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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

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### After meeting Uddhav, Pawar says no threat to govt in Maharashtra

SANDEEP ASHAR, VISHWAS WAGHMODE & LIZ MATHEW MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, MAY 26

A 90-minute meeting between Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar on Monday evening, hours after the NCF chief met Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, triggered speculation about the stability of the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition government, which is set to complete six months on Thursday.

However, on Tuesday morning, Pawar, seen as the glue CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**SCALE UP BATTLE** 

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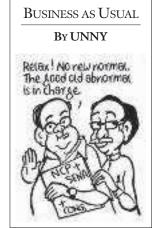
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**TO MILITARY** 

PREPAREDNESS: XI

**WORLD** 



### **NSA, CDS ALSO PRESENT**

## No change in Ladakh, military brass brief PM and Rajnath

Commanders meet today, Army to brainstorm on challenges

SUSHANT SINGH & **KRISHN KAUSHIK** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

AMID TENSIONS with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting Tuesday with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin

Rawat and chiefs of the three

Earlier, General Rawat and the three chiefs met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and briefed him on the ground situation in Ladakh, deployment of armed forces and the state of

preparedness on the LAC. The military brass is learnt to have apprised the Prime Minister about the evolving situation in eastern Ladakh though officials maintained that the meeting was pre-scheduled and reforms in the armed forces was

on the agenda.

**TOWATCH** 

■Gujarat

■ Delhi

■Bihar

**■** Maharashtra

■ Tamil Nadu

■West Bengal

**CONCERN** 

ASSAM: Bihar-like

situation unfolding,

five-fold rise in

The meetings came ahead of the three-day conference of Army commanders starting in Delhi on Wednesday. It will be attended by Northern Army Commander Lt Gen YK Joshi whose command is responsible for eastern Ladakh. He is well versed with the area, having been the XIV Corps Commander before taking over as Northern Army Commander

earlier this year. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

**CASES** 

52.667

14,468

14,465

17,082

2,737

3,816

\* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days

RECOVERED: 60,490 | DEATHS: 4,167

TESTS: 3.126.119 | DOUBLING RATE: 13.53\*\*

7-DAY AVG.

**GROWTH\*** 

5.99%

3.02%

4.61%

5.48%

9.79%

4.39%

12.03

23.82

15.63

13.14

7.35

**A GLIMMER** 

HARYANA:

For two weeks now

growth rate below



THE MEETINGS signal the concern over the developments in Ladakh. The spotlight is now on the working mechanism that has been activated at the diplomatic level to de-escalate tensions between the two countries.



### IndiGo flier tests positive after landing in Coimbatore

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, CHENNAI, MAY 26

A 24-YEAR old passenger on board IndiGo's Monday flight from Chennai to Coimbatore tested positive for Covid-19 upon arrival at Coimbatore, following which the airline's operating crew has been quarantined for

According to health officials,

he was asymptomatic before boarding and was tested along with all passengers at the airport upon arrival on Monday

"He alone tested positive in the flight. All others have gone for mandatory home quarantine and they will be tracked for symptoms in coming days," said a state government official. The passenger was working as an **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

### In Delhi, only 8 Covid ICU beds vacant in 7 pvt hospitals

**ASTHA SAXENA** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

SEVENTY-FOUR of 82 ICU beds earmarked for Covid-19 patients in the city's seven private hospitals are occupied at the moment. At six government hospitals, on the other hand, only 111 of 348

ICU beds for novel coronavirus

As the case tally in the capital continues to rise — 412 fresh cases were reported on Tuesday, taking the total to 14,465 - several accounts have emerged of severely ill people being unable to get admitted to ICUs in private

patients are occupied.

There are 10 private and six **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



Migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar wait in separate lines for buses to take them to the railway station, in Dharavi, Mumbai on Tuesday. Ganesh Shirsekar

#### Inadequacies, lapses: SC seeks answers THE ROAD TO WELLBEING from Centre and states on migrants ORGANIC FOOD A RED initiative appears

**ANANTHAKRISHNANG** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

TAKING SUO motu cognizance of "problems and miseries of migrant labourers" stranded in different parts of the country and 'inadequacies and certain lapses" in efforts by the Centre and States, the Supreme Court Tuesday sought their responses, saying it will hear the matter again Thursday.

The bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, SK Kaul and MR Shah said it was "of the view that efrequired to redeem the situa-

"We, thus, issue notice to the Union of India and all States/ Union Territories to submit their responses looking into the urgency of the matter. We direct the suo motu petition to be CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

numbers, though cases in one week national average. Total just over 1200 to over 520 still small overall Based on daily data by Centre, ICMR, state governments

24HRS

405

412

805

163

**CAUTION** 

UTTARAKHAND:

Another state with

rapidly rising

2,436

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(Sec-18)

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Vipu

(Sec-63)

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(Mohan Nagar)

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#### **BIHAR BOARD CLASS 10 TOPPER**

Himanshu Raj believes that consistency is the key to crack any exam. However, his education is on a halt at present due to the coronavirus pandemic as schools are shut and he does not own a smartphone or laptop to

#### VIDEO OF THE DAY



**NEPAL: MIGRANTS FROM** INDIA CAUSING CASES

Nepal PM said those returning from India contributing to spread

#### **TRENDING**



**SWARMS OF LOCUSTS ENTER JAIPUR** 

While government has teams in place, incident has left people worried

### **EXPRESS** AUDIO

### The cost of keeping schools closed

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

Today on 3 Things, we look at how European countries have dealt with opening schools and lessons we can learn from the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa

### Call for research of lung tissue in Covid victims finds no takers in Karnataka

**JOHNSON TA** BENGALURU, MAY 26:

 $A\,CALL\,for\,study\,of\,lung\,tissues\,of$ patients who die of Covid-19 by conducting postmortem biopsies has found no takers in Karnataka, primarily due to complications involved in dealing with contagion

To understand the disease's progression in the lungs, which is the primary organ damaged by coronavirus, a provision for conducting lung biopsies in patients who die due to Covid has been made by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in Karnataka and the Indian Council for Medical Research but no proposals have been made so far, said officials.

"We have made a provision for anybody who wants to take up the study of lung damage in Covid-19 death cases. There have been no proposals so far," said Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences vice-chancellor Dr S Sachidananda.

The RGUHS has called for study proposals with biopsies of the lungs but no researcher has come forward to conduct research." the Karnataka health commissioner Pankay Pandey said. Since March 10 there have been 44 Covid-19 deaths in Karnataka but no samples of tissues from organs such as lungs and heart have been collected. An autopsy was conducted only in one case of unnatural death of a Covid-19 patient who committed suicide at the hospital where he

was admitted. Biopsies are medical procedures where cells and tissues in the body are extracted to study the nature of a disease and its progression in an organ or body. Since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, several studies have been conducted using lung samples in parts of the world, including China. One of the Chinese studies looking at the lung tissues of Covid 19 victims -- published in the science journal Nature by researchers from the Zhongnan The Karnataka health department had issued **SOPs for conducting** postmortem examinations on victims of Covid-19

Hospital of Wuhan University -showed that gas exchange surfaces in the lungs that keep the blood oxygenated and facilitate breathing were extensively dam-

The ICMR, which recently published "Standard guidelines for medico-legal autopsy in Covid 19 deaths in India" has outlined the need for research on the effects of the coronavirus in lungs and other organs of the human body.

One of the issues affecting research on lung samples from coronavirus victims is safety. The Karnataka health department had issued standard operating procedures for conducting postmortem examination on victims of Covid-19. It states that forensic experts should conduct invasive autopsies only in the case of unnatural deaths of persons who test positive for Covid 19.

"It is not easy to obtain samples of the lung tissue in cases of Covid-19 deaths and a great deal of caution has to be exercised by doctors. There are also ethical issues like obtaining the consent of the families of victims. As a result no one is probably keen to conduct lung or other biopsies for research purposes." a professor at the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute said.

According to the ICMR's guidelines, "pathological autopsy for research" purposes on Covid 19 victims can be conducted only after "proper ethical clearance from respective institute" and as per guidelines of ICMR and health authorities. "The informed consent and other ethical aspects like confidentiality, religious sentiments etc. should be addressed as per the specific objectives and methodology," ICMR has stated.

