamic State may hate Shias just as the Taliban does but they hate each other too. Pakistan may hate the Pakistani Taliban but the Afghan Taliban doesn't hate but it can hardly get the "friendly" Haqqani Group to be an arbiter in the Afghanistan negotiations. Its own suppression of Pashtuns will not endear it to anyone in the Pashtun south in Afghanistan. India, recently rejected as a party to talk to by the Afghan Taliban, is all over the place with its investment in projects that the Afghans can't ignore.

What is happening in Afghanistan is going to affect Pakistan and since Pakistan is no longer clear whom it can support, the coming post-US withdrawal days will mean trouble for it. Because the Americans leaned on it for getting the Taliban to talk peace, Pakistan appears to outsiders as a strong influence in Afghanistan. But one should sit back and ask: Who is being backed by Pakistan in Afghanistan in these days of utter chaos?

There were days when the Afghan Taliban was in North Waziristan with al Qaeda. The latter could be led by Pakistanis like the erstwhile champion of Kashmir jihad, Ilyas Kashmiri, who then blew up the naval base in Karachi because the Pakistani naval chief was not releasing several navy men more loyal to al Qaeda than to Pakistan. (Mehran naval base was destroyed and all the terrorists involved in

QUESTION IN SEARCH OF ANSWER

Who is being backed by Pakistan in Afghanistan in these days of chaos?

the action were naval employees.)

There was a time when Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan favoured the Pakistani Taliban against the US, declaring himself against the "American war" in Afghanistan. In time, he was disembarrassed when the Pakistani Taliban attacked an army public school and killed over a hundred children there. Pakistani and Afghan Taliban were then ousted from North Waziristan and forced to take refuge in Afghanistan, and there is no proof that they have been spurned by the Afghan Taliban to retain Pakistan's friendship.

The IS in Afghanistan is killing Shias there and in Pakistan, and it doesn't get along with the Taliban. This doesn't mean that the IS is free of all kinds of "warriors", including Pakistanis who have links back home through such Shia-killing outfits as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, ISIL and al Qaeda are both in Afghanistan and are at cross-purposes while fighting the American Satan. Both contain terrorists from other nationalities like Sinkiang Uighurs and Indian Muslims, which gets both China and India worried about what Pakistan will do next.

The US counted on Pakistan to "deliver" the Taliban — especially the powerful Haqqani Group that has influence with the Taliban movement — but Pakistan is not certain whether in a crunch even the Haqqanis will stand by it. The vulnerability comes from madrasas in Pakistan spawning jihadi militias and owing loyalty to the Taliban-al Qaeda

combine. Pakistan has to work to break this nexus made strong by the penetrability of the 2,430-km Durand Line. While threatened by the Taliban, Pakistan also makes a "deal" over their availability in "peace talks" with the US. In Afghanistan, no one believes in this "arrangement".

Sectarianism in Pakistan has complicated its relations with Iran. The other factor is Iran's outreach to India with the construction of the Chabahar Port on the Iranian coast next to Pakistan. The highway that goes up from Chabahar to Afghanistan worries Pakistan and is one of the reasons it is fencing its borders. Pakistan has been attacked through the Iran-Pakistan border by groups who have targeted both Pakistan's strategic port of Gwadar in Balochistan and Karachi in the south through agents said to be on the take from India. Last week, a group of policemen acting as alleged Indian agents were arrested in Karachi.

Indian influence in the Gulf, Iran and Afghanistan is palpable and there is a promise of extending it to the friendly Central Asian states through Chabahar and potentially through Pakistan. In normal times, the moment would have been ripe for an Indo-Pak "normalisation" and opening up of trade routes to ward off the economic uncertainties of a changing global order.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

MAY 23, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM AGITATION

THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT, in an effort to convince the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) and the All Assam Students Union (AASU), is understood to have sounded the two organisations about its willingness to release all the arrested agitation leaders. The government is also understood to be agreeable to the phased reinstatement of officials suspended for their alleged participation in movement. These two measures, the authorities feel, should create an atmosphere conducive for resumption of dialogue on the aliens issue. The AAGSP and the AASU, it may be recalled, had issued identical statements urging the government to release all the de-

tained persons, reinstate the suspended officials, revoke the Maintenance of Essential Services Ordinance, withdraw the Disturbed Areas Act.

SOVIET WITHDRAWAL

THE 11TH ISLAMIC Foreign Ministers' conference ended in Islamabad with a call for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and respect for the non-aligned and Islamic "identity" of that country, Radio Pakistan reported. In a communique, the conference said that the people of Afghanistan should have the right to choose their own government in accordance with their social, economic and political system

without any outside interference.

CRUDE BILL UP

INDIA'S CRUDE IMPORT bill will shoot up by another Rs 200 crore following the latest price increase announced by several OPEC countries. This additional burden will be imposed on the level of import of 16 million tonnes of crude oil in a full year. As a result, a steep increase in the domestic prices of petrol and other petroleum products will become inevitable. Exercises for an upward, revision in the price of these products had been made in the petroleum and finance ministries after the OPEC countries had announced the first price rise of this year in January.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020

THE IDEAS PAGE

An insufficient relief

Stress on supply-side in economic package while neglecting demand reveals flawed understanding of economies in crisis and little recognition of reality after prolonged lockdown



DEEPAK NAYYAR

ON MAY 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a relief package of Rs 20 trillion, about 10 per cent of the country's GDP, for the economy in crisis. The news made a big splash. After Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unwrapped this package in tranches, there is widespread disappointment among most stakeholders.

There is relief for agriculture in the form of a concessional credit line of Rs 2 trillion, but loans are neither automatic or assured, while marketing reforms and infrastructure creation are distant promises. The MSME sector, the backbone of the economy that provides 25 per cent of employment, 32 per cent of the GDP and 45 per cent of exports, is unhappy despite the Rs 3 trillion line of credit for loans without collateral. In their experience, lenders are not always supportive in extending loans, while buyers (central and state governments, public sector firms and the private sector) owe them as much as Rs 5 trillion. What is more, most MSMEs just do not have the resources to pay wages or meet fixed costs on electricity, rent or interest during the lockdown period.

There is nothing for the corporate sector in manufacturing or services. The distressed sectors such as airlines, automobiles, hotels, restaurants, and tourism have been ignored. Ironically, there is little for public health, already in a dilapidated state. Even stock markets, characterised by irrational exuberance in the past month, have dropped.

The poor or the migrants, caught up in their struggle for survival, might not have voiced their opinion so far on the grossly inadequate relief package for them, but the harsh realities of this period — hunger without jobs, incomes, shelter or dignity — will be embedded in their memories for long. This economic deprivation will have social and political consequences.

The big picture is lost in details, so that it is difficult to see the wood from the trees. There are statements of good intentions. There is a recycling of ideas or schemes from earlier budgets. There are policy reforms with a longer-term perspective. But there is little cohesive focus on stabilisation and revival of the economy in the short-run — so essential at this time.

The fiscal stimulus, which can be defined as government expenditure that could stimulate demand, is difficult to discern, because the package is neither clear nor transparent about the cost to be borne by the government in each component. Even so, there are 12 estimates by analysts in financial sector institutions, suggesting that the fiscal stimulus is in the range of 0.7 per cent to 1.3 per cent of the GDP.

My estimate of the fiscal stimulus (including the announcement on March 26) is Rs 2.66 trillion, which is 1.2 per cent of the GDP. Of this, however, Rs 0.9 trillion, or 0.4 per cent of the GDP, is from a drawdown on the existing funds available with state governments (Rs 0.67 trillion) and existing budget provisions (Rs 0.23 trillion). Thus, the effective fiscal stimulus, in terms of extra resources provided by the government, is Rs 1.76 trillion, or 0.8 per cent of the GDP.



APOORVA JAVADEKAR AND PRASANNA TANTRI

THE UNION government is often criticised for its apparent neglect of the demand side and its excessive focus on the supply side and structural reforms — the COVID-19 package was no exception. Pointing towards tepid credit growth, weak inflation, and flat wage growth to make their case, demand-side proponents suggest measures such as cash transfers, income tax cuts, and cheap credit to consumers. We examine the demand vs supply debate drawing on basic economics and vast empirical evidence from around the world.

We start with the low growth in credit. Basic economics tells us that a demand shock typically leads to a rise in both volume and the price whereas a supply shock not only hurts the volume but also leads to price rise. In banking, a good proxy for the price of credit is the spread between lending rate and the funding rate (repo rate or deposit rates) for the banks. It reflects the risk premium banks charge to their customers.

The spread has consistently risen from just below 4 per cent at the start of 2018 to around 6 per cent in January 2020 — even before COVID-19 hit us. The fact that spreads are rising was highlighted by the 2019 Economic Survey as well. At the same time, the credit growth — especially for public banks and to the MSME sector — has been sluggish for the previous two to three years.

Its contribution to domestic demand will be minuscule, given that private final consumer expenditure in India is about 60 per cent of the GDP.

It is clear that the design of this relief package seeks to focus on the supply side, with an emphasis on providing liquidity through lines of credit, where the RBI is providing as much as Rs 8 trillion, rather than on the demand side by stepping up government expenditure, with the aim of minimising the cost to the government. The arithmetic is obviously imaginative — as much as Rs 10 trillion of the relief package will have to be financed by sources other than the Centre and the RBI. Where will resources to bridge this massive gap, 4.4 per cent of the GDP, come from?

This stress on the supply-side, while neglecting the demand-side, reveals a flawed understanding of economies in crisis and little recognition of the reality when a prolonged lockdown has brought the economy on the verge of collapse. Even in normal circumstances, the speed of adjustment of the supply-side is slow because supply responses take time, whereas the speed of adjustment on the demand-side is fast as incomes spent raise consumption demand without any time-lag. At present, if there is little or no increase in demand, supply responses will be slower than usual because producers would not wish to pile up inventories of unsold goods. In terms of the chicken-and-egg parable, demand must be revived first to kickstart the economy.

For this reason, the fiscal stimulus should have been much larger. But the decision-makers have been timid, intimidated by the prospect that, because of revenue shortfalls (2 per cent of the GDP or more), the fiscal deficit would be 5.5 per cent of the GDP exceeding the budget estimate at 3.5 per cent of the GDP. The conclusion drawn, wrongly, is that there is no fiscal space.

The obsessive concern about the fiscal deficit, so deeply embedded in government thinking, suggests a narrow and limited un-



C R Sasikumar

derstanding of rudimentary macroeconomics, which has often gone wrong even in good times. It also reveals an utter failure to recognise that we live in unprecedented, extraordinary times with the world economy in a crisis that could be much deeper than the Great Depression 90 years ago.

In this situation, the extra fiscal stimulus should have been Rs 7-9 trillion (3-4 per cent of the GDP) and that would have been modest compared to what other countries have done. This enlarged fiscal deficit cannot be financed by market borrowing, which would simply drive up interest rates and nip recovery in the bud. It would have to be financed by monetising the deficit — RBI buying government T-bills — printing money, now termed "helicopter money".

The idea that monetised deficits will unleash inflation is blind to the reality that, at this juncture, if there is no further intervention by the government, the GDP could contract by 5 per cent in 2020-21, with lingering consequences. In fact, a monetised deficit might be the only way of increasing aggregate demand to revive economic growth. The worry about a downgrade from credit rating agencies is bizarre. For one, their ethics and integrity have seen steady erosion. Moreover, how many sovereign governments will they downgrade? In fact, we might be better off without the footnote and volatile portfolio investment inflows.

If the government does not accept the necessity or wisdom of expansionary macroeconomic policies, it must set out its alternative plan for recovery. The relief package will not suffice. And, if the economy goes into a free-fall, the massive shortfalls in government revenues would balloon the fiscal deficit to similar or higher levels without any hope of recovery. The fiscal space will not be preserved. It will be squeezed further. It is time for the fiscal hawks in government to put on their thinking caps.

The writer is an economist and former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi

The big picture is lost in details, so that it is difficult to see the wood from the trees. There are statements of good intentions. There is a recycling of ideas or schemes from earlier budgets. There are policy reforms with a longer-term perspective. But there is little cohesive focus on stabilisation and revival of the economy in the short-run — so essential at this time.

The demand-supply debate

Boosting demand with cheap credit to consumers is not a good idea

The MSME sector witnessed sub-zero credit growth for the whole of 2017 and even now, the credit growth is very tepid at around 2 per cent Y-o-Y. Rising spreads with lower credit volume provide a clear tell-tale sign that credit supply is broken.

An influential paper by Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Dufo amply highlights the fact that the MSME sector suffers from lack of credit availability to finance investments rather than the lack of demand for credit. They showed that when the government changed the definition of small firms, the firms newly covered by the priority sector lending programme used the extra credit to increase production and investment. If there was no demand for credit, cheaper credit under the priority sector programme should have been used to repay the older expensive sources of borrowings. Consistent with this view, we think that the government's approach of guaranteeing SME credit by resolving the risk-sharing problem for banks will expand credit to credit-starved SMEs at lower credit spreads. Similarly, expansion of the universe of small/medium firms will bring fresh investments from the firms, which are newly covered under priority sector programme as they will be able to get cheaper credit.

Next, we analyse the measures to boost the consumer demand and we provide data

and evidence to forcefully reject such measures. First, let's look at the direct transfers schemes. No doubt that cash-transfers are superior to distortive subsidies and the "Garib Kalyan" package was a step in this direction.

In fact, the government has already transferred close to Rs 40,000 crore to bank accounts including Rs 10,000 crore to women under PMJDY. But is it the ultimate solution to recovery? In fact, the PMJDY account balance has increased from close to Rs 1,17,000 crore before the advent of COVID-19 to Rs 1,35,911 crore as of May 13 — a massive jump of close to Rs 18,000 crore. Recent research by Prasanna Tantri and co-authors shows that PMJDY account holders actively use the accounts — 1.12 transactions per quarter compared to the World Bank standard of one transaction. In fact, PMJDY accounts see withdrawals when account holders are in distress, according to the study. So the rise in balances is not mechanical.

It's not that people covered under PMJDY are comfortable financially. So why are they not spending? A number of papers show that tax rebates boost demand in the short-run, but the quantum is limited. For example, Sumit Agarwal and his co-authors show that the 2001 tax rebate programme in the US led to an average spending of only \$60 on \$500 rebate over nine months. A recent

study at the Kellogg Business School by Christian Borda and co-authors shows that tax rebates after the 2008 crisis in the US led to rise in spending, but by only 3.5 per cent in the first month of the rebates. The crux is that no rational consumer goes on a consumption spree when he is facing job uncertainty!

Trying to boost demand by providing cheap credit to consumers is not a good idea either as evidenced by the debt-financed housing boom in the US, which led to the 2008 crisis. In fact, Atif Mian and Amir Sufi, using a large panel of 30 countries, uncover a more general pattern — an increase in household debt to GDP ratio leads to a sustained drop in future GDP, investments, and unemployment. On the other hand, the economic cycles are much more muted when the initial growth is caused by structural reforms as pointed in a recent IMF study covering over 80 countries.

To put the burden of recovery on risk-averse consumers, incentivising them to spend rather than save when there is employment uncertainty, is against any reasonable risk-sharing principle. Risk should be borne by those who have the appetite — the firms and government.

The writers are assistant professors at the Indian School of Business

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"PAKISTAN is on the verge of receiving debt relief under the G20 plan and according to an official announcement the total amount is \$2bn."
— DAWN

A milestone, a new beginning

Flagship health scheme, PM-JAY, has crossed one crore treatments, continues to positively impact lives



HARSH VARDHAN

ON MAY 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that every Indian should be proud that the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) has crossed one crore treatments, and has had a positive impact on many lives.

Indeed, PM-JAY is a giant step towards a healthy India, as it aims to make affordable healthcare a reality for all. It has crossed a significant milestone of one crore hospitalisations — worth over Rs. 13,412 crore — in less than 20 months since its launch in 2018. The efforts of the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, paramedical staff and all others associated with Ayushman Bharat, across all states, have helped in making it the largest healthcare programme in the world.

As PM-JAY marks this milestone, the world is up against the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact on millions worldwide, and in India, not only pertains to health, but there is also the physical, mental and economic impact on the individual and her/his family. For about 53 crore poor, vulnerable beneficiaries, testing and treatment for COVID-19 is free of cost under PM-JAY, including testing in private labs and treatment in private hospitals.

In India, the migrant population plays a key role in the economic development of the country, and they are now suffering the most in this crisis. A key design feature of PM-JAY, from the beginning of the scheme, is portability — which helps to ensure that a PM-JAY-eligible migrant worker can access the scheme's services in any empanelled hospital across the country irrespective of their state of residence.

A PM-JAY eligible migrant can avail of benefits in the state in which he works, and also in his home state, when he goes back home. This lowers the barriers posed by state borders and promotes equal access to quality health services, especially amongst the poor and vulnerable. To date, there have been more than one lakh portability cases.

The National Health Authority (NHA) has also been working on new initiatives to support and supplement the Government of India's efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From a supply side, PM-JAY has further strengthened the network of hospitals and service capabilities to ensure continued services to non-COVID-19 patients while also providing services for COVID-19 patients. This is being done through an express empanelment mechanism for hospitals since March. Since April 1, more than 1,385 hospitals (nearly 58 per cent are private) have been empanelled across the country — 75 of them are under express empanelment. Overall, 21,565 hospitals have been empanelled so far.

The NHA has leveraged its IT systems, expertise and the network of private sector stakeholders to support the government's preparedness and response. This has been done by managing the national

COVID-19 helpline, 1075, and conducting thousands of outbound calls to COVID-19 positive patients, and their families, round the clock. The NHA has made calls to disseminate precaution advisories to the relevant beneficiaries of PM-JAY — the data gathered will also be used to strengthen the government's efforts at identifying such potential cases and ensuring optimal utilisation of testing facilities and resources. Further, the NHA regularly keeps in touch with the relevant beneficiaries through telephone — three crore such calls have been made across the country. The NHA is also supporting the government's Aarogya Setu mobile application. It has been making outbound calls through its call centre to people who have come in close proximity to COVID-19 positive patients, as identified through the app, and people who have reported COVID-like symptoms in their self-assessment. The NHA has contacted more than six lakh citizens and facilitated more than 15,000 tele-consultations with doctors. It is also working with the ICMR on data cleansing and is conducting call data analysis for flagging urgent actionable cases being sent to ICMR.

In any epidemic, the response has to be a collective societal one — as seen during SARS, Ebola, H1N1. The public sector, private sector and NGOs, all have to come together. The response to this pandemic is being led by the government, however, and the private sector needs to be an active partner, especially when it comes to providing adequate supply of health services, medicines and essentials. The NHA has focused on how to get the private sector more actively involved in the response with greater participation from private sector hospitals — for both COVID-19 as well as non-COVID-19 health conditions. Various states are adopting different approaches for involving the private sector in the treatment.

Coronavirus will be a part of our lives for a very long time. Our fight against COVID-19 is, therefore, not a sprint but a marathon. We will do whatever needs to be done, but as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, Bharat will move ahead towards being "atma-nirbhar", even as we turn this adversity into opportunity. Living in a post-COVID-19 world will be vastly different from the past, and it will require vastly different public health approaches. As we plan for the future, Indians who require secondary and tertiary care will continue to grow, and we must also leverage the promise of telemedicine for preventive health. From a supply side, we must focus on strengthening the medical and health systems, primary healthcare delivery and healthcare workforce, including specialist doctors and medical professionals.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY will continue to play a significant role in this post-Corona world, in improving the overall healthcare of the country. The one crore treatment milestone is only a beginning. Our vision is to provide more than one crore treatments every year, so that the poor and needy can get the best healthcare, and are able to contribute to the overall economic progress of India, in the post-COVID period.

The writer is Union minister for health and family welfare, and chairman of the World Health Organisation executive board. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAY YOUR WAY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Taking off' (IE, May 22). Though it is a welcome decision by the government to allow airlines to partially resume their flights, the move to regulate airfare is regressive. Coming to the rescue of society's elite by capping the fares is in complete contrast to the treatment meted out by this insensitive and short-sighted government to migrant labour.

SK Prabhakar, Gurugram

JACINDA'S EXAMPLE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'New zeal' (IE, May 22). It provides the right perspective to the policies of Jacinda Ardern. Since 2010, democracies across the world have come under populist pressures. New Zealand provides a new model. Democratic values and decency displayed by its PM, Ardern, should serve as an example to demagogues.

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

UNWISE REFORM

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Take the worker on board' (IE, May 22). While outsourcing work to contractors seems to cost less, there is a trade-off in terms of quality vis a vis employees. Further, contractors are unable to provide a safe working environment, which often leads to accidents and misery for the families of workers. "Reforming" labour

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PRIYARANJAN JHA

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laws in the manner it is being done is hasty and unwise.

Gangadhar Karalay, Nagpur

UNPLANNED MISERY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A ministry for migrant labour' (IE, May 22). From employers abandoning them to being sprayed with disinfectants, the fate of a migrant worker in India seems dark. The Centre's haste in announcing the lockdown without a plan is to blame.

Alisha Parvez Thakur, Vadodara

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



UNKNOWN

In this regard a DD No. 63A, dt. 23.03.2020 has been lodged at PS Kamla Market, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the but no clue has come to light so far.

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

S.H.O.,

P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi.

Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743

DP/95/CD/2020

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No.SA/ARS/ED/OT/20-21/1 & 2 Dated: 21-05-2020

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Southern Railway, Electric Loco Shed, Erode acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites online E-Tender for the undermentioned work:

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No. & Name of the Work
1.	SA/ARS/ED/OT/20-21/1: Works contract for Sweeping, Scrapping of Floor Area, Toilet Cleaning and Garden Maintenance available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode. Completion Period: 18 Months.
2.	SA/ARS/ED/OT/20-21/2: Work contract for Removing, Cleaning and fixing the side filters of 3 phase locos available at Electric Loco Shed, Salem Division, Southern Railway, Erode. Completion Period: 24 Months.

Sl. No.	Tender Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Cost of Tender Document (₹)	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	35,78,911/-	71,600/-	3,360/-	16-06-2020 @ 11.00 hrs.
2.	8,73,200/-	17,500/-	2,240/-	23-06-2020 @ 11.00 hrs.

For further details, interested persons may kindly logon to <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the Tender till Ten Days prior to the opening of the Tender. Tenderers are advised to check the website before submitting their offer whether any such corrigendum to the Tender has been issued or not.

DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER,
For SENIOR DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER/Rolling Stock, Erode.