### FROM PAGE ONE

### After meeting Uddhav, Pawar says no threat to govt in Maharashtra

holding the three-party coalition of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress together, scotched talk of a political realignment in the state, and said there was "no threat" to the government.

Pawar's meeting with the chief minister, held at residence Thackeray's Matoshree, came as the main opposition BJP has stepped up its criticism of the Thackeray government's alleged mishandling of the Covid-19 crisis in Maharashtra.

Over the past few days, several senior BJP leaders have gone to Raj Bhavan to complain about the government. Narayan Rane met Koshyari on Monday and called for President's Rule. There has been talk that MLAs of the three ruling parties were being approached with offers to jump

But on Tuesday, Pawar told NDTV: "There is no threat to the Maharashtra government. All MLAs are with us, any attempt to break them at this time will result in the public beating us."

The meeting at Matoshree followed what is said to have been Pawar's first visit to the Thackeray family home since

"The Maha Vikas Aghadi government will complete its five-year term and we will fight the elections together after five years," Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, who attended the meeting,

Asked what had brought Pawar to Matoshree, Raut said it was to discuss the Covid situation. "There is nothing surprising in Pawar coming to Matoshree. We sought guidance from him on the government's future and on the handling of the Covid-19 situation. There is nothing wrong in seeking guidance from him; Prime Minister Narendra Modi also seeks guidance from Pawar," Raut said.

It is, however, no secret that the three parties differ over Thackeray's strategy for easing the lockdown. There has also been resentment in the cabinet over Thackeray's reliance on the bureaucracy, who have been given a lot of power to decide on the state's Covid strategy. There have been complaints that officials are keeping ministers in the

Sources in the Sena said that while Pawar is keen on granting some relaxations to put the state on the path to normalcy, the chief minister is in favour of retaining the restrictions to contain the outbreak and save lives. The meeting focussed on the strategy to exit the lockdown in Mumbai, Pune, and other Covid

### Apex court seeks answers from Govt, states on migrants

taken up day-after-tomorrow and we request the learned Solicitor General to assist the Court and by the next date of hearing bring in the notice of the Court all measures and steps taken by the Government of India and to be taken in this regard," the bench said.

Pointing out that "the crises of migrant labourers is even continuing today with large sections still stranded on roads. highways, railway stations and State borders," the judges said ment, food and shelters are immediately to be provided by the Centre and State Governments free of cost". The bench observed that

"adequate transport arrange-

"newspaper reports and the media reports have been continuously showing the unfortunate and miserable conditions of migrant labourers walking on foot and cycles from long distances".

The migrants "have also been complaining of not being

administration at places where they were stranded or in the way i.e. highways from which they proceeded on-foot, cycles or other modes of transport", the bench said.

provided food and water by the

It said "in the present situation of lockdown in the entire country, this section of the society needs succour and help by the concerned Governments... steps need to be taken by the Government of India, State Governments/Union Territories

in this difficult situation".

The bench said it "has also received several letters and representations from different sections of society, highlighting the problem of migrant labourers". The bench asked the SC Registry to serve a copy of the order to the Solicitor General as well as the States and UTs through their standing counsel "today itself so that appropriate responses be brought before the Court at the

quarantined for 14 days and

we are in the process of noti-

fying other passengers as per the government guidelines, to

ensure safety of our passen-

gers and staff," the airline said.

flights operated across the

country and on Tuesday till 5

pm, 325 departures were

On Monday, around 500

June-end. Indian Army will brainstorm on

current emerging security and administrative challenges and chart the future course for Indian Army," the Army said in a statement. Meanwhile, there has been no scaling down of tensions on the LAC in eastern Ladakh with India matching the Chinese with its deployment of man and material.

body. We have 250 ventilators in government hospitals and only

11 are used as of now. There are

72 ventilators in the private hos-

The conference was origi-

nally scheduled for April 13-18.

but was postponed due to the

pandemic. It will now be held in

two phases, the first phase from

May 27-29, and the second in

"The apex level leadership of

pitals and 15 are occupied.'

Military brass

brief PM on

Ladakh

Sources said the Army had increased its presence on the boundary with China in North Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, along with Ladakh. This was based on the understanding that India "would not be scaling down its deployment in face of aggressive military posturing"

by China, sources said. In Ladakh, at least six rounds of talks have been held between Indian and Chinese military commanders on the ground but have failed to achieve a breakthrough. Sources said the Chinese, who crossed the LAC at three places, have refused to move out of Indian territory or

In Galwan valley, the Chinese have massed troops on their side of the LAC.

de-escalate the tensions.

India's key "strategic asset" in the area is the 255-km Darbuk-Shvok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road which was completed last year. It provides access to Daulat Beg Oldie where the IAF re-activated an Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in 2008. Galwan valley is closest to the road from the LAC

### Passenger positive on arrival in Indigo TN flight

assistant in a Chennai-based bar hotel.

Monday marked the first day of domestic flights after a gap of two months following a countrywide lockdown announced on March 24. Prior to the resumption of domestic flight operations, a number of states had expressed caution at the prospect of sudden influx of people into their state bor-

hotspots, the sources said.

Thackeray is learnt to have

asked officials after the meeting

to decide on a phased exit strat-

egy from May 31 onwards, with

the aim to resume most eco-

In Delhi, BJP leaders said that

while Thackeray had failed to

contain the spread of the coron-

avirus disease, the central lead-

ership of the party did not want

to topple the government at this

to "mount pressure on the

Thackeray government, and let it

crumble on its own," at least four

leaders of the party told The

Indian Express. The BIP would in-

tensify its campaign for

President's Rule because the

Maha Vikas Aghadi government

had "utterly failed to contain the

coronavirus situation" and "to

manage the issue of exodus of

migrant labourers", these leaders

Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis

told reporters on Tuesday that

the BIP was not interested in

pulling down the government,

but it "will fall of its own burden".

has had several rounds of meet-

ings with the state leadership.

While party president J P Nadda

had a meeting with the BIP core

group of the state on Monday, an-

other meeting with core group

leaders and the national leaders

Sources said the national

took place on Tuesday.

The BJP's national leadership

Leader of Opposition in

Instead, the BJP would prefer

nomic activities by June 15.

ders as they aimed to contain the outbreak

"We received confirmation from the Coimbatore airport doctor that a passenger who travelled on 6E-381 from Chennai to Coimbatore on 25th May evening, has tested positive for Covid-19. He is currently guarantined at ESI state medical facility Coimbatore," IndiGo said in a

leadership wanted Fadnavis and

the party to attack on the entire

government instead of focussing

just on the chief minister. "The

national leadership wants the

state unit to keep the pressure on,

but does not want it to take the

blame of toppling it, which could

create sympathy for Thackeray.

Even if the government falls on

its own, the BJP may not stake

claim immediately. The party

prefers the state to be under cen-

tral rule which would be the best.

because the Covid situation has

gone out of control already," said

In Delhi, only 8

government hospitals autho-

rised to treat Covid patients in

the capital. The Indian Express

looked at data from seven pri-

vate hospitals -- Sir Ganga Ram's

Kolmet and City hospitals (15 of

20 ICU beds occupied),

Indraprastha Apollo (9 of 9), Max

Smart Super Speciality Saket (29

of 32), Fortis Shalimar Bagh (3 of

3), Batra (10 of 10) and Maha

Durga Charitable Trust (8 of 8).

Data from three other hospitals

-- Cygnus Orthocare, Saroj

Medical Institute and Khushi

hospital -- has not been made

To add to its bed strength, the

available by the government.

Delhi government recently

**Covid ICUs** 

vacant in pvt

hospitals

a party leader.

passenger was seated onboard the aircraft with all precautionary measures including face mark, face-shield and "Additionally, no one else

The statement said the

was seated in his vicinity, significantly reducing the possibility of transmission... The operating crew has been home

asked 117 nursing homes and

private hospitals to set aside 20%

of their existing strength for

ernment, there are 7,223 active

coronavirus cases in the city, of

whom 2.092 are availing treat-

ment in 13 Covid-designated

(seven private and six govern-

ment) hospitals while the rest

are either at Covid health cen-

tres, care centres or under home

isolation. Among those admit-

ted to hospitals, 185 are admit-

ted to the ICU and 27 are on ven-

tilator support. So far, 288 people

have succumbed to the disease.

pancy for ICU beds in private

hospitals, the crunch is less in

government hospitals at the

moment. In the Delhi govern-

ment-run Lok Nayak hospital,

which is also the biggest med-

ical facility with 2,000 beds for

Covid patients, there are 64 beds

in the ICU. Of them, 23 were oc-

cupied until Tuesday evening.