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
Sijua, Post : Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar - 751019

F.No. J-11048(001)/2019-20/S&P **Date: 22-05-2020**

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar Odisha, GOI, invites Manual open tender for "Outsourcing of Laundry Services at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar in Two Bid System". The Manual tender document along with last date of submission of the tender can be viewed and downloaded from the official website i.e. www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in. The sealed Manual Tender will be received through Speed post/Reg. post/Courier by hand only on or before due date & time by office of Sr. Procurement-Cum Store Officer, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and the said Manual tender will be opened on due date & time mentioned in the tender document in presence of bidders or their authorised representatives in the office chamber of undersigned. Incomplete tender document/ tender received after scheduled date & time shall be rejected. Director, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar reserves the right to reject any or all the manual tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

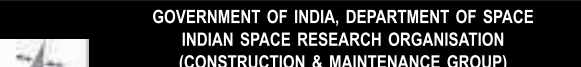
Sd/-
Sr. Procurement-Cum Store Officer
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar



Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited
(A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise)

INVITATION FOR TENDER

General Manager/Coordination/DDU for and behalf of DFCCIL invites Open E-tender on Two packet system on the prescribed forms for the under noted work. The key details of the tender are as under: 1. **OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. : MGS/EN/PMC/RFO-RUB-FOB/314/2020 Dated 22.05.2020.** a) Name of Work : Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for Construction of Rail Flyover, Road Under Bridge and Foot Over Bridges in Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar (Mughalsara) - Sonenagar section of East Central Railway in connection with construction of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. b) **Tender Value (Rs.) : Rs. 8,72,08,000/-** Excluding GST, to be payable on reimbursable basis. c) **Earnest Money (Rs.): Rs. 17,44,160/-** d) **Period of completion : 24 months + 12 month DLP.e** Cost of Tender Documents for each tender: Rs.10,000/- + GST@18%. f) **Tender Processing fee : Rs.7,500/- + GST@18%** To be submitted to M/S ITI Ltd through E-payment. g) **Performance Guarantee :** Performance Guarantee (PG) have to submit within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of issue of Letter Of Acceptance (LOA), amounting to 5% of the contract value in the form as give in clause 7.1.2 of GCC. h) **Security Deposit :** 5% of Contract value as given in Clause 7.1.1 of GCC. i) **Validity of offer :** 120 days. j) **Address of Communication :** General Manager/CO, DFCCIL Manas Nagar Railway Colony, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar (Mughalsara) Chandauli - 232101, Uttar Pradesh, India Acting through: Ajit Kumar Mishra, IRSE Mobile +917897412000 Email: ajitmishra@dfcc.co.in k) **Date & Time schedule - Date & Time of start & submission of filled tender document :** E-Tender can be downloaded from 11.00 of 22.05.2020 from www.dfccil.com or www.eprocure.gov.in & www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL and can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs of 24.06.2020 on www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL. **Date & Time of pre-bid conference :** At 11:00 hrs on 08.06.2020 at General Manager/CO/DDU, DFCCIL Office. **Date & Time of opening of Tender :** At 15:30 hrs on 24.06.2020 at General Manager/CO/DDU, DFCCIL Office. l) **E-Tendering Website address as Help desk No. : www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL** helpdesk no. : 011-49424365 or Mob. 8090426426 (S.K. Jha)
Dy CPM/Engg/DDU
For General Manager/Co/DFCCIL/DDU



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
(CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP)

ISRO TELEMETRY TRACKING AND COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No. 12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase,
PEENYA INDUSTRIAL AREA, Bengaluru-560 058
Ph: 080-28094182, 4541 Fax: 080-28094150

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate E-Tenders are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for following work

NIT No.: ISTRAC/CMG/CON/IE/TN-03/2020-21	Dated: 21.05.2020
Name of Work: Antenna Supporting Structure and facility Building for 18m Dia Antenna at IDSN campus, Bhalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru - (Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LV Switch Boards and Isolation transformers) - 2nd Call	
Estimate Cost put to Tender	Rs. 60.16 Lakhs
Tender Document details	E-Tender
Period of Completion	04 Months
Period during which tender document can be downloaded	From 23.05.2020 to 06.06.2020 till 14.00 hrs.
Bid Clarifications	From 24.05.2020 to 08.06.2020 till 16.00 hrs.
Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	09.06.2020 upto 16.00 hrs.
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	11.06.2020 upto 14.30 hrs.
Due date and time of opening of tenders	15.06.2020 after 11.00 hrs.
Earnest money deposit (EMD)	Rs.1,20,320/-

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

GROUP HEAD-CMG, ISTRAC

10

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Procurement, Jammu Power Distribution Corp. Ltd., Rail Head, Narwal, Jammu, Jammu Kashmir, PIN -180012

e-mail: seepc1jammu@gmail.com, epc1jammu@gmail.com TELEFAX- 0191-2473402

Corrigendum to e-NIT No: SE/PR/J02/2020-21 Dated: 14.05.2020 For Purchase of Distribution Transformer of rating 400 & 630 KVA EE Level-2.

Sub: Tender Fee for Firms Outside UT of J&K

Please read tender fee amount mentioned at (S. No. 8 of e-NIT Notice for firms outside UT of J&K as Rs. 4000.00 (Four Thousand only) instead of Rs. 5000.00 (Five Thousand only). Other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No: SE/PR/JTS/185 **Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDCL Jammu.**
Dt: 16.05.2020

DIPR-272



BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(IRRIGATION WING)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No.:-6-54/BSU/PR-1963

Tender Authority: Sr. Execn, Elect. & W/Shop Divn. BBMB, Sundernagar

Scope of Tender: Shaft sleeve & Shaft Spacer for FL-1800 Cragder

Documents Download End Date 03.06.2020 at 3.00 PM

Date/Time of Opening of Tender 03.06.2020 at 03.30 PM

The detail of NIT may be seen/download from BBMB Website www.bbmb.gov.in or www.bbmbeproc.abcpurchase.com.

883 - PR - BSL - 3 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today



भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
एक नवरत्न कम्पनी (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
A Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi - 110 020

PUBLIC AUCTION/TENDER NOTICE

DISPOSAL OF UNCLAIMED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO THROUGH E- AUCTION

Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and unclaimed/unclaimed imported cargo landed at the terminals of Northern Region, Northern Central Region & Eastern Region, those containers arrived on or before 31.03.2020 through e-auction on 05.06.2020, 12.06.2020, 19.06.2020 & 26.06.2020 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on www.concorindia.co.in & www.msctecomm.com w.e.f. 22.05.2020, 28.05.2020, 04.06.2020 & 11.06.2020. All importers including Government Undertakings/Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/unclaimed and falling in the said list uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribunal/others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Northern Region, Northern Central Region & Eastern Region CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionerates, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven Days) of this notice failing which the goods will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" without any further notice. For full details please log on to www.concorindia.co.in & www.msctecomm.com
Executive Director, Northern Region



TATA POWER-DDL
A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture
Regd. Office : NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009
Tel : 66112222, Fax : 27488042, Email : TPDDL@tatapower-ddl.com
CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website : www.tatapower-ddl.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS **May 23, 2020**

TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Sale of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001222/20-21 Rate Contract for Supply, Testing and Commissioning of TMSUs	1.1 Cr / 2,75,000/-	24.05.2020	15.06.2020, 16:00 Hrs 15.06.2020, 16:30 Hrs
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001221/20-21 RFx- 5000001706 Rate Contract for Supply of LT Palm Connectors for DTs	26.80 Lac / 34,000/-	23.05.2020	12.06.2020, 16:00 Hrs 12.06.2020, 16:30 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-ddl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents

Contracts - 011-66112222

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Name of work and location	Hiring of (02) Two Nos. Non-AC Vehicle such as "Jleep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicle" on monthly basis for a period of 03 (Three) years for the officers working in the unit of Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi
Completion period of the work	(36) (Thirty Six) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter
Approximate Cost of Work	₹32.94 Lakh (Rs. Thirty Two Lakh & Ninety Four Thousand only)
Earnest Money amount (to be deposited online)	₹65,900/- (Rs. Sixty Five Thousand nine hundred only)
Date, Time for submission of e-Tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 17.06.2020 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 17.06.2020.
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in . Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 27.05.2020 to 17.06.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. : 220-Acs/11/144/HV/SERD Dated : 22.05.2020 **1154/20**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF SHIPPING)
DIRECTORATE OF LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS
"Deep Bhawan", Gandhinagar,
Kadavanthra, P.O., Cochin - 682 020.

फोन सँ /Ph. No. : 0484 2205720 फैक्स :Fax: 0484 2206608 ईमेल :Email: dilcochin@gmail.com

सँ / No: IL-1(76)/09-Vol.XIV दिनांक/Date: 21.05.2020

ई-निविदा सूचना / e-TENDER NOTICE

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए और उनकी ओर से निदेशक, दीपस्तंभ और दीपोपेत निदेशालय, कोचीन द्वारा द्वि बोली प्रणालियों के तहत प्रतिष्ठित मूल उपकरण निर्माताओं या उनके प्राधिकृत पूर्तिकर्ताओं, अनुज्ञापित ठेकेदारों, पक्षकारों या सरकारों या उद्यमों से ऑनलाइन रेट बोली आमंत्रित करते हैं। / The Director, Directorate of Lighthouses & Lightships, Cochin invites for and on behalf of the President of India online item rate bid on two bid system from reputed OEM or their authorized suppliers, licensed contractors, parties or Government Undertakings for the following works.

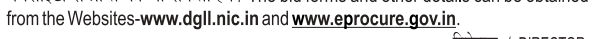
क्रम सं. Sl.No	कार्य का नाम / Name of work	अनुमानित लागत/ Estimated Cost
01	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of Remote Control and Automation Lighthouses under Cochin Directorate	₹ 88,73,600/-

ई-बिड दस्तावेजों का डाउनलोड या प्रस्तुत अवधि 22.05.2020 (0900 बजे) से 24.06.2020 (1500 बजे) तक है।

Download/Submission period of e-bid Documents are 22.05.2020 (0900 Hrs) to 24.06.2020 (1500 Hrs.)

बोली प्रारंभ तथा दूसरी जानकारीयों www.dgll.nic.in एवं www.eprocure.gov.in वेबसाइटों से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। / The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the Websites-www.dgll.nic.in and www.eprocure.gov.in.

निदेशक / DIRECTOR



Government of Karnataka
Office of the The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Mandya,
No:EE:RDW&SD:MDY:ISA:2020-21:111
Dtd:21.05.2020.

Short term Tender Notification No:02/2020-21

Tender is invited for Selection and Empanelment of Implementation Support Agencies (NGOs/VOs/ SHGs) for providing services on preparation and implementation of Village Action Plan and implementation IEC & HRD activities under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in rural areas under Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Mandya. Two Cover System shall be followed. APT:158.95 Lakhs. Downloading of document through e portal starts from **Dt:22-05-2020- to 06-06-2020 up to 05:30 PM**, Pre-bid Meeting at C.E, R.D.W & S.D, Bangalore **Dt:30.05.2020 Time:11:00 AM**, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **06.06.2020 Time:05:30 PM**, Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **08.06.2020 Time:11:00 AM**, Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening : **19.06.2020 Time:11:00 AM** and More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of karnataka www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or from this office during working hours.Phone No: 08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, R.D.W& S D, Mandya.

DIPR/AD/MDY/MCA/76/2020-2021

TENDER/RFP for Services like AMC, Housekeeping etc.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Tender Reference No. 12 Dated 2020

The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for:

S. No.	Name of Work
1.	Balance work of providing Water Supply and Sewer Lines in various areas & replacement of Pumping Machinery at Gidderbaha.

Closing Date & Time for Tender: 04.06.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

For details log on to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

NOTE: Corrigendum(s) to the tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Pb. W/S & Sew. Division No. 3, Bathinda.

D-1218/Pb

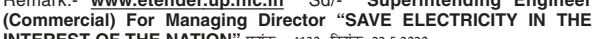


Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.,
Victoria Park, Meerut

TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE The Date of opening of tender specification no. PUVNL-MT/COM/01/20-21 for supply of 1500 nos. 11 KV CTs (Different ratios) is hereby extended from 21.05.2020 to 05.06.2020.

Time of opening tender and other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged. For detailed information please log on www.pvvn.org & E-Tendering website www.etender.up.nic.in till the date of submission of bids. Superintending Engineer (Commercial) "Help line Number for Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut), & 9412207451".

Remark:- www.etender.up.nic.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Commercial) For Managing Director "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक:- 4130 दिनांक: 22.5.2020



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

Notice No.: 06/MS/TC/e-tender2020 Dated : 22/05/2020

Online e-bids are invited latest by **23-06-2020** under two e-bid system for Purchase of **Printing Items** from original manufactures or their authorized Indian Agents/Service Providers on the terms and conditions as per tender documents. The details of the tender can be viewed at www.kgmu.org. Tender will be available on e-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/>. (Medical Superintendent)



National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)

Sector 81, Knowledge City, Mohali - 140 306 Punjab (INDIA)

Tel. : 91-172-5221300 Fax : 91-172-5221100 E-mail : purchase@nabi.res.in

e-Notice Inviting Tenders

Online e-Tenders in Two parts are invited on the behalf of Executive Director, NABI for the award of Work of Operation and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 350 KLD STP, 20 KLD ETP of NABI, 20 KLD STP- ETP of CIAB.

The complete details of these tenders will be available on the NABI Website- www.nabi.res.in & CPPP Website - <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Any changes/amendments if made in the tender, will be available on NABI website and CPPP website. Bidders may kindly refer the above websites before submitting the bids. **Manager-Admin**

कार्यालय नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम

पत्रांक 93 शुद्धिपत्र दिनांक 22 मई, 2020

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 59 दिनांक 14.05.2020 को विद्युत शवदाह गृह हेतु आमंत्रित निविदा जो दिनांक 29.05.2020 को खोली जानी थी। दिनांक 21.05.2020 को प्रो-बिड मॉडिंग में कमेटी द्वारा उक्त निविदा में आंशिक संशोधन उपरान्त दिनांक 06.06.2020 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खोले जाने का निर्णय लिया गया है। उक्त निविदा के संबंध में अधिक जानकारी हेतु www.uktdenders.gov.in पर देख सकते हैं।

नगर आयुक्त **महापौर**
नगर निगम हल्द्वानी **नगर निगम हल्द्वानी**



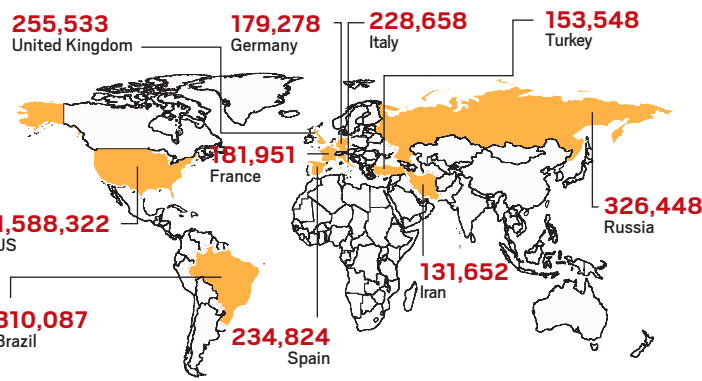
@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

THE WORLD

TOTAL CONFIRMED: **5,159,674**DEATH COUNT: **335,418**

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11.30 pm on May 22

In pregnant women with Covid, injuries in placenta

KABIR FIRAQUE

NEW DELHI, MAY 22

IT IS by now understood that a pregnant woman can possibly transmit the novel coronavirus to her baby (or also deliver a healthy baby); the Indian Council of Medical Research laid down norms for the care of mother and child last month itself. Now a new concern has emerged around pregnant women who have Covid-19 — damaged placentas.

In 16 women who had tested positive for Covid-19 while pregnant, tests conducted immediately after birth found their placentas had evidence of injury. The study was conducted by researchers from Northwestern University, Chicago, and published in *The American Journal of Clinical Pathology* on Friday. The babies themselves did not contract Covid-19, senior author Dr Jeffrey Goldstein told *The Indian Express* by email.

The type of injury showed abnormal blood flow between mothers and babies *in utero*. The researchers said the findings could help inform how pregnant women should be clinically monitored during the pandemic.

As of now, it was not clear where these could cause health issues among the babies, Goldstein said, while referring to long-term health effects in people born to women who had been infected during the Spanish flu pandemic a century ago. "It's too early to tell [about the babies born to women covered in the study]," Goldstein told *The Indian Express*; "we know the people *in utero* during the 1918-19 flu pandemic had higher rates of heart disease and other long-term outcomes — we need to continue to look at the outcomes for these kids." In that epidemic, too, the flu doesn't cross the placenta; so whatever is causing life-long problems in those people is most likely due to immune activity and injury to the placenta, Goldstein said.

The pregnant women among Covid-19 cases were identified through health records and traced through an app. The babies were born between March 18 and May 5. Fourteen of them were born after full-term pregnancies. Co-author Dr Emily Miller said in a statement: "Not to paint a scary picture, but these findings worry me. I don't want to draw sweeping conclusions from a small study, but this preliminary glimpse into how Covid-19 might cause changes in the placenta carries some pretty significant implications for the health of a pregnancy. We must discuss whether we should change how we monitor pregnant women right now." She suggested non-stress tests, which examine how well the placenta is delivering oxygen, or growth ultrasounds, which measure if the baby is growing at a healthy rate.

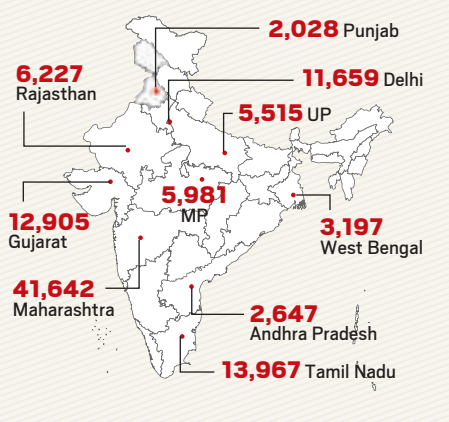


PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

INDIA COUNT: **118,447** (3,583 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	33
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	203
Bihar	1982
Chandigarh	217
Chhattisgarh	128
Dadar Nagar Haveli	1
Goa	52
Haryana	1031
Himachal Pradesh	152
Jammu and Kashmir	1449
Jharkhand	290
Karnataka	1605
Kerala	690
Ladakh	44
Lakshadweep	25
Manipur	14
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1103
Narula and Kashmir	20
Northeast	1699
Odisha	173
Puducherry	146
Tamil Nadu	
Telangana	
Tripura	
Uttarakhand	

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, May 22. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

48,534 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 32 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to explained@indianexpress.com

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

WHO response, under review

World Health Assembly has resolved to review WHO response to Covid, and for failing to question China. What is it that WHO could have done, and where do various countries including India stand on this?

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, MAY 22

ON FRIDAY, India became the chair of the World Health Organization Executive Board at its 147th session. Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan succeeded Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan as Chairman of the 34-member Board. India takes charge at a pivotal moment, when the world is grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic. "When India decides, it performs," Dr Harsh Vardhan said, while assuming the leadership position.

It is also a time when the WHO itself has become a battleground of global politics. Earlier this week, the WHO was at the centre of the world's attention as it convened and over 60 countries, including India, asked for an "impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation" of the WHO's response to Covid-19.

Why has WHO's response come under question?

The final resolution in the World Health Assembly, co-sponsored by 122 countries including India, was adopted by consensus without a vote. The resolution has asked for a "systematic review", also calling for "a stepwise process of impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation to review experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international health response to Covid-19" at the earliest and appropriate time in consultation with member states.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus — a former foreign minister of Ethiopia and earlier its health minister — has been under criticism for not acting on time. With the WHO having been accused by US President Donald Trump of being a "puppet of China", the WHO head has said he would initiate the evaluation at the "earliest appropriate time". The WHO, a specialised agency of the United Nations, could have questioned China's handling of the outbreak in Wuhan so that the WHO could better prepare the world for the dangerous disease, but has been criticised for failing to act decisively.

Who has raised this criticism?

This criticism stems from the International Health Regulations (IHR), the leading international agreement on infectious diseases and other serious disease events adopted by WHO member states in 2005.



Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attends the WHO session via videoconferencing on Friday. He took charge as Chairman of the WHO Executive Board. PTI

The IHR empowers WHO to take actions that can challenge how governments exercise sovereignty. The IHR authorises WHO to collect disease-event information from non-governmental sources, seek verification from governments about such information, and, if necessary, share the information with other states. Also, the IHR grants the WHO Director-General the power to declare a public health emergency of international concern, even if the country experiencing the outbreak objects.

How effectively has WHO responded to earlier global outbreaks?

During the SARS outbreak in 2003, then WHO Director-General Gro Brundtland had taken on China over the outbreak and, without the nod of the countries concerned, had issued warnings against travel to SARS-affected regions. Brundtland had acted without authority to take these steps.

"In adopting the IHR in the aftermath of SARS, WHO member states gave WHO unprecedented authority vis-à-vis state sovereignty and expanded the need for WHO's scientific, medical, and public health capabilities," David P. Fidler, who is an Adjunct Senior Fellow for Cybersecurity and

Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in an article on the 'WHO and the Pandemic Politics'.

After the IHR guidelines came into play in 2007, the H1N1 influenza spread around the world in 2009, and WHO Director-General Margaret Chan declared the world's first public health emergency of international concern and issued recommendations that, among other things, advised against trade and travel measures. This was seen as a success of the IHR.

"Then came the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014, which was a disaster for WHO and the IHR. WHO's response was so bad that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon created an ad hoc emergency response effort. WHO Director-General Chan failed to act on information that WHO had received from non-governmental sources, did not challenge governments that wanted to keep the outbreak quiet, and only declared a public health emergency of international concern after the epidemic was already a crisis," Fidler wrote.

"The next major crisis was an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that started in late 2018. WHO's response to this outbreak demonstrated that it had re-invigorated its functional capaci-

ties," he wrote.

What is the significance of the resolution in international politics?

Apart from WHO's approach in not confronting the Chinese leadership over Covid-19, Beijing's general resistance to any external criticism and action has been at the centre of the debate.

To add to that, the US administration under President Trump has seized the opportunity to blame China for the pandemic, as it faces an election year.

Beijing, which views itself as a natural successor to the global leadership role, has been riled at the international community's calls for "transparency and accountability".

What has happened in the current churning is that an unprecedented coalition of those asking for accountability have emerged. From Australia to Europe, India to Japan & South Korea — many of these countries who have high stakes in their bilateral relations with China, have all come out to question Beijing. So, what a global initiative like Belt and Road Initiative could not do — get more and more countries question China's ambitious initiative — the pandemic has done.

How important is India in this debate?

India has been advocating for reforms of the WHO along with other international organisations, and this demand has been articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the virtual G-20 summit in March this year.

"To quote Churchill, why waste a crisis? India must use this opportunity to further its place in the global high table. The country has an unique opportunity to play a role in the WHO," Manjeev Singh Puri, former Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN, told a webinar organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs in April on 'Re-Imagining the Global Health Agenda: What Role Can India Play?' Last month, the WHO Director-General had said, "Please don't politicize this virus," and later urged political leaders to "please quarantine politicizing Covid"; Puri says the world needs to get rid of this idea of "depoliticising the health agenda".

As India takes the leadership role, much will depend on how it is able to navigate the global politics over the next three years, when it remains on the Executive Board. And, on how it handles its own disease trajectory in a transparent manner.

Chinese transgressions, over the years and now

SUSHANT SINGH

NEW DELHI, MAY 22

CHINESE TRANSGRESSIONS across the disputed border surged by 75% in Ladakh in 2019 (*The Indian Express*, May 22). Chinese forays into Indian territory in the first four months of the current year, too, have witnessed an increase compared to the same period last year.

What exactly is a Chinese transgression?

A Chinese transgression is recorded once the Indian border forces in an area — either the Army or the ITBP — are "reasonably certain" that the Chinese soldiers had crossed over to the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control. A Chinese transgression — in air, land or the waters of Pangong Tso lake — can be recorded, officials said, if it is visually observed by border posts, through use of surveillance equipment, in face-offs by patrols, indicated reliably by locals, or based on evidence left by the Chinese in the form of wrappers, biscuit packets etc to show their presence in an unmanned area.

What does the 'Indian side' of LAC mean?

The border is not fully demarcated and the LAC is neither clarified nor confirmed by the

two countries. Except for the middle sector, even a mutual exchange of maps about their respective perceptions has not taken place between India and China. This has led to different perceptions of the LAC for the two sides, and soldiers from either side try to patrol the area up to their perception. This is different from the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan where everything was agreed upon by the two armies following the 1971 War.

What are the various sectors on the India-China border?

The India-China border is divided into three sectors. The LAC in the western sector falls in Ladakh and is 1,597 km long, the middle sector of 545 km in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the 1,346 km eastern sector in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The middle sector is the least disputed, while the western sector witnesses the highest transgressions.

Do the higher number of Chinese transgressions matter?

A higher number indicates that the Chinese soldiers are coming to the Indian side more often, and their movements are being observed and recorded by the Indian soldiers. This can be seen as an indicator of increased Chinese assertiveness but as long

LAC INCIDENTS (3 SECTORS)

	JANUARY TO APRIL			
YEAR	WEST	EAST	MID	TOTAL
2020	130	30	10	170
2019	110	70	7	187

as there are no major incidents, it means that the established border mechanisms between the two sides are working. So far, there has been no major standoff between the two sides after the 73-day Doklam standoff on Sikkim-Bhutan border in 2017.

When PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping had met in Wuhan following the Doklam crisis, what was agreed?