The hospital has 125 ventilators,

and the government is in the

process of adding more ma-

Lieutenant Governor on

Tuesday, Health Secretary

Padmini Singla informed that

there are 4,462 beds across the

capital's hospitals for Covid pa-

tients. The LG was further in-

formed that there are 429 ICU

beds, 343 ventilators and 2,632

oxygen supported beds available

in the Covid-designated hospi-

In a meeting with the

chines.

While there is a 90% occu-

According to the Delhi gov-

Covid patients.

recorded carrying 41,673 pas-

At the Jhajjar and Delhi trauma centre facilities of AIIMS, 555 patients are admitted -- 550 confirmed and five whose reports are awaited. "There are 17 patients in the ICU and most are on oxygen support. Not many patients require to be shifted to a ventilator. I believe around seven-eight patients are on ventilator support in the ICU," said Dr D K Sharma, medical superintendent of AIIMS. The hospital has 18 beds on the ground floor ICU of the trauma centre. "We can open another ICU with 60 beds if required," said Dr Sharma.

With a bed capacity of 190 for Covid suspected/positive patients, RML has 100 patients at the moment. "We have 14 ICU beds for Covid confirmed patients and 14 for suspected patients. All are full." said Dr Minakshi Bharadwaj, the medical superintendent.

To meet the demand in the coming days, the health department has also ordered 30,000 PPE kits (to add to the 50,000 in stock). 3.5 lakh N95 masks, 28 ventilators and 435 oxygen concentrators.

Addressing a virtual press conference on Monday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said: "Of the total 3.829 beds in government hospitals, 3,164 have oxygen support. We are focusing more on oxygen beds as severe patients have respiratory trouble and it is important to maintain oxygen levels in their

DIPLOMACY

**STARTS** 

New Delhi: India and China are learnt to have activated the "working mechanism" at the diplomatic level. Naveen Srivastava, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs, leads the Indian side while the Chinese side is led by Hong Liang, Director General, Department of **Boundary and Oceanic** Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

### 24.05.2020, PAGE 4

The Delhi Police, in a rejoinder sent through its PRO Mandeep S Randhawa, has referred to a news report published on May 24, titled 'NE Delhi riots: Lack of evidence, 20 get bail'.

Randhawa wrote: "The title of the news item is misleading, wherein the Express reporter has weaved a story by selecting 'few facts', that too in bits and pieces, which may appear comfortable to him and he has tried to build an impression that the accused persons arrested in rioting cases of NE Delhi have been released on bail due to shoddy investigation, which is completely misleading and mischievous...

Randhawa pointed out that "in only few cases the Courts have observed that the investigating officer has not been able to collect electronic evidences against the accused persons and that there are no public witnesses". "It must be at the outset emphasized that electronic evidences may not be available in all cases but that does not mean that the oral and other circumstantial evidences are absent in the investigation. Moreover, when the case is at the stage of investigation, no comments can be inferred on the merits of the case and it is only at the stage of trial that the evidence can be appreciated wholly." Randhawa wrote.

He also pointed out there are several other "primary reasons" for courts granting bail: To "decongest the Jail Complexes in view of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and further the guidelines issued by the High Powered Committee chaired by the Hon'ble Justice of the Delhi High Court to release the accused on interim bail where they are not involved in heinous cases": on "humanitarian grounds where the accused has prayed that he is the sole bread earner for his family"; and in light of the fact that it is an "extraordinary situation (and) there is no likelihood of early trial".

### The Indian Express replies

The report incorrectly stated that 20 people had been granted bail after the court noted that police were unable to show their active involvement. The specific observation was made in four of the 20 bail

The error is regretted.

### In Hyderabad, 328 cases, 18 deaths in a week; new areas in spotlight

**SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD MAY 26

WITH 328 new cases and 18 deaths in the last seven days, Covid-19 hotspots under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) are rising.

In the 67 days from March 2 to May 8, 1,133 cases were reported in Telangana. Of these, 626 were in GHMC areas. However, in the next 18 days (May 8-25), 597 cases were reported from GHMC areas while a total of 787 cases were reported in the state – including 158 cases of migrant workers

who returned to the state testing positive.

Similarly, there were 29 deaths reported in Telangana from March 2 to May 2. But 16 deaths were reported between May 21-25. Fresh cases are being re-

ported from areas of the city where none were reported previously, away from the existing containment zones, indicating a community spread after the lockdown rules were relaxed. Sources in GHMC said that the number of containment zones, which had come down to 56 on May 5, has increased to over 200 in the city now. A GHMC

on condition of anonymity that they suspected that community transmission was occurring at liquor outlets and vegetable markets in the city.

Till May 5, Covid cases in Hyderabad were mostly reported from south-eastern areas of the city such as Charminar, Amberpet, Saidabad, Asifnagar, and Bahadurpura.

However, after the lockdown rules were relaxed, and all shops and business establishments were given permission to open (except for those in containment zones), cases

northern and north-western parts of the city including Secunderabad, Khairatabad, Ameerpet and Nampally.

"The new cases are all related to those who violated lockdown conditions and got infected at vegetable markets and spread it to others. We are enforcing a very strict lockdown in containment zones so the cases are not due to people from those zones. The new cases are of people who got infected from others who earlier violated the lockdown restrictions," a health department official said.

### attempt near Gehlot's residence "The man, Chenaram Mali, a

Man consumes pesticide in suicide

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JAIPUR, MAY 26

AMAN attempted to commit suicide by consuming a poisonous substance near the residence of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in Jaipur's Civil Lines area on Tuesday morning.

According to the police, the condition of the man, identified as Chenaram Mali, who hails from Nagaur district, was stated to be stable after cops rushed him to the hospital. Mali also wrote a note, blaming police inaction in a case registered by him against men who allegedly assaulted him earlier this month for the reason behind him attempting suicide, said

New Delhi

pesticides. He is presently out of danger. In the note he has spoken about getting threats from some people. His claims will have to be investigated and more can be said after the probe," said ACP (I), aipur, Ashok Gupta. He added that shortly after Mali consumed pesticide, police-

resident of Nagaur district at-

tempted suicide by consuming

men who were nearby intercepted him and rushed him to the hospital. In the note purportedly written by Mali, he has said that he is a resident of Riya Badi in Nagaur district and on May 18, he was assaulted by some people and following it he registered a case in Padu Kalan police station of Nagaur district.

1,000 DISPLACED IN TUGHLAQABAD VILLAGE

in fire, CM offers aid

The DFS chief has said the fire escalated after LPG cylinders

burst. Tashi Tobgyal

SHIVAM PATEL&

**SOMYA LAKHANI** 

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

OVER 250 shanties were gutted

and a thousand people displaced

after a fire broke out in

Tughlaqabad village at 12.30 am

on Tuesday. While no casualty

has been reported, a seven-year-

old girl received 30 per cent burn

injuries and is undergoing treat-

Kejriwal tweeted that "due to the

fire in the shanties in

Tughlaqabad, there has been

considerable loss. Delhi govern-

ment will pay each affected fam-

sional officer SKDua said the fire

escalated from 'small' to

'medium' category at 1.25 am and was brought under control by

3.40 am. "At least 32 fire tenders

and 130 firefighters were at the

spot. After the fire was doused, we

began cooling operations, which

the time the fire tenders reached,

the residents had already left the

shanties. He said the fire esca-

DFS chief Atul Garg said by

went on till 8 am," said Dua.

Delhi Fire Services (DFS) divi-

ily Rs 25,000."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

ment at Safdarjung Hospital.

250 shanties gutted

# THE ()UTBREAK THE CITY

HAVE ENSURED MINIMUM DISCOMFORT TO THOSE LEAVING, SAYS DEPUTY CM

# 2.71 lakh migrants have left capital on 214 Shramik trains since May 7: Sisodia

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

IN LESS than three weeks, around 2.71 lakh migrant workers and their family members have left the national capital on 214 Shramik special trains, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said Tuesday, advising people not to leave for their villages and towns on foot.