Modi and Xi had met for their first informal summit at Wuhan in April 2018, where the two leaders "issued strategic guidance to their respective militaries to strengthen communication in order to build trust and mutual understanding and enhance predictability and effectiveness in the management of border affairs". They also "directed their militaries to earnestly implement various confidence building measures agreed upon between the two sides, including the principle

of mutual and equal security, and strengthen existing institutional arrangements and information sharing mechanisms to prevent incidents in border regions".

Now, tensions have shot up suddenly in 2020, even as both countries grapple with Covid-19. A terse statement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday was responded to by the Indian Foreign Ministry in equally strong terms on Thursday. Besides tensions at Naku La in Sikkim and at Galwan river and Pangong Tso in Ladakh, Indians have been worried about the Nepal government's recent behaviour on the border map issue. Army Chief General M M Naravane didn't leave much to the imagination when he said Nepal was doing it at "the behest of a third party".

Should one be worried?

India and China are both nuclear-armed countries with strong militaries. Although not a shot has been fired between them since 1976 or a military skirmish happened after 1967, the fact that soldiers are in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation in Ladakh, with strong statements coming from both sides, cannot be taken as a very happy situation. Matters on the border have always been resolved peacefully by the two countries in the past four decades; so there is hope that the tensions will soon subside.

Behind CM Thackeray's appeal to sons-of-the-soil, the labour shortage

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS

PUNE, MAY 22

EARLIER THIS week, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray appealed to *bhoomiputras* (sons of the soil) from the state's green zones to take up work in the industries that are starting after the lockdown. These industries are facing a labour problem.

How serious is the labour problem?

A number of workers in Maharashtra's industries, especially small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), left have left on Shramik Express trains for their homes in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal etc. Chandrakant Salukhe, founder president of the SME Chamber of India, estimated that migrant workers formed 40% of the 78 lakh workforce in the 14 lakh registered SMEs in the state. "In Mumbai alone 90,000 people mainly from Bihar, UP and Jharkhand were

working as drivers in companies and have since left for their state," he said. Around 80% of the workers were semi-skilled.

Most industry insiders expect that it will be not until August that the migrant labour would make any move to return to Maharashtra. June and July would bring heavy monsoon rain, making travel difficult.

What is this solution the government has proposed?

In his address to the state, the Chief Minister urged sons of the soils in the green zone districts to come forward and restart the stalled engines of the industries. Industries Minister Subhash Desai followed this up with the announcement of an Industrial Employment Bureau with units in the districts, a joint effort among the Departments of Labour, Industries and Skill Development. The government had already enacted laws to ensure 80% direct employment is reserved for local residents.

The Industry and Labour Departments will identify skilled and unskilled labour from the districts while the Skill Development Ministry will take up the task of skilling them. Desai also talked of extending tax concessions to companies that hire

local youths on contract. While authentic data about contractual labour is not readily available, estimates say they constitute around 30-40% of the workforce, with migrant labourers forming more than 90% of them.

Suhas Palshikar, political scientist and chief editor of *Studies in Indian Politics*, noted that the NCP, with its strong presence in tiers 2 and 3 cities, can mobilise the peri-urban and rural youth to get into the workforce. "The political undertone of the move

can't be ignored. Shiv Sena will use this to counter any threat to its core constituency from MNS," he said.

How has the industry reacted to this?

On paper, this move comes across as a solution to both unemployment and labour shortage. However, industry insiders said there are some major concerns. The task of mapping the labour shortage district wise as well as skilling the unskilled will be time-consuming and might not meet the immediate requirement. Some of the smaller units in the Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Talegaon and Chakan industrial belts are at present unable to restart operations as their labour have left. While an exact estimate of the numbers is

not documented, labour unions say around 3 lakh people have left Pune district alone. The majority of them were employed on contract in SMEs that act as vendors and sub-vendors to bigger units. Thus, while the bigger units are slowly restarting, the smaller units are yet to get their act in place.

One of the reasons why the industry has preferred to employ migrant labour in blue-collar jobs has been because of their flexibility to adjust to many situations. Dilip Pawar, working president of Shramik Ekta Mahasangh, a federation of unions in Pune, said companies manage to employ migrants by paying them much less than prevalent market rates. "The cost of hiring migrants is generally lower as they come alone, stay in shared accommodation and are ready to work extended hours for less pay. This might not be possible with local people," he said.

What can be the solution to the labour

crisis, then?

Pawar, for his part, strongly pushes for zone-wise fixation of minimum payment, which will ensure workers stick with companies. "For a zone like Pune, the minimum payment should be around Rs 25,000 per month which would allow the worker to have two square meals a day," Pawar said. The government's move to attract local youth would work only if the payment is lucrative, he said.

Prashant Girbane, director general of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture, called for immediate execution of the government's scheme to provide alternative labour to instil confidence in industries.

"A weekly dashboard should be maintained which would give the progress of the work done — that way, the industry would be assured of bridging over the labour problem and planning their activities ahead," Girbane said.

At least 57 killed as Pak plane crashes in Karachi neighbourhood

Rescue work ongoing; 99 people on board; cause of crash not known yet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, MAY 22

AT LEAST 57 people were killed when a Pakistan International Airlines plane with 99 people on board crashed into a densely populated residential area near the Jinnah International Airport here on Friday, officials said, nearly a week after the COVID-19-induced air travel restrictions were lifted by the government.

Flight PK-8303 from Lahore was about to land in Karachi when it crashed at the Jinnah Garden area near Model Colony in Malir, minutes before its landing, they said.

The PIA Airbus A320 carrying 91 passengers and eight crew members has crash-landed into the Jinnah Housing Society located near the airport, a spokesperson of the national

carrier said.

Thick black smoke rose from the accident scene of devastation in the Model Colony area.

Earlier, a PIA spokesperson and many media reports said that there were 107 people on board the aircraft.

Sindh Health Minister Azra Pechuho and rescue officials confirmed that 57 dead bodies have been recovered so far from the site of the crash.

"But we are still to determine whether these 57 people were all on board the flight or include area residents as a number of houses have been badly damaged by the aircraft when it crashed," she said. The minister said there are three survivors including President of the Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood.

Faisal Edhi of the Edhi Welfare Trust said that around 25 to 30 residents whose houses



Volunteers look for survivors of a plane that crashed in Karachi on Friday. AP

were damaged by the plane have also been taken to the hospital, mostly with burn wounds.

"The first priority is to rescue the people. The main hurdle is narrow streets and presence of ordinary people who gathered at the place after the crash but they have been dispersed," the minister said.

According to a PIA official, the captain informed the air traffic control that he was having problems with the landing gear before the aircraft disappeared from the radar. Television footage showed rescue crews combing through debris strewn across the streets of the district - 3 km north-east of the airport - where a number of houses have been destroyed.

The cause of the crash is yet to be confirmed. PIA chief executive Air Vice Marshal Arshad Malik said the pilot had told traffic control that the plane was experiencing "technical difficulties".

Malik rejected reports that the plane had problems even before flying. Talking to the media,

he said the aircraft was completely safe and sound.

"The real cause of the mishap will be known after inquiry, which will be free and fair and it will be provided with media," he said.

Malik said that the entire operation will take two to three days to complete.

Pakistan's Dunya News said it had obtained a recording of the conversation, also posted on monitoring website liveatc.net.

In it, the pilot says they have "lost two engines". Several seconds later he calls "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" and there is no further communication.

Meanwhile, President Arif Alvi expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in the plane crash. Prime Minister Imran Khan, while expressing deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives, has ordered an immediate inquiry into the incident.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the plane crash and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

THE OUTBREAK

At key meet, China's show of strength

PANDEMIC WATCH



In Sanaa. Reuters/File

YEMEN

Health system has in effect collapsed: UN

Geneva: Coronavirus is believed to be spreading throughout Yemen, where the health care system "has in effect collapsed", the United Nations said on Friday. Referring to aid agencies, Jens Laerke, spokesman for UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) told a briefing: "We hear from many of them that Yemen is really on the brink right now. The situation is extremely alarming..." "They are talking about having to turn people away because they do not have enough (medical) oxygen, they do not have enough personal protective equipment," he said.

NEPAL

Govt reports 50 new cases

Kathmandu: Nepal reported 50 new cases on Friday, taking the total number of infections to 507. The coronavirus has so far claimed three lives in the country, which continues to impose a lockdown to contain the spread. The Health and Population Ministry on Friday said another 21 patients had fully recovered and discharged from hospitals. The total number of recovery cases stand at 70. There are 434 active cases. Of the 50 new cases, nine were from Kapilvastu district.

BRAZIL

Death toll tops 20,000

Rio de Janeiro: The death toll in Brazil surpassed 20,000 on Thursday, after a record number of fatalities in a 24-hour period, the health ministry said. Brazil has now recorded more than 310,000 cases, with experts saying a lack of testing means the real figures are probably much higher. The country ranks third in the world in terms of total cases, behind the United States and Russia. The death toll — the sixth highest worldwide — has doubled in just 11 days, as per ministry data.



Chinese soldiers march past the entrance to the Forbidden City in Beijing on Friday; (right) pan-democratic legislators scuffle amid a protest against new security laws in Hong Kong. AP/Reuters



KEITH BRADSHAW & CHRIS BUCKLEY
BEIJING, MAY 22

CHINA'S TOP leaders on Friday made a show of strength to confront defiance in Hong Kong and the economic damage wrought by the coronavirus outbreak, even as they acknowledged that both had dealt a blow to the ruling Communist Party's agenda.

On Hong Kong, the leadership struck a hard line at the annual meeting of China's legislature, unveiling a plan to impose sweeping new security laws that would place the territory more firmly under Beijing's thumb and crack down on antigovernment protests. But the move is likely to incite more unrest and outrage in the semiautonomous territory as

well as criticism from abroad.

On the economy, the premier, addressing the opening of the National People's Congress, declared that the government had achieved a "decisive victory" against the coronavirus outbreak and that the country has shown great resilience. But in a break with tradition, China abandoned setting an annual growth target for 2020, recognising the difficulties in restarting its economy amid a pandemic.

By embracing the challenges ahead, China's leaders provided a call to the world that the party was emerging confidently from both crises with a greater resolve to defend its authority.

The congress is normally a symbolic annual gathering of the country's political elite. This year, the symbolism matters more

than usual. Xi Jinping, China's top leader, has sought to project strength as the government tries to revive the economy, restart schools and businesses and claim credit for largely ending the epidemic that spread from Wuhan in central China.

Premier Li Keqiang, who is second-ranked in the Communist Party hierarchy behind Xi, made his speech to nearly 3,000 congress delegates who wore masks as they sat in neat rows in the ornate Great Hall of the People. He pledged to help blunt the impact of the slowdown with goals to limit inflation and unemployment.

"At present and for some time to come, China will face challenges like never before," he said. "However, we have unique political and institutional

strengths, a strong economic foundation, enormous market potential and hundreds of millions of intelligent and hard-working people." "The horizons for China's development are full of promise," Li said.

The congress also outlined the party's plan, disclosed in a surprise move on Thursday night, for new laws in Hong Kong

In a speech detailing the plan, Wang Chen, a Politburo member and first vice chairman of the congress, pointed to the protesters in Hong Kong who defaced the national flag and surrounded Beijing's offices in the city as posing a threat to China's sovereignty. He also cited long-held suspicions by Beijing that foreign governments had incited the recent protests in Hong Kong, even though evidence to support this is limited. **NYT**

Hong Kong Oppn slams security law

AP & REUTERS

HONG KONG, MAY 22

HONG KONG'S pro-democracy lawmakers sharply criticised China's move to take over long-stalled efforts to enact national security legislation in the semi-autonomous territory, saying it goes against the "one country, two systems" framework that promises the city freedoms not found on the mainland.

The move drew strong rebukes from the US government and rights groups. Despite that, Beijing appears to have lost patience and is determined to assert greater control and limit opposition activity following last year's protests.

"Xi Jinping has torn away the whole pretense of 'one country, two systems'," former pro-democracy lawmaker Lee Cheuk-yan said of China's leader.

He said at a press briefing by opposition parties and activists that the move shows Beijing is "directly taking control." "They're trying to ban every organisation in Hong Kong who dares to speak out against the Communist Party," he said.

KEY DECISIONS SO FAR

NO ANNUAL GROWTH TARGET FOR 2020

Keeping in mind economic damage due to the Covid pandemic, China has decided not to set any growth target for 2020

SECURITY LAWS

China is pushing for new laws to prevent and punish secession, subversion and foreign infiltration that it has blamed for fuelling unrest in Hong Kong. It would also allow the

mainland's feared security agencies to set up operations publicly in the city for the first time

DEFENCE BUDGET

The defence budget has been hiked by 6.6 per cent to \$179 billion, the lowest increment in recent years. China's defence budget this year will be around 1.27 trillion yuan against last year's \$177.61 billion, as per a submitted draft

Foreign travellers to be quarantined for 14 days, announces UK

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, MAY 22

The United Kingdom government announced tough new measures on Friday for international travellers coming into the country as the coronavirus pandemic lockdown is gradually eased, including 14-day mandatory quarantines and possible fines for a breach.

UK Home Secretary Priti Patel, who made the announcement at the daily Downing Street briefing in London, said the new measures will come into force from June 8 with penalties of up to 1,000 pounds for quarantine breaches enforced from mid-June.

"We are introducing these new measures now to keep the transmission rate down and prevent a devastating second wave," said Patel.

"I fully expect the majority of people will do the right thing and abide by these measures. But we will take enforcement action against a small reckless minority of people who endanger the safety of others," she said.

The Indian-origin Cabinet minister said spot checks would be carried out by the UK Border Force to ensure travellers abide by the rules, with those failing to comply facing refusal of entry to the UK. **PTI**



Move will come into force from June 8: Priti Patel

EXPLAINED

Role of border restrictions

THE MOVE to restore border restrictions comes as the UK believes that the number of new cases in the country has dropped, and that the next step is to control transmission from abroad, as per a scientific advisor. However, some have questioned the delay in implementing the rule. Airlines have also voiced worries that the move could worsen an already critical situation for them.

Virus surge in Indonesia raises questions on battle readiness

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JAKARTA, MAY 22

INDONESIA HAS seen a surge in infections ahead of this this weekend's celebrations marking the end of Ramadan, raising questions about the commitment to the virus fight from both the government and the public. Indonesia has the most Covid-19 fatalities in Southeast Asia at more than 1,300 and on Thursday reported its highest one day count of new infections with 973. The country has reported nearly 21,000 infections, though actual numbers are thought to be far higher.



At a market in Jakarta. AP

Health officials have blamed the surge in cases in the world's fourth most populous nation on the public not taking proper precautions.

"This illustrates people's discipline in obeying health protocols in fighting the outbreak," said

Achmad Yurianto, the national COVID-19 task force spokesman. But politicians have also resisted the guidelines. So far, only four of Indonesia's 34 provinces and 26 cities have applied large-scale social restriction, all with low levels of public compliance.

Health experts have warned that the fight against COVID-19 is far from over, emphasising that the country's limited testing capabilities have made it harder to get an accurate picture of the true extent of the pandemic.

The government, nevertheless, has insisted the country must be ready to get back to normal by the end of July.

Saudi Arabia, UAE mosques to stay closed for Eid prayers

REUTERS

DUBAI, MAY 22

MOSQUES WILL remain closed for prayers on the Eid Al-Fitr festival, Saudi and United Arab Emirates officials said on Friday, calling on the population to adhere to safety guidelines to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

The Eid, which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, may fall on Saturday or Sunday in the Gulf region.

Saudi Islamic Affairs Minister Abdullah al-Sheikh gave instructions not to have Eid prayers in mosques, Saudi state TV quoted him as saying. "Muslims will hold the Eid prayer at home

because of the pandemic," the Saudi Press Agency cited Sheikh Abdul Bari al-Thubaiti, the imam, or the prayer leader, of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, as saying in the Friday sermon.

During Ramadan, prayers without worshippers were held by the imams in the two holy mosques of Mecca and Medina, in the west of the kingdom.

The Dubai government's media office said on Twitter mosques will remain closed, and listed a series of Eid customs that should not be observed, including family visits and giving gifts.

Countries like Turkey, Iraq and Jordan, will impose round-the-clock curfews for the duration of the holiday.

Pandemic halts vaccinations for 80 million children

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, MAY 22

THE CORONAVIRUS pandemic is interrupting immunisation against diseases including measles, polio and cholera that could put the lives of nearly 80 million children under the age of 1 at risk, according to a new analysis from the World Health Organization and partners.

In a new report issued on Friday, health officials warned that more than half of 129 coun-

68

■ The number of poor and middle-income countries that have had some degree of disruption of vaccine services through clinics and through large inoculation campaigns

tries where immunisation data were available reported moderate, severe or total suspensions

of vaccination services during March and April.

"Disruption to immunisation programs from the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to unwind decades of progress against vaccine-preventable diseases like measles," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a statement. The report was also produced by UNICEF, the Sabin Vaccine Institute and GAVI.

Officials also noted that 46 campaigns to vaccinate children against polio have been sus-

pended in 38 countries, mostly in Africa, as a result of the pandemic. Measles campaigns have been suspended in 27 countries.

Experts say children need routine immunisations before the age of 2.

In April, WHO and partners reluctantly recommended a temporary halt to mass polio immunisation campaigns, recognizing the move would lead to a resurgence. Wiping out polio requires that more than 90 per cent of children be immunised, which is typically done in mass

campaigns involving millions of health workers that would break social distancing guidelines.

More than a dozen countries in Africa have reported polio outbreaks this year, all caused by a rare mutation in the virus contained in the vaccine. Health officials had originally hoped to eradicate polio by 2000.

"We cannot let our fight against one disease come at the expense of long-term progress in our fight against other diseases," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF's executive director.

RBI ALSO EXTENDS TIME TO COMPLETE REMITTANCES AGAINST NORMAL IMPORTS

Easier fund flows for India Inc: Banks' group exposure limit hiked to 30% of capital base

The reduction in policy rate by 40 bps under the assumption that growth in FY21 will be negative is an appropriate move to support economic activity"

RAJNISH KUMAR
CHAIRMAN,
STATE BANK OF INDIA

... Ficcii feels that more support will be required on an ongoing basis both from RBI and government ..."

SANGITA REDDY
PRESIDENT, FICCI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 22

TO FACILITATE the flow of funds to corporates, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday decided, as a one-time measure, to increase a bank's exposure to a group of connected companies from 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the eligible capital base of the bank. The increased limit will be applicable up to June 30, 2021.

Under the existing guidelines on the Large Exposures Framework, the exposure of a bank to a group of connected counterparties should not be higher than 25 per cent of the lender's eligible capital base at all times.

"On account of the COVID-19 pandemic, debt markets and other capital market segments are witnessing heightened uncertainty," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. As a result, many corporates are finding it difficult to raise funds from the capital market and



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said many corporates are finding it difficult to raise funds from the capital market. PTI

are predominantly dependent on funding from banks, he added.

"Another move the RBI should consider is to allow one-time restructuring of loans to relieve stressed businesses. Group exposure limit for lenders to corporates to 30 per cent from 25 per cent is a welcome move too, as it is ex-

pected to help banks meet the borrowing requirements of the private sector," said Chandrajit Banerjee, director general of Confederation of Indian Industry.

Meanwhile, the central bank has also decided to extend the time period for completion of remittances against normal imports into India (except in cases where amounts are withheld towards guarantee of performance) from 6 months to 12 months from the date of shipment for such imports made on or before July 31, 2020.

The measure will provide greater flexibility to importers in managing their operating cycles in a COVID-19 environment, the Reserve Bank said. COVID-19 related disruptions to cross-border trade have imposed slowdown in manufacturing/sale of finished products, and delay in realisation of sale proceeds, both domestically and overseas.

In turn, this has elongated the operating cycle for business entities, it added.

₹15,000-crore credit line for Exim Bank

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday decided to extend a line of credit of Rs 15,000 crore to the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) for a period of 90 days from the date of availment with rollover up to a maximum period of one year, so as to enable it to avail a US dollar swap facility to meet its foreign exchange requirements.

"As Exim Bank predominantly relies on foreign currency resources raised from international financial markets for its operations, it is facing challenges to raise funds in international debt capital markets," the central bank said. ENS

Amid worries over high level of pulses inflation, RBI Gov calls for re-appraisal of import duties

LOWER IMPORTS OF PULSES OVER THE YEARS

TYPE OF PULSES	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-JAN 2020
Dried leguminous vegetables	\$4.3 bn	\$2.96 bn	\$1.18 bn	\$1.31 bn
Peas	\$1.21 bn	\$921.10 mn	\$243.45 mn	\$187.89 mn
Chickpeas	\$907.01 mn	\$843.60 mn	\$110.15 mn	\$177.96 mn
Black or Green gram beans (Urad or Moong)	\$677.33 mn	\$286.24 mn	\$321.16 mn	\$187.97 mn
Lentils (Mosur)	\$629.86 mn	\$475.36 mn	\$100.69 mn	\$330.40 mn
Pigeon Peas	\$609.36 mn	\$220.11 mn	\$249.93 mn	\$269.29 mn

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

WITH THE COVID-19 outbreak and the nationwide lockdown leading to a surge in the prices of pulses in India, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday flagged the need for a review of the import duties levied on these products.

Some experts feel the duties would have to be brought down to at least 15 per cent from duties as high as 50 per cent at present, in order to ensure sufficient supply and stabilise these prices.

"The supply shock to food prices in April may show persistence over the next few months, depending upon the state of the lockdown and the time taken to restore the supply chains after relaxation of the lockdown. Among the pressure points, the elevated level of pulses inflation is worrisome and warrants timely and swift supply side interventions, including a re-appraisal of the import duties," said Das during Friday's announcement, where the central bank cut interest rates and extended the moratorium on term loans and working capitals by another three months.

Food inflation — which had eased in February and March — had "suddenly reversed" and surged 8.6 per cent in April "as supply disruptions took their toll immune to the ongoing demand compression", said Das, citing "incomplete" inflation data by the National Statistics

'CUT DUTIES TO AT LEAST 15%'

■ Some experts feel the duties would have to be brought down to at least 15 per cent from duties as high as 50 per cent at present, in order to ensure sufficient supply and stabilise these prices

■ Imports of most pulses dropped between 2016-17 and 2018-19, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

around six million tonnes jump in production. This used to be on average the amount in pulses that we would import every year," said Dr Ashok Gulati, Infosys chairman professor for agriculture at ICRIR. This led to a raise in import duties to as much as 50 per cent from around five per cent earlier, he said.

"Now, we have run out of all those stocks and there is domestic pressure and excessive demand, perhaps because of the lockdown... the only way to cool down the pressure is to augment supply by reducing the duty to around 15 per cent," Gulati said.

The nationwide lockdown has also halted activities in pulse mills, leading to the shortfall and sharp spike in price currently being experienced, according to Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) chairman Mohit Singla. "Approximately 3 million tonnes of imported pulses would be needed to meet the shortfall in the current fiscal year, as domestic consumption of pulses is at 25 million tonnes," he said.

"A production target of 26.30 million tonnes for pulses was set by the Union Government for the year 2019-20. The actual production would be reduced by 10 per cent because of unseasonal rain and a subsequent reduction in the area of land being cultivated for pulses," Singla said.

"Thus, the government may think to further revise the import quota or can also think to reduce import tariff as suggested by RBI to release the inflationary pressure," he added.

FM MEETS HEADS OF STATE-OWNED BANKS

Atmanirbhar Bharat: PSBs asked to implement measures for each sector

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday held a review meeting with heads of public sector banks (PSBs), asking them to implement the sectoral measures announced as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package to revive the economy affected by COVID-19. The meeting via video conferencing took place in the backdrop of the Centre announcing several measures that depend upon action by banks, such as Rs 3-lakh crore of fresh loans for MSMEs. At the meeting, everyone aligned on the need for quickly addressing the needs of MSMEs and other customers. Operational details of the measures will be released soon, according to the Department of Financial Services.

Since the Union Cabinet has already approved various schemes announced under the package, operational guidelines have been issued to banks. Under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) worth Rs 3-lakh crore for MSMEs, interest rates are capped at 9.25 per cent for banks and financial institutions, and at 14 per cent for NBFCs.