Sisodia said the Delhi government treats everyone residing in Delhi as its own, and that during the lockdown, the government worked to ensure minimum distress to migrants, among the most vulnerable sections of the population.

Addressing a webcast, Sisodia said that between May 7 and May 25, 2.41 lakh migrants identified by him as "Delhi's own people" — have gone to their villages and towns on board 196 special trains, provided by the Indian Railways in consultation with states and Union Territories. On Tuesday, 18 more trains will leave with 30,000 people on board, he said.

Giving a breakup, he said that 1,25,717 people were destined for Bihar, 96,610 for Uttar Pradesh, around 3,800 for West

**Constables** 

'hit' women,

transferred

New Delhi: Delhi Police has

transferred two constables

of the Northeast district to

police lines after a pur-

ported video of them hit-

ting two women with

lathis emerged online. DCP

(Northeast) Ved Prakash

Surya said the incident

took place around 8.45-9

pm on Monday, in Shastri

Park. In the video, a consta-

ble is seen hitting the

women for allegedly "rais-

ing an unauthorised

ihuggi" even as other per-

sonnel try to hold him

back. DCP Surya said the

personnel had asked them

to stop, but some men and

women started abusing them. Surva claimed the

women "started manhan-

dling" the constable. They tore his uniform and beat

him, he said. The DCP said

the beat officers asked for

help from the local police station too. Joint CP (east-

ern range) Alok Kumar

said an inquiry is being

33 new cases

New Delhi: Thirty-three

more people tested posi-

tive for coronavirus in

Gurgaon on Tuesday,

causing the number of

cases in the district to

cross 300. "Among the 33

who have tested positive

today are 12 police per-

sonnel," said a spokesper-

son of the Gurgaon dis-

trict administration. In

Faridabad also, 23 more

people tested positive,

taking total count of cases

to 234. The district also

recorded one more death

New Delhi: On Tuesday

morning, a fire broke out at

a shoe manufacturing fac-

tory in Keshavpuram,

which took eight hours to

be brought under control.

DFS chief Atul Garg said the

factory was shut, and no

one was working. He said,

"The raw material lying

there was mostly rubber,

and when that catches fire,

it takes several hours to

douse the flames. At least

23 fire tenders and around

100 fire-fighters were de-

ployed." No casualty was

reported. ENS

Fire at shoe

on Tuesday.

factory

in Gurgaon

conducted.

**BRIEFLY** —



Passengers waiting to board trains at the Old Delhi railway station last week. Express

Bengal, over 3,000 for Jharkhand, around 2,100 for Madhya Pradesh and 400-500 each for other states.

"The Delhi government is monitoring every aspect. We tried to ensure that migrant workers have to face minimum inconvenience. But since many

we proactively accepted the proposal of the Centre on sending back migrants on special trains,'

The Deputy CM said the government has been providing cooked meals for lunch and dinner to around 10 lakh people, "which may have come down a among them wanted to return, little", on a daily basis, apart from

dry ration for both PDS and non-PDS beneficiaries.

While drawing up the list of those eligible to be sent back, the district authorities are checking body temperature and only those found asymptomatic are being enlisted for the trains. For their onward journey, the migrants and their families are be-

**HEADED TO** 

State	Numbers
Bihar	1,25,717
Uttar Pradesh	96,610
West Bengal	3,800
Jharkhand	3,000
Madhya Prade	esh 2,100
Around 400-50 for other states	00 each left

ing given bananas, cakes and bottles of water.

'We are not giving cooked meals as the heat might spoil them. In most cases, the Delhi government is making the payments wherever there are signs of discomfort from the end of the receiving states. No migrants are having to pay while leaving

New Delhi: Of the 20 inmates and

staffers of Rohini Jail who had

tested positive for Covid-19,

eleven have now tested negative

for the virus. Delhi Prisons (DG)

Sandeep Goel said that head

warden of the Rohini Jail who

had tested positive on May 15

"Once a person applies through our portal, their turn will surely come. There is no need to set out on foot," he added.

To be considered for boarding these trains, migrant workers have to fill up a registration form, entering details including their name, address, government ID number, name of destination state, district and nearest railway stations, among others.

Considering not all workers can be expected to access the online forms, the District Magistrates and Delhi Police officials have also been tasked with creating a database of such people in their respective areas of jurisdiction. On Saturday, one such offline registration drive was launched at Shahpur Jat, where thousands of migrant workers from West Bengal are stuck.

But the exodus of migrants remains a matter of concern for the Delhi government, keeping in mind that the city's service sector as well as manufacturing units are heavily dependent on workforce from other states.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has already appealed to the workers to stay back, assuring them of income once commercial activities resume.

11 recover at Rohini jail ity in Haryana's Sonepat tested negative for the virus on May 22.

> ter resting at home for a week." The first case of Covid-19 from Rohini Jail was reported May 13 when a 28-year-old inmate tested positive at DDU hospital where he underwent a surgery. ENS

Goel said, "He will join duty af-

On Tuesday afternoon, charred remains of bicycles, burned pulses strewn on the ground, broken glass bottles and toys and teacups were among the few things that remained

things that could be recovered. The homes mainly belonged to families engaged in ragpicking or dealing in scrap. Many families were sleeping at the time the fire started and had little time to save their belongings.

even as residents searched for

Parvati Mandal, who works as a house-help in Tughlaqabad, had kept Rs 10,000 cash under the mattress of a cot at her home: "That was all the money I had. I have Rs 300 in my bank, and the ATM card has also burned along with all my identity cards. My employers have not paid me since March, and have stopped taking my calls. I don't know what to do.'

Relief operations began by noon. A tent was being set up close to the site for them to sleep in.

DM(Southeast)Harleen Kaur

said, "We are making arrangements for food, water and shelter for the displaced persons. The reason behind the fire is being investigated. We are in touch with the fire department on this."

### Delhi govt vs DU on 'delay in forming governing bodies'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

AMID THE ongoing tussle between the Delhi government and Delhi University over the formation of Governing Bodies (GB) in the Delhi governmentfunded colleges, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Tuesday shot off a strongly worded letter to the DU Vice-Chancellor, accusing university officials of "conspiring to protect perpetrators of corruption".

"The process of reconstitution of GBs of 28 colleges funded (fully or partially) by the Government of NCT of Delhi has become an endless saga of delays and obstructionism by DU. The terms of ordinate delays and obstructions

the GBs expired in March 2019 and all have still not been reconstituted," Sisodia wrote. He provided a timeline of

events starting March last year when the term of the GBs expired. Sisodia said the "inordinate delay" of the GBs "cannot merely be an act of omission".

"It now seems like a deliberate attempt to ensure that proper oversight mechanism is not put in place. I repeatedly keep receiving complaints regarding corruption and malpractices in these 28 colleges. And now it seems that the highest functionaries in DU seem to be conspiring to protect the perpetrators of corruption. There can be no other reason why such inhave been caused in the formation of these GBs and in forwarding the six names sent by Government of NCT of Delhi on March 20, immediately to the concerned colleges." he wrote. "Not only is the absence of a

Governing Body against the statutes of the DU, but the complete lack of administrative oversight has led to academic and administrative deterioration of these colleges. And it is the V-C and the Executive Council who will be held responsible... as you have held up the formation of GBs," he added.

V-C Yogesh Tyagi and Prof Suman Kundu, officiating as the Registrar and Dean of Colleges, did not respond to calls and texts for a

### Delhi records hottest May day in 18 yrs at 46°C

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

AT 46 degrees Celsius, the city on Tuesday recorded its highest temperature in the month of May in 18 years, data from the India Meteorological Department shows.

The maximum temperature at the IMD's Safdarjung observatory, considered to be representative of the city, was six degrees above normal and was recorded as 46 degrees Celsius. The last time the temperature reached this markwas on May 19,2002. As per the IMD, the all-time highest temperature to have been recorded in this month was 47.2 degrees Celsius on May 29, 1944. Other parts of the city

recorded even higher temperatures, including Southwest Delhi's Palam, which witnessed a 'severe heatwave' with the mercury soaring up to 47.6 degrees Celsius, and South Delhi's Aya Nagar, where it was 46.8 degrees.