National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) will provide 100 per cent guarantee against losses on loans advanced to eligible MSMEs and MUDRA borrowers under the scheme, which is open till October 31. All MSME borrower standard accounts with outstanding credit of up to Rs 25 crore as on February 29, and with an annual turnover of up to Rs 100 crore would be eligible for guaranteed emergency credit line funding. They can get up to 20 per cent fresh loans of their entire outstanding credit.

In order to push credit into the economy, the government has also clarified to bankers that no action will be taken against them for commercial decisions gone wrong. "Loans worth over Rs 6.68

EXPLAINED

MSME credit guarantee, Kisan credit cards key

THE GOVERNMENT meeting with banks aimed to quickly operationalise various measures announced as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat package, key among them being full credit guarantee on Rs 3 lakh crore of loans to MSMEs and credit disbursement to farmers through fresh Kisan credit cards.

Ensuring that liquidity reaches to the borrowers — such as small vendors, corporates and farmers — is a key challenge in implementing the relief measures.

lakh crore were sanctioned by PSBs during March 1 - May 19 for 59.79 lakh accounts from MSME, Retail, Agriculture & Corporate sectors. A steady increase in credit availability for each of these vital sectors" the Finance Ministry said in a tweet earlier in the day.

It added, "Public Sector Banks sanctioned over Rs 1.07 lakh crore as emergency credit lines & working capital enhancements in the period March 20 to May 19, with Rs 25,527 crore of this amount already being availed by customers."

As per a PTI report, the Finance Minister has emphasised on the quick disbursement of additional loans to MSMEs, to simplify process, formats and documentation, Indian Bank Managing Director Padmaja Chunduru said after the meeting.

Macroeconomic impact of virus more severe than expected: RBI

The RBI has slashed the repo rate by 40 bps to 4.00 per cent, as "the macroeconomic impact of the pandemic is turning out to be more severe than initially anticipated and various sectors of the economy are experiencing acute stress"

REVISION IN POLICY RATES (figures in %)

Date	Bank rate	Repo rate	Reverse repo	CRR
Feb 7, 2019	6.50	6.25	6.00	4.00
Apr 4, 2019	6.25	6.00	5.75	4.00
Jun 6, 2019	6.00	5.75	5.50	4.00
Aug 7, 2019	5.65	5.40	5.15	4.00
Oct 4, 2019	5.40	5.15	4.90	4.00
Dec 5, 2019	5.40	5.15	4.90	4.00
Feb 6, 2020	5.40	5.15	4.90	4.00
Mar 27, 2020	4.65	4.40	4.00	3.00
May 22, 2020	4.65	4.00	3.35	3.00

MPC members Ravindra H Dhokalia, Janak Raj, Michael Patra and Shaktikanta Das voted for a 40-bp cut in repo rate. Chetan Ghate voted for a 25-bp cut

As supply lines get restored in the coming months with gradual relaxations in the lockdown, unusual spike in food inflation in April is expected to moderate

Compiled by: ENS
Economic Bureau

KKR to buy 2.32% stake in Jio Platforms for ₹11,367 cr

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 22

GLOBAL INVESTMENT firm KKR has decided to invest Rs 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). The transaction values Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

This is KKR's largest investment in Asia and will translate into a 2.32 per cent equity stake in Jio Platforms on a fully diluted basis. Over the last month, leading investors such as Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista and General Atlantic, and now KKR, have announced aggregate investments of Rs 78,562 crore into Jio Platforms.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman and MD, RIL, said, "We are looking forward to leveraging KKR's global platform, industry knowledge and operational expertise to

The transaction values Jio Platforms at an equity value of ₹4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of ₹5.16 lakh crore

further grow Jio."

Henry Kravis, co-founder and co-CEO of KKR, said, "We view this landmark investment as a strong indicator of KKR's commitment to supporting leading technology companies in India and Asia Pacific."

Since inception, KKR has invested over \$30 billion (total enterprise value) in tech companies, and today, its technology portfolio has over 20 companies across the technology, media and telecom sectors. In addition, India has been a key strategic market for KKR with a history of investing in the country since 2006, it said.

Economy to contract in FY21: Moody's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

MOODY'S INVESTORS Service on Friday said India's economy is expected to contract for the first time in more than four decades saying economic damage owing to the coronavirus-induced lockdown will be significant with lower consumption and sluggish business activity.

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, Indian economy already was growing at its slowest pace in six years and with the stimulus measures announced by the government falling short of expectations, the disruptions are likely to be greater.

"We now expect India's growth to register a real GDP contraction for the fiscal year ending in March 2021 (fiscal 2020-21), from our earlier projection of zero growth," Moody's said in a research note.

UK court orders Anil Ambani to pay \$717 million to three Chinese banks

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, MAY 22

A UK court on Friday directed Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani to pay nearly \$717 million to three Chinese banks pursuing the recovery of funds owed to them as part of a loan agreement within 21 days.

At a remotely held hearing, in line with procedures in place for COVID-19, Justice Nigel Teare ruled at the Commercial Division of the High Court of England and Wales in London that a personal guarantee disputed by Ambani is binding on him. "It is declared that the Guarantee is binding on the Defendant (Ambani)," Justice

Teare's order notes.

"It is declared that ... sum payable by Defendant to the Claimant (banks) pursuant to the Guarantee is USD 716,917,681.51," it reads. A spokesperson for Ambani said it pertains to an alleged personal guarantee for a corporate loan availed by Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom) in 2012 for global refinancing.

"It is emphasised that it is not a personal loan of Mr Ambani. ICBC (Industrial and Commercial Bank of China) made their claim based on an alleged guarantee that was never signed by Mr Ambani and he has consistently denied having authorised anyone to execute any guarantee on his behalf," the person said. PTI

CBDT: ₹26,242 crore of I-T refunds released till May 21 this fiscal

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

THE CENTRAL Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Friday said it has issued income tax refunds worth Rs 26,242 crore to 16.8 lakh assesses during the April 1-May 21 period. The finance ministry said refunds are being expedited to ease cash flow issues being faced by assesses during the lockdown.

The amount includes corporate tax refunds of Rs 11,610 crore to over one lakh taxpayers and Rs 14,632 crore to 15.8 lakh assesses from other categories, including salaried individuals. Refunds are for income tax returns filed in the assessment year (AY) 2019-20.

Of the total refund since April 1, the board said it has issued Rs 9,387 crore to 1.6 lakh taxpayers in the last week alone. An amount of Rs 6,714 crore has been given to

corporate assesseees including trusts, MSMEs, proprietorships and partnerships, among others.

The Income Tax Department issues refunds after returns are processed at its central processing centre (CPC) in Bengaluru. From FY17 to FY19, the Department had cleared refunds worth Rs 1.63 lakh crore, Rs 1.52 lakh crore and Rs 1.61 lakh crore, respectively. As of November 28 last, the Department had said, it had processed 20 per cent more refunds as against the year-ago period.

"CPC processed 2.1 crore refund for returns in AY 2019-20, compared to 1.75 crore in AY 2018-19 refund returns for the same period in FY2018-19, an increase of 20 per cent. The total amount of refunds issued in FY2019-20 till November 28 was Rs 1.46 lakh crore, as compared to Rs 1.19 lakh crore in same period previous year," it added. FE

US class action lawsuit against Infosys, top management dismissed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

INFOSYS ON Friday said a class action lawsuit filed against the company and some of its employees in the US District Court has been dismissed. The move comes after whistleblower complaints alleging certain unethical practices by the top management emerged in October last year.

Infosys had disclosed that it had received whistleblower complaints alleging certain unethical practices by the top management. US market regulator Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had also investigated the matter. "The complaint, which was

"The complaint ... was brought on behalf of a class consisting of persons or entities who purchased the company's publicly traded securities"

INFOSYS

filed in the Eastern District of New York, was brought on behalf of a class consisting of persons or entities who purchased the company's publicly traded securities between July 7, 2018 and October 20, 2019, and alleged claims for violations of the US federal securities laws," Infosys said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

BRIEFLY

Bharat Bond ETF's second tranche in July

New Delhi: Edelweiss Asset Management Friday said it will launch the second tranche of Bharat Bond ETF in July, with two new series, to raise up to Rs 14,000 crore. It comes after the successful launch of the initial series of the ETF in December 2019.

ESIC scheme: Enrolments in Mar at 8.21 lakh

New Delhi: Around 8.21 lakh new members joined the ESIC-run social security scheme in March 2020, according to payroll data of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

IDFC First Bank posts ₹76.36 cr net profit in Q4

New Delhi: IDFC First Bank Friday posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 76.36 crore for January-March 2020, as against a loss of Rs 212 crore in the year-ago quarter. PTI

Oil falls over 3% on China-US tensions

New York: Oil prices tumbled about 3 per cent on Friday on rising US-China tensions and doubts about how quickly fuel demand would recover from the coronavirus crisis. Brent crude dropped \$1.10, or 3.1 per cent, to \$34.96 a barrel by 1707 GMT, while US WTI crude fell 96 cents, or 2.8 per cent, to \$32.96. REUTERS

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

GLOBAL DATA analytics company Nielsen's Indian arm Friday said that health could emerge as a basic need along with food, shelter, and clothing in a post COVID-19 world, and that some consumer habits of the past such as "indulgence" may never come back.

"As the time passes and restriction on living conditions in India eases out, some behaviours will not return to previous states or habits. Many behaviours are likely to be re-balanced as the new norm for consumers as their circumstances have been irrevocably impacted," the company said.

The findings and predictions are a result of online surveys that

Nielsen had undertaken across many cities in India in April. In the survey, most respondents said that they would gravitate towards familiar products in a post COVID-19 world; about 66 per cent would hold on to money rather than going ahead with their plan to buy new items. Only 28 per cent of respondents, most of whom were planning to buy furniture and durables, are likely to go ahead with their investment as planned, the survey noted.

"As income levels are impacted, in general, the majority will adopt the 'cut back and save' mindset — cutting down on non-essential travel (holidays) and other discretionary spends. Governments would tend to bail out key industries and companies, and shall promote 'buy local' cam-

paigns via subsidies and incentives," Nielsen said. In its survey, the data analytics firm also noted that the sales of non-vegetarian food items were impacted as nearly more than 50 per cent of respondents said that they would avoid eating such food items as a "precautionary measure".

The sales and consumption of private white label brands, which rushed in to fill the void created by supply chain issues of bigger brands, rose by as much as 5-6 percentage points during lockdown, compared to the December-January period, Nielsen said. The Indian Express had in April reported that the bigger FMCG manufacturers had been facing supply constraints as over 90 per cent of India's trucks were then off the roads.

14 SPORT

Play Pause

Sports authority's SOP allows restricted training but athletes across sports are not ready to return just yet

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, MAY 22

ELITE SHUTTLEERS resuming training could well depend on the state of lockdown in Telangana, which is currently operational till May 31. With stadiums, gyms and swimming pools closed, badminton players have ruled out resumption till the end of the month.

Decision-makers in the national federation are reluctant to risk a resumption and put their top names in harm's way even as the world body's revamped schedule for 2020 put them in a quandary on Friday. The top shuttleers are clear that risking infection owing to unnecessary travel or training risks makes no sense.

While the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the Sports Authority of India allows for outdoor warm-ups and indoor training with two players and one coach, practical problems include having to touch shuttleers, and having to go full throttle in training for at least 2-3 weeks prior to tournaments resuming.

Playing in competitions after half-intensity training, while restrictions stay on gyms and indoor courts, looks like a massive impediment, especially if the lockdown regulations in the state are extended.

"Telangana lockdown is till 31st. So, at present no chance of practising on court or in gyms," PV Ramana, Sindhu's father, said.

Doubles shuttleer Chirag Shetty said that eventually travelling to Hyderabad was inevitable, but no plans were firmed up for another fortnight or till governments give the go-ahead. "It may not be the safest but I feel the world has to accept the fact that it won't go away just like that and we need to take all necessary precautions," he said.

The BWF put out a tournament schedule on Friday, subject to local guidelines. It forced players to contemplate the logistics of travelling to Hyderabad or working out a training schedule tiptoeing around what's possible despite the lockdown restrictions.

"Once training resumes, all SAI guidelines will be followed. Things might look normal once lockdown eases but cases are rising everywhere and the risk is immense, so we're really not sure if we should jump into it," another player said.



PV Sindhu's father Ramana says with the lockdown enforced in Telangana till May 31, there is no question of returning to court or training in the gym. *File*

Archers told to stay put

According to an Archery Association of India (AAI) official, their two go-to venues – Delhi and Kolkata – are currently out of bounds.

"We were considering the Yamuna Sports Complex in Delhi as a possible venue to restart our camp. But that is currently a quarantine facility. And the situation in Kolkata, where we routinely train, is tough because of the cyclone," the official said. Hence, the archers have been told to continue training at home.

Boxing targets June return

A Boxing Federation of India official said they are not keen to 'risk' the pugilists' health by making them travel at the moment. However, discussions have begun regarding the dates to restart the national camp, with mid-June as the first target. "Whatever decision we will take with regards to restarting the camp, it will depend on the situation prevailing at that time. Also, we have to factor in a 14-day quarantine period for boxers when they enter the campus," the official said.

Shooters reluctant

With no events likely this year, shooters are in no rush to return to the ranges. A federation official said a camp is unlikely before July. Apart from the obvious health risk, the official said there were logistical problems as well. "There are strict limits on baggage a passenger can carry in airlines. Shooters travel with weapons and ammunition and have a lot of check-in as well as cabin baggage. So that's an issue," the official said.

Table tennis: Players oppose

Players were asked for their availability to join a national camp two weeks ago either at Patiala, Sonapat or Kolkata but they didn't agree. "There has been a lot of uncertainty, and travelling at this time doesn't seem like a safe option," said Harmeet Desai, the India No.3 and world No.72. "There were also no flights or trains at the time as well." Any camp will have only the top eight men and women players and two coaches (total of 18), and all will be given their own rooms.

INPUTS FROM MIHIR VASAVDA & SHAHID JUDGE

22 tournaments in 5 months leave players shocked

Mumbai: Hyderabad Open, a Super 100 tournament kick-starting the international badminton calendar (August 11-16) according to a revamped BWF schedule, looks highly unlikely to take off given the prevailing situation in the Telangana capital which is under lockdown.

While BWF went ahead to announce 22 tournaments in 5 months from August to December, shuttleers were left scratching their heads about how they were going to resume blitzing around the world in search of points, with international travel being clipped and the virus still raging through swathes of Asia - especially in India. With no clarity on Olympic qualification process, which couldn't be completed, after tournaments were cancelled in response to the pandemic, shuttleers are once again left wondering about how to plan the rest of the year. "It's straightforward for those playing the Super 1000s, but for those having to choose the next rung, it's again travel and risking airports - Hyderabad, Taipei, Korea, Thomas Uber Cup in Denmark, and New Zealand a week later. Don't really know what to think of it," said P Kashyap.

The revamped schedule includes 8 rescheduled tournaments with zigzagging travel across three continents, and has cramped in the Thomas Uber Cup and the season-ender into this packed calendar. India hosts three of the 22 meets - Hyderabad, Lucknow and Delhi. An earlier government stipulation barred Indian athletes from travelling abroad till end of the year.

BWF has attached a rider of safety. "We won't resume competition unless it is absolutely clear that it is safe to do so." SHIVANI NAIK

BIO-BUBBLE FOR SA PLAYERS

Cricket South Africa (CSA) plan to isolate players and support staff in a "bio-bubble" to minimise their exposure to COVID-19 and hasten a return to play. CSA has studied the best practices used by the German Bundesliga, which resumed last weekend, and hope to implement them when India are scheduled to visit for three lucrative Twenty20 Internationals in late August.

Gloved umpires wouldn't hold sweaters, sunglasses

The International Cricket Council perceives the cricket ball as the biggest risk factor in its endeavours to resume the game. So days after prohibiting the application of saliva on leather, a usual practice to 'keep' the ball, the ICC, in its guidelines to a safe resumption of the game, sheds a lot of thought on the "management of the ball."

BALL MANAGING: To start with, they emphasise on not sharing the equipment, which is feasible with all other equipment of the sport but the cricket ball. It passes hands between overs, at intervals, and at close of play. The guidelines vaguely specify role-specific measures to minimise the risk the cricket ball entails.

For instance, the umpire can wear protective gloves, the bowlers should refrain from touching eyes, nose, and mouth after making contact with the ball. They can't obviously use saliva (though sweat is permissible), and should regularly rinse their hands with sanitisers after touching the ball, which probably he/she could between overs. Moreover, they should now manage sun-glasses, sweaters and caps on their own. It's trickier for fielders to keep their hands regularly sanitised with alcohol-based hand-rub as the ICC prescribes, especially in the limited over games, where fielders are much more in action than the longest format. Taking breaks between overs is time-consuming. Maybe, they could keep a sachet or bottle in their pocket.

GENERAL CAUTION: General hygiene practices also apply, like "coughing or sneezing into your bent elbow, no sharing of water bottles and towels, and no shared use of equipment, unless it's an indispensable part of the protocol. Also, players, as much as possible, should be encouraged to adopt a 'ready to train' approach where possible, which implies coming to training prepared without the need to use any communal facilities such as changing rooms or showering facilities. Also, the venue should have additional changing room facilities to allow for social distancing. There should also be no bed linen in treatment rooms.

BIO-SAFETY OFFICIAL: If sports bodies across the world are building bio-secure stadiums, the ICC insists on appointing a

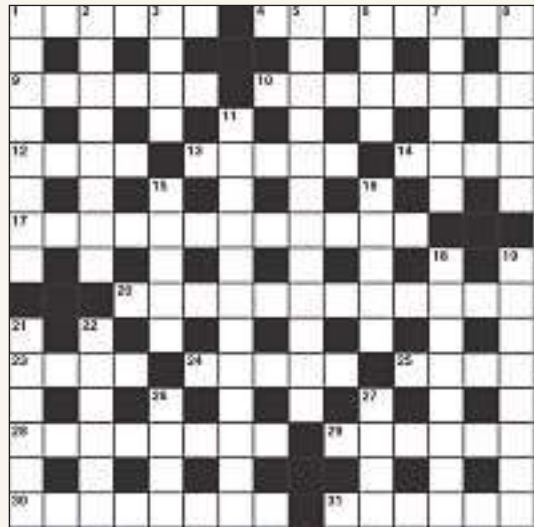
medical advisor or biosafety official, whose task is to keep a tab on the bio-security of a venue as well as players. He will also be responsible for implementing government regulations, as well as assisting "with planning for a safe return to training and competition."

PRE-MATCH CHECKS: Teams are advised pre-match 14-day isolation camps, where their health, risk factors and temperature will be continuously monitored. In this regard, an appropriate testing plan during training and competition will be chalked out to guarantee that the team members and support staff are uninfected. Depending on cost, speed, accuracy, and availability, frequent COVID-19 tests too could be conducted on the players. Hosts should facilitate speedy consultations and tests to minimise waiting time. In short, there could be an increased presence of medical staff in the stadium as well as when a team travels.

BIO-SECURE BUBBLE: As much as they could, the players should travel in sanitised vehicles, hopping from one safety-bubble to the other. If they are travelling abroad, they should consider using chartered flights and regulate seat spacing inside the flights. Besides, they should undergo mandatory quarantine after landing in a new country as well after returning home. If the stadium doesn't have inbuilt hotel/lodging facilities, they should be a dedicated hotel floor and staff. Rooms shouldn't be shared either. Moreover, adequate arrangements should be in place if a team member tests positive.

BACKGROUND CHECK: Before allotting a venue or a training facility, an assessment should be made on the extent of the virus spread in the particular community and whether the community has the facilities to deal with it. ENS

CROSSWORD 4125



ACROSS

- 1 It doubles back with an old master (6)
- 4 A rough calculation of varying teatimes (8)
- 9 Holidays that fall in the autumn (6)
- 10 What's missing in a fight is obscure (5,3)
- 12 Plant produced in a hurry (4)
- 13 Lift shafts, we hear (5)
- 14 A travel authority (4)
- 17 Wrong impression of a key worker (7,5)
- 20 An air of conviviality (8,4)
- 23 Son of Adam said to sound archaic (4)
- 24 A step in development (5)
- 25 Endless danger for a fairy (4)
- 28 Needy and greedy take a new turn, I see (8)
- 29 The perfect beginner? (6)
- 30 Makes converse? (8)
- 31 Break a hole in a wall (6)

DOWN

- 1 Turn a blind eye to the French estimate (8)
- 2 A wing consisting of ten parts (8)
- 3 A sporting investment aid (4)
- 5 The last fish in the sea? (4,8)
- 6 In certain charts it may indicate a mile (4)
- 7 A Spaniard is a Greek (6)
- 8 Sex and art production films may use them (6)
- 11 Merely a whim to overtake? (7,5)
- 15 Too much interest is shown in it (5)
- 16 Russian long-distance cross-country runner (5)
- 18 Sharp decline in air traffic (8)
- 19 A most unfair condition (8)
- 21 Doesn't put out the port (6)
- 22 They support various trusts (6)
- 26 On which landlubbers constitutionally walk the plank (4)
- 27 Cut grass, say, this way (4)

Solutions Crossword 4124 Across: 1 Cabal, 4 Barrier, 8 Spa, 9 Absentees, 10 Outdone, 11 Wiser, 13 Stamps, 15 Dynamo, 18 Tango, 19 Bad debt, 21 Suffocate, 23 Obit, 24 Enraged, 25 Match, **Down:** 1 Customs, 2 Boat train, 3 Llano, 4 Bashed, 5 Runaway, 6 Ice, 7 Riser, 12 Scapegoat, 14 Prolong, 16 Ostrich, 17 Aboard, 18 Taste, 20 Dream, 22 For.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The optometrist ran for mayor because he was a _____. (9)

NYAOR

DEOZNS

CRRRII

ALSTVY

Answer: The optometrist ran for mayor because he was a **VISIONIST**.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4117

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4116



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There seems to be little ground between saintly charitable work and unpleasant back-biting, although obviously you have a choice as to which direction you steer yourself in. Whichever you choose, your attention is likely to shift to issues affecting your long-term emotional security.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The Moon now indicates that your mood will change for the better. You will become more confident, if a little emotional. You should have sufficient faith in yourself to show your true feelings instead of keeping them concealed. It's all a matter of not worrying what other people think.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

As the hours pass you may begin to feel that you need more privacy. You may be entrusted with a secret and could even consider cancelling a social outing. What now seems certain is that you are set on a new course in all relationships, both casual and intimate.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

If you're travelling today, you should be prepared for adventure, and also to end up somewhere quite different from where you intended! In all discussions, it seems to be personal opinion rather than truth which will hold the day. But then, that's just what you're used to.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may feel free to be a little more selfish today than of late. You have given enough to other people, and now it is time to look after yourself once again. Watch out for spiralling financial costs, and take the necessary action. Don't let anyone take you for a ride.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Today's colourful planetary picture awakens a crusading spirit which has already been glimpsed and could be even stronger next week. You may be as enthusiastic as you like, but never expect others to agree with you. Perhaps you should try to respect friends' opinions a little more.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

If you're working today, or otherwise preoccupied with routine chores, especially charitable acts, you may not know where to stop. The last thing you should do is to leave yourself worn out and flat on your back. Pace yourself properly, and relax when you need to.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

All the most important planetary aspects are aligned in social areas of your chart. The net result should be that you'll be meeting new faces, letting your hair down and enjoying yourself as never before. Oh, and don't let routine commitments hold you back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

There seems to be a conflict of interest between your or a partner's professional duties on the one hand, and family commitments on the other. Right now, private life may have to take precedence over professional. People to whom you have made promises need to come first.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Everything in your solar chart shouts about a new restlessness. This is partly to do with a desire to travel and encounter new ideas and people, but also with a feeling that life should be more enjoyable. After all, you have put in your share of hard work.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Today's planetary picture denotes the possibility of large transfers of cash. It's unclear, however, whether this will be put to good use, or whether you'll be tipping your savings into a financial black hole. Neither is it certain whether it will all happen in your dreams.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It's time to break the habits of a lifetime. Forget that you're supposed to be shy and sensitive. This is a day to do, say and feel whatever you want, regardless of social pressures or partners' prejudices. For once, you can be the iron fist in the velvet glove. One word of wisdom, though — be kind to those people who genuinely need your help.

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