In Palam, the last time the temperature reached the 47.6 degrees mark in this month was 10 years ago on May 18, 2010.

Since May 22, the maximum temperature recorded in the city has remained above 42 degrees Celsius. Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre in Delhi, said there were multiple factors that have been causing the temperatures to soar.

"At present we are seeing strong and dry northwesterly winds blowing over Delhi-NCR for the past few days, from the

### LAST 5 YEARS IN MAY

May 31, 2019	44.7°C
May 27, 2018	45°C
May 16, 2017	44.4°C
May 3, 2016	44°C
May 26, 2015	45.5°C

■All time highest temperature recorded in May May 29, 1944 47.2°C

direction of Rajasthan, which faces dry weather at this time of the year. We also do not have a cloud cover, because of which the rays of the sun are vertically affecting the surface," he said.

The city has also received considerably less rainfall this month compared to the previous four Mays since 2016. Delhi has recorded 3.2mm rainfall so far this month, whereas in May 2019 it had recorded a total rainfall of 26.9mm.

However, the IMD has forecast that a Western Disturbance would affect Delhi-NCR by May 29, resulting in a thunderstorm or dust storm, and that the temperature is expected to go down to 34 degrees Celsius on May 30.

For the second day running, Delhi's peak power demand went beyond last years' for the corresponding days of May 24 and 25. On May 25, 2020, Delhi's peak demand was at 5385 MW, the season's highest. Last year on May 25 it was 5107 MW.

### Two Jamia students sent to judicial

**ANAND MOHAN J** 

ordination committee media coordinator Safoora Zargar and Jamia student Meeran Haider to one-month judicial custody.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana passed the served to be allowed".

The court said that "no injustice can be claimed merely because, due to the prevailing unthe duty magistrate has extended the remand under the administrative directions".

"Unprecedented situations required unprecedented solutions. Judicial notice can be taken of the fact that during the lockdown period, because of the pandemic Covid-19, the functioning of courts was suspended and there was a ban on any movement in the country. The inmates were also not produced in the courts, and as an emergency measure, a duty magistrate was present in Tihar Jail to dispose of the remand work. In such circumstances, the investigating agency has no other option but to seek extension of JC remand by the Ld Magistrate," the order read.

The two were arrested by

custody

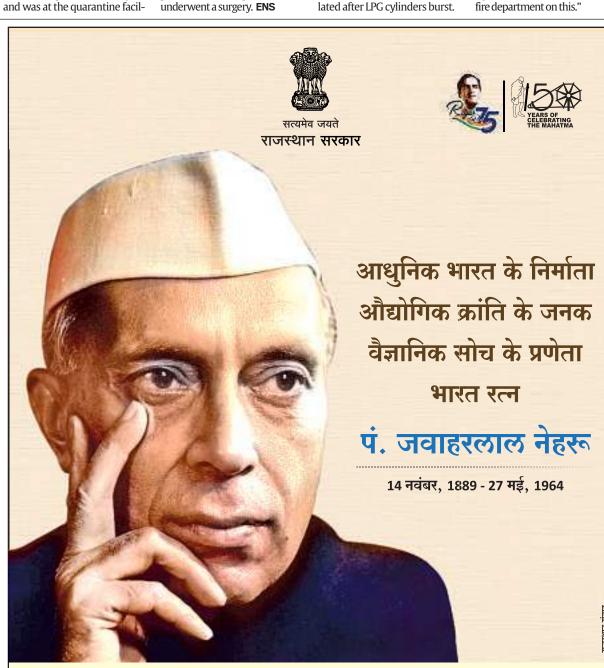
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

A DELHI court has sent Jamia co-

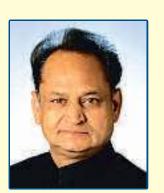
order stating that without commenting on the legality or illegality of the extension of JC remand by the Duty Magistrate, he was of the opinion that "application of the IO (investigating officer) for extension of JC de-

precedented health emergency,

Delhi Police last month. The UAPA was invoked against them.



''भारत के सुदृढ़ लोकतंत्र के शिल्पकार, सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थानों के निर्माता, सामाजिक न्याय व समानता के पुरोधा, देश के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू का नाम इतिहास के पन्नों पर स्वर्णिम अक्षरों में अंकित है। उनकी पुण्यतिथि पर शत्-शत् नमन। हम उनके सपनों और आदर्शों को साकार करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।''



अशोक गहलोत मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, राजस्थान

An initiative by R E D





# The Road to Wellbeing ORGANIC FOO



## 'Straight from the farm to your doorstep'

Speaking on the myriad benefits of consuming organic over conventional produce, **Digvijay Singh Kushwaha**, CEO & Founder, Digi's Fresh, in conversation with **Abhishek Pathak** from The Indian Express, says "organic products are safe as they're free from pesticides, tastemakers, growth promoters, artificial sweetening, antibiotics and polishing. Since there are no synthetic material added to increase their shelf life, organic products available in the market are farm fresh. Depending on the product, organic produce has 20-65% more antioxidants compared to conventional produce. Similarly, organically raised poultry and meat products are also much healthier and safer to consume"

#### Is organic food healthier than conventional produce?

Throughout their lifespan, conventional products come in contact with multiple artificial agents during different stages of processing. This involves pesticides, artificial sweetening, polishing to keep them shiny, and growth promoters to increase the size at a faster rate. These added artificial agents react in the human body at different

Moreover, if we talk about the meat industry, India, as of today, does not have an official body to certify meat as organic. The closest we get to it is farm fresh, antibioticfree, residue-free meat which, in place of a certification, is supported by lab test reports. The conventional meat we get in the market is packed with antibiotics, growth hormones etc., which help the companies get the produce ready in a shorter time-

These artificial agents that are added in the conventional processes react in the human body in different ways. These are especially harmful for children and can lead to formation of deformities.

#### What are the benefits of eating organic food?

In terms of fruits and vegetables, apart from the added pesticides, tastemakers, growth promoters, polish etc., there is a major difference in the amount of antioxidants present in organic food and conventional food. Depending on the product, organic produce has 20-65% more antioxidants when compared with conventional produce. Moreover, organic foods are ensured to be fresher than conventional foods. Since there are no synthetic materials added to increase their shelf life, organic products available in the market are farm fresh.

In terms of poultry and meats, organically raised animals are not given antibiotics, growth hormones, or fed animal byproducts. Feeding livestock animal by-products increases the risk of Mad cow disease, and the use of antibiotics can create antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. Organically raised animals are given more space to move around and access to the outdoors, which keeps them healthy. Further, organic meat is richer in certain nutrients. Results from a 2016 European study show that levels of certain nutrients, including omega-3 fatty acids, were up to 50% higher in organic meat and milk than in conventionally raised versions. Organic food is GMO-free — genetically modified organisms or genetically engineered foods are foods that are produced from organisms whose DNA has been altered in ways that cannot occur in nature or in traditional crossbreeding, most commonly in order to be resistant to pesticides or produce an insecticide.

### What are the five fruits that you would recommend to boost immu-

In fruits, you can have blueberries, avocados, kiwi, passion fruit, oranges and apples to boost your immunity. All these fruits are packed with nutrients like immune systemboosting Vitamin C, fibre, Vitamin A, iron, potassium etc. Blueberries are loaded with antioxidants that keep you healthy, along with natural antihistamines that help in reducing inflammation and minimise symptoms of runny or stuffy nose. Apples are good source of phytonutrients, including quercetin — a flavonoid that helps boost your immune system and reduce inflammation. Kale and celery are also good options to power up your health.

What regulations are in place to en-





**CURRENTLY, WE ARE CATERING TO CONSUMERS IN NEW DELHI, GURUGRAM** AND NOIDA, AND WITH THE OVERWHELMING **RESPONSE WE'VE RECEIVED SO FAR, WE ARE EXPECTED TO COVER ALL OF NCR IN NO TIME** 

### sure what I buy is really organic?

In India, there are multiple bodies that provide organic certifications to producers as well as traders. These private/government bodies provide all their signees with a database where the organic producers have to upload their produced organic stock. Afterwards, the traders place their purchase order with these certified organic producers. They have to register their purchase on this database and pay a certain fee for the use of the organic certification on top of the price paid for the product. This makes the system of organic food channels quite transparent. Moreover, companies/personnel listing with these bodies go through stringent background checks and multiple rounds of audit before

they are eligible to apply for such certifications. Once you are registered with these bodies, there are surprise audits throughout the year. For organic producers, it is a process of 3 years after which they are officially certified organic.

#### Why does organic produce cost more than conventional produce?

In terms of organic vegetables and fruits, the process to apply for a certification requires the farmer to get fresh decontaminated soil, for which a structure is created in the ground to stop mixing/contamination of the soil and then the farmer has to get the soil tested (lab tests are expensive). Thereafter, they need to put up Poly Houses on the cultivable land (also expensive) and arm those Poly Houses with automated irrigation systems and temperature-controlled systems. After this is done, the farm goes through 3 stages of organic certification throughout the first 3 years to finally be recognised as organically certified.

Moreover, since there is no use of pesticides or growth promoters, the time taken for the crop to be fully mature is longer, and the yield on an average is at least 20% lesser than the conventional one.

Unlike conventional farms where the birds are kept in less than 1 sq.ft. cages and loaded with growth hormone to shorten their growth period to a mere 30-35 days and fed antibiotics to decrease the mortality rate, in order to get a better yield, the "organic farmers" need to invest in bigger

The added capital requirement, the added risk of return and the longer growth period add substantially to the cost of the organic products. Therefore, organic produce is a risky as well as an expensive affair for the farmer.

#### What makes Digi's Fresh different from other online players in the same category?

We work with a network of grassroot farmers forming one single platform for all organic, exotic, farm fresh, imported, premium products. We get all our products straight from the farms delivered to your doorstep. Along with the superior quality of products, we also use chemical-free sanitisation methods that make all our produce ready to use/consume.

This clubbed with our unique and biodegradable, eco-friendly packaging and our personalised delivery fleet make for an excellent customer experience. Further, we as a brand believe in sustainable development and efficient waste management, leading to a complete and successful system. All our packaging is either food-grade plastic which is a necessity for our vacuum packs or bio-degradable packaging.

As for our waste management, we have tie-ups with multiple dog shelters throughout Delhi where we donate all our excess non-vegetarian items left after processing. Moreover, we have tie-ups with cow shelters where we donate all our excess vegetables and fruits left after processing and packaging (no expired or spoilt items are sent to these places).

#### Finally, please share your company's success journey with us.

In the beginning, my father started out as a poultry farmer and with the relentless support of my mother, they turned the farms into an exotic poultry business on a pan-India level. From the maternal side of the family, my grandfather had one of his bigger business ventures that dealt with wide supplies of vegetables on a pan-India level. Hence, I developed a business acumen for it while growing up and observing the world of business closely.

I would like to share with you what really inspired me to finally take this up as a career. Throughout senior school, I was struggling with obesity and kept wondering how to overcome it. When I went to Bangalore for further studies, I started exploring healthier options as a substitute for my poor-eating habits and tried to adapt to a healthier diet on a regular basis. Sure, it was difficult to adjust to a whole new pattern, but I was determined and consistent in my approach. That was when I noticed a prominent gap — a lot of the healthier food I wanted was not readily available in the market and had to be purchased from various locations. However, this was not just restricted to the Bangalore market as after finishing my studies, I came back to Delhi to experience a similar problem.

That was when I saw it as an opportunity to use my existing knowledge and experience, and club it together with the networks and business expertise I had acquired over the years, to capitalise on this situation and fill this void in the market.

We began our business operations on December 1, 2018, and our success graph has been steadily growing ever since. Our predominant pillars are quality and customer satisfaction since all the products are delivered straight from the farm. In the beginning, we catered only in New Delhi. As of today, we are catering to consumers in Gurugram and Noida as well, and with the overwhelming response we've received so far, we are expected to cover all of NCR in





chunks of land for the birds to have space of at least 3-4 sq.ft. per bird (when they are inside the pen). Furthermore, these birds need to be out in the open for at least 6 hours a day to be healthier. Moreover, without the use of antibiotics it is really difficult for the farmers to deal with diseases with nothing but natural home remedies which, in turn, renders a slightly higher mortality rate among birds compared with those of conventional produce. Also, since there is no use of growth hormones the birds take on an average of 45-60 days to be fully prepped. Hence, the quality of birds grown organically have multiple benefits, including being antibiotic free, no GMO, residue free,

farm fresh and free-range meat.

**Digi's Fresh** | Customer care no. 9599939319 | Website: www.digisfresh.com | Email- Info@digisfresh.com

# ORGANIC FOO An initiative by RED

# An 'organic' shift

Although expensive compared to conventional produce, organic food is definitely the way forward when it comes to boosting immunity and preventing a health scare

#### ABHISHEK PATHAK

IME AND again, whenever we are faced with food or health scare, people look at disease prevention and improving nutrition by adopting a healthier dietary regimen. Organic food are grown and farmed without the use of artificial chemicals, hormones, antibiotics or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). For a food to be certified organic, it should be free from artificial food additives, including artificial sweeteners, preservatives, colouring, flavouring and monosodium glutamate (MSG).

Since the advent of COVID-19, people have become more future facing towards their health and the environment, and the organic food market rightly captures that thought by focussing on farming techniques that work with nature rather than that goes against it. Not just fruits and vegetables, but even organically raised animals are not given any kind of growth hormones, antibiotics etc, making them very safe for human consumption. Organically grown food products are much more nutritious, having higher levels of antioxidants and certain micronutrients, such as vitamin C, zinc

Several observational studies have found that higher antioxidant content in organic foods help protect cell damage. They are preservative-free and hence last longer than conventional produce. Organic farming reduces risks to environment. Organic produce is also pesticides-free thus being a healthier and safer alternative to conventional



Organic isn't just about growing and rearing food without agrochemicals. It's about respecting the environment, including the people, animals, and plants that live in that environment. It's about honesty. And justice."

-AYESHA GREWAL FOUNDER, THE ALTITUDE STORE

Speaking about the growth of this market, it is interesting to note that within a relatively few years the organic food industry has seen a booming business, with every major retailer feeling the push to have organic offerings for consumers. The industry is a consumerdriven market and it has clearly captured the imagination of people, with its wholesome benefits and freshness quotient over conventional produce. Organic food concept doesn't fit in well with many major food companies as the vision of these companies is generally price over quality. In the past few years, there has been a growing concern among millennials regarding dietary habits, including consumption behaviour. This has shifted the focus of today's young generation towards eating right and staying healthy.

For these reasons, the swing of awareness has already tilted towards consuming organic food. This is precisely the time that the farming community should look to adopt or shift to organic farming, as people continue to

It is a very good initiative. Covid-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for the whole of humanity to eat well & build immunity. I compliment Indian Express for coming out with this feature & impressing upon the importance of healthy eating."

-SUNIL PANWAR DIRECTOR, FAIR DAIRY PVT LIMITED

find ways to boost their immune system, to escape the ravages of COVID-19. Overall, organic food embodies principles of fairness and trust while addressing issues of environmental pollution, economic development and healthy lifestyle.





Sunil Panwar, Director Fair Dairy Private Limited

A healthy lifestyle makes all bodily functions work better and builds higher immunity. Our traditional foods which include grains, dairy products, a combination of herbs & spices, seasonal fruits & vegetables are key components of a healthy lifestyle and play a vital role in supporting a well-functioning and effective immune system and protects us against infections and various diseases.





### Day 2 of IGI flight ops: More arrivals, fewer cancellations

**ARANYA SHANKAR** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE SECOND day of domestic flight operations restarting at Terminal 3 of the IGI Airport saw 137 departures and 140 arrivals through the day. Compared to Monday when 82 flights were cancelled, Tuesday saw just 25 flights being cancelled. Unlike day one, more passengers were seen near the arrival gate than at the departure area. Most said they were either going home or returning home to Delhi.

Yash C (24) had taken a flight from Mumbai to Delhi on Tuesday morning and was waiting to board another one to Amritsar, his hometown, "I work in advertising in Mumbai. I was there through the lockdown but it was getting a little hectic to manage working from home and doing household chores. So. I decided to return home and stay with my parents," he said, lauding the safety precautions taken in flight.

Ashish Tiwari (48) also turned up hours in advance at the airport to board his night flight to Lucknow. "I work in Delhi for a multi-national company so I got stuck here when the lockdown was announced. But it has been too long and I want to go back



At Indira Gandhi International Airport, Tuesday. Gajendra Yadav

home to my family. I came early expecting delays and chaos but it all seems smooth here," he said.

There were also those who had got stuck in other cities. Gopal Singh (66) arrived Tuesday with his wife, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. "My son passed away late last year due to a heart attack. We had gone to Surat to bring back my grandchildren and daughter-in-law when the lockdown was announced. Now, we have brought them to Gurgaon where we stay." he said.

Rajinder Kaur (60) took a flight to Delhi as her son and daughter insisted: "They stay and work here. They insisted I come here now if I have the chance, so I took the flight. My husband had reached by road a few days ago for his kidney treatment. I was worried but it all seems to have gone smoothly," she said.

In fact, several were travelling for medical reasons. Dr Deepali Khandelwal (45) arrived with her husband and nephew. "My husband has had jaundice for the last 6-8 weeks. We have an appointment tomorrow at ILBS because he needs urgent attention. It's an emergency situation so we had to take the risk." she said.

Some people also said they were travelling for work. Vatsala Singh (26), a lawyer for the Indian SEVEN HOURS AFTER BIRTH

# Infant dies between hospitals, Gautam **Budh Nagar admin launches probe**

**AMIL BHATNAGAR** NOIDA, MAY 26

THE GAUTAM Budh Nagar administration has initiated an inquiry after a baby died seven hours after he was born, with his father alleging he had to rush from one hospital to another for treatment.

"It has been observed that Krishna Life Line Hospital did not provide the infant with ambulance services, and no medical official accompanied the infant while being transferred. Further, the hospital did not provide the

ferral slip. Due to lack of referral, the infant was taken to a CHC in Dadri, where there was no child specialist, Eventually, the infant was declared brought dead at the Sector 30 Super Speciality Hospital," said Dr Deepak Ohri CMO, Gautam Budh Nagar.

According to medical authorities, the child was born around 9.30 pm on Monday at Krishna Hospital and his family was allegedly asked to shift him half an hour later. Officials said the inquiry will reveal why the family was asked to take the baby away. Officials said the child was

where he was kept for two hours on a ventilator before the family was again told to shift him to another hospital, said officials. At 4.30 am, the baby was declared dead on arrival in Sector 30 District Hospital. A notice has been sent to the

Hospital in Greater Noida,

sary, said Dr Ohri, CMO, in the order. Both hospitals did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

Greater Noida hospital as well

and action will be taken if neces-

The father, Raj Kumar, alleged he pleaded with doctors at the health. "When my child was born in Krishna, doctors told us his heart is the only functioning organ and that he needs to be taken somewhere else. I immediately took my wife home and rushed to Green City. I kept pleading with them to tell me if my baby will live or not. The doctors told me they didn't want to take any risk since the survival chances of my child were less

After being kept on ventilator for two hours, Kumar claims he was told his son's heart was functioning at 65% capacity. Standing

than 1%," claimed Kumar.

Saad told of Covid threat,

said he called an ambulance which he alleged took two hours to arrive. When he took the infant to a CHC in Dadri, he was allegedly told there was no ventilator. The baby's condition began worsening and he suffered heart failure en route to the Sector 30 hospital.

"I keep hearing of the governments emphasising on ventilators and yet there was none for my baby. Even after he died, the ambulance told us they could not ferry us to Greater Noida. So I stood on the road with my dead child, waiting for my brother to pick me up," he alleged.

### attack by man in Greater Noida Noida: A 32-year-old woman of claimed: "I was walking in the so-

Chinese origin living in ATS Paradiso, Greater Noida, alleged she was attacked by a fellow resident when she gave water to a stray dog Monday morning. Police said the man, Amarpal Singh, was taken into preventive custody.

ciety when a stray dog started following me. I gave it some water. Suddenly, it tried to attack another man's pet dog, I asked the guard for help. I started walking away, when the man started hitting me

# Chinese-origin woman alleges

- ASHNA BUTANI

### 'Poor internet, no study material': Survey finds DU open-book exam is not feasible for many

**SUKRITA BARUAH** 

A SURVEY of over 50,000 Delhi University students, conducted by the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), has found that 85% respondents do not feel that they are in a position to appear for online Open Book Examinations (OBE) as proposed

by the university. The university has been closed since mid-March, and earlier this month, the administration announced its proposal to conduct OBEs for its final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students in July. This was met with resistance from some teachers and students, who have argued that it is not a feasible or inclusive decision for the diverse student body – many of whom are from SC, ST, OBC and economically weaker backgrounds, and are from different parts of the country.

the preparedness for such examinations to which 51,453 stu-

DUTA conducted a survey on

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसिमशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-

<u>निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना</u> अनुभवी फर्मों/ ठेकेदार/

dents had responded, of which around 92% were undergraduate students. Approximately 50% of the respondents were also those whose homes are not in Delhi. While colleges and depart-

ments are supposed to be conducting online learning for its students, this teaching-learning exercise has been highly uneven, as has been reported by *The Indian Express* earlier. This problem is particularly

stark for students from Jammu and Kashmir, whose access to the internet has been interrupted for the last 10 months. Sagib Yetoo, a final-year student of St Stephen's College from Kulgam district, said: "We only have 2G connectivity... which is not constant. I have logged in for about 30% of the online classes, but that was to just put in my attendance because it would buffer every few seconds and I couldn't understand what was being said. PDF files of just 2-3 MB take at least half an hour to download. It has been so difficult that I submitted even my internal assignment



The university has been shut since mid-March. Archive

one-and-a-half months late. To now expect us to write exams in this manner is absurd."

Even the dissemination of study material seems to be uneven, with 11.9% respondents saying they have not received study material during the lockdown, and 38.1% saying they are not being able to access the study material sent by their teachers. The reasons for these seem to vary, with 10.9% respondents saying they have 2G internet connection, and 6.7% saying that they have no internet connection.

Less than half the respondents have a 4G connection. Additionally, only 15.5% respondents said they have laptops, with 74.1% relying only on smartphones, which are not conducive to studying academic material. A final-year history student

at Shivaji College, who studies in the Hindi medium, pointed out the language divide in the distribution of online study material. "In our class of 36 students, around 22 are Hindi-medium students. For each topic, we need three-four readings. Earlier, even if our teachers didn't provide us Hindi material, we could go to the library and find some relevant books. Now, all study material sent by teachers is in English. In the university's virtual learning platform, 80% of the material is in English. We are just being left far behind in this," he said.

Mayank, a history student of Dyal Singh College,

27.06.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, **ई-पोर्टल पर** 

does not own a laptop and finds his capacity to study stunted by the lack of a proper reading device. "Studying long articles and books on my phone is very difficult and it gives me a headache. But I can't access physical copies of study material as libraries are closed and academic books are too expensive to order online." he said.

 $At the time the lockdown \, was \,$ declared, many students had returned home for the varsity's week-long mid-semester Holi break and had not carried their study material with them something all students The Indian Express spoke to referred to.

As many as 55.4% respondents said they do not have their reading material and class notes from before the lockdown with them and cannot access them. In a letter to the Heads of

Department, Dean Exams Vinay Gupta had stated that under the "Open-Book" mode of examination, students can refer to study material to answer questions. They would download question papers for their respective course from home, and be required to upload answers within two hours.

### paid no heed: Police to HC **ANAND MOHAN J** NEW DELHI MAY 26 THE DELHI Police, in a status re-

port filed in the Delhi High Court, submitted that Maulana Saad and the Markaz management were verbally informed about the hazard posed by Covid-19 on several occasions, yet "they deliberately, willfully, negligently and malignantly disobeved the lawful directions promulgated in this regard".

The status report was sent by DCP (Crime HQ) Joy Tirkey, who informed the HC that no one has been arrested or detained in this case. Over 900 Tablighi Jamaat attendees have joined the probe and passports of 723 foreign nationals and 23 Nepalese nationals have been taken into possession by police, the court was told. Citing that on April 2, the MHA

blacklisted 960 foreigners present in India on tourist visas for their involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities, the Delhi Police submitted: "That participation in Tablighi Jamaat by these foreign nationals who had entered India on tourist visa was in violation of the provisions of the Visa Manual 2019 and as such the act made them liable to be prosecuted under section 14 of The Foreigners Act. 1946."

The status report claimed that on March 21, Markaz authorities were contacted by Delhi Police. The police said one Mufti Shahzad was apprised about Covid-19 and was asked to send foreigners back to their respective countries and Indians to their native places. "However, no one paid any heed to the lawful directions of Delhi Police. Moreover, Saad and Markaz Management. general public at large".



by Maulana Mohd Saad, head of the Tablighi Jamaat, was found in circulation on WhatsApp on 21.03.2020, in which the speaker was heard asking his followers to defy the lockdown and social distancing and to attend the religious gathering of the Markaz," the report read.

an audio recording purportedly

Police told the court that in iew of the lockdown on March 24, prohibitory orders were issued by ACP Lajpat Nagar restricting social/political/religious gathering in the area. A meeting by an SHO took place on March 24 attended by Maulana Saad and the Markaz management, it said.

"However, Maulana Mohd Saad and the Markaz Management did not inform any Health Department or other Government Agency about the huge gathering inside the Markaz. They deliberately, willfully, negligently and malignantly disobeyed lawful directions promulgated in this regard. Written notices were also issued to Maulana Mohd However, they refused to pay any heed." the report read.

The report stated around 1.300 devotees from various states and foreign countries were found in the premises "without maintaining any social distance". "No one was seen following

the directions such as use of facial mask, hand sanitisers, etc. Maulana Mohd Saad, others named above and the management of Markaz had deliberately, willfully, negligently and malignantly committed acts which were in direct contravention to lawful directions of the government and public servants," the re-

The report stated that Saad and others had "allowed a huge gathering to assemble inside a closed premises, over a protracted period of time, without any semblance of social distancing or provision of masks and sanitisers, and thereby caused a situation where a highly infectious disease... may spread and threaten the lives of inmates and

#### कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल मेरठ के अंतर्गत निम्न कार्यों हेतु मोहर बंद ई-निविदाएं ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती है। भाग-1 में ई-निविदाओं के प्रपत्र निर्धारित शुल्क आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी. एवं निर्धारित धरोहर राशि आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई. एफ.टी./ बैंक गारन्टी (अलग-अलग) के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मेरठ के पक्ष में State Bank of India, Cantt Branch, Meerut Account No. 11047201099, IFSC Code SBIN0000680 में जमा करायी जायेंगी। बैंक जमा की साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यू.टी.आर. संख्या, पे-इन स्लिप मुल की प्रति निविदा के प्रथम भाग के साथ संलग्न किये जाये। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग (यू.टी.आर. संख्या, पे-इन स्लिप प्रति, निविदा प्रपत्र, पैन कार्ड, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न, जी.एस.टी. प्रपत्र की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव आदि) ई-पोर्टल पर स्कैन्ड प्रतियाँ (PDF format) तथा ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग (प्राइजबिड) में दरे एवं वाणिज्यक नियम व शर्ते ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर निम्नलिखित तालिका के अनुसार अपलोड की जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य व्यवसायिक प्रपत्र हार्ड कॉपी में अथवा व्यक्तिगत संवाहक के माध्यम से इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त नहीं किये जायेंगे। ई-निविदा भाग द्वितीय (प्राइजबिड) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदोनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जाएगी। ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग, तालिका में अंकित दिनांक एवं समय अनुसार सार्वजनिक रूप से खोला जायेगा। ई-निवदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक स्वीकार की जाएगी एवं निर्धारित समय पर खोली जाएगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताए ई-निविदा/ ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/ विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/ ई-निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त ई-निविदाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जाएंगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के संबंध में

www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन

करें। निविदाओं का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-

क्रम सं.- 1, निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का

विवरण टी- 37/20-21 ( अल्पकालिक ):-

विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 132

के.वी. उपकेन्द्र कंकरखेड़ा-द्वितीय के वार्षिक

आधार पर परिचालन एवं अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धित

कार्य। धरोहर राशि- 18000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र

का मूल्य- 1770.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-

तिथि एवं समय- 11.06.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 12.06.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। क्रम सं.- 2, निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-38/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र शताब्दीनगर के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि- 23000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का **मूल्य**- 1770.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, **ई-पोर्टल** पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय- 27.06.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 29.06.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। क्रम सं.- 3, निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी- 39/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. मादीपुरम- मवाना लाईन के डायवर्जन कार्य का शेष OPGW से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि- 3000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य- 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय- 27.06.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 29.06.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। क्रम सं.- 4, निविदा संख्या एवं **कार्य का विवरण टी**- 40/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बडौत के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. बडौत- मुरादनगर लाईन के विभिन्न टावरों के लैग के सुदृढ़ीकरण से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि-2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य- 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय-27.06.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, **ई-पोर्टल पर** निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 29.06.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। क्रम सं.- 5, निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य **का विवरण टी**- 41/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बडौत के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. बडौत-निरपुडा लाईन के विभिन्न टावरों के लैंग के सुदृढ़ीकरण से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि-2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य- 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय-

पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम

निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 29.06.2020 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। क्रम सं.- 6, निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी- 42/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों पर स्थापित 220 एवं 132 के.वी. सी.टी. की पारशियल डिस्चार्ज तकनीकी द्वारा परीक्षण करने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। इस कार्य हेतु कोई भी शट-डाउन मान्य नहीं होगा। धरोहर राशि- 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य- 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय- 01.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 02.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। क्रम सं.- 7, निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-43/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बडौत के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बडौत पर स्थापित एयर कंडिशनर के अनुरक्षण एवं मरम्मत से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि- 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य- 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय- 01.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 02.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। क्रम सं.- 8, निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-44/20-21:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. चरला- मुजफ्फरनगर लाइन पर OPGW हेतु विभिन्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि- 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र **का मूल्य**- 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, **ई-पोर्टल** पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि **एवं समय**- 01.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 02.07.2020 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगीं। अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, ''पारेषण भवन'', विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। ''राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाएं'' पत्रांक/ No. 1392 वि.पा.मं./ ETC/ मेरठ/ MT/ TENDER दिनांक:

Government of Karnataka BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE [An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka] Office of the Director cum Dean Bangalore, Fort, K.R. Road, Bangalore-560002, Telephone: 26700810, Fax: 26704342, Email: director\_bmcri@yahoo.co.in No. BMCRI/Sup(1)/07/2020-21

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal for the Maintenance of medical Gas Pipeline and Manifold at attached hospitals of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore.

Tender details, E.M.D details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-procurement mode only Website: https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Interested tenderers have to register in the e-procurement portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website. Commencement date for uploading of tenders:

26.05.2020 (2) Last date for uploading the tenders: 10.06.2020 before 4.30 PM (3) Date of opening of tenders : **12.06.2020** at **11.30** AM for further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore

medical college and Research Institute, Bangalore.

DIPR/DDU/144/2020-21

**Director cum Dean** Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, Bangalore



	OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION					
Sea	led tenders are i	nviting from the competent and e	xperienc	ed bidder f	or the fo <b>ll</b> owi	ng works
SI. No.	Tender No. & date	Name of Work	Cost of Work (₹)	EMD (in ₹)	Sale / download period From-To	Last date of Submission upto 15:00 Hrs
1	CE/W/8(431) /2020 Date 27/05/2020	"Care Taking of Corporation Assets provided in Public Buildings and extending services to various Public Functions for a period of one year (Job Contract Basis)"	32.72 Lakhs	32716/-	27.05.2020 To 26.06.2020	26.06.2020
2	CE/W/10(144) /2020 Date 27/05/2020	"Providing Bore well, Pump and Pipe line for Drinking water at Ranjithpura Village"	24.29 Lakhs	24290/-	29.05/2020 To 29.06.2020	29.06.2020
3	CE/W/10(143) /2020 Date 27/05/2020	"Providing Bore well, Pump and Pipe line for Drinking water at Mallapura Village"	11.01 Lakhs	11020/-	01.06.2020 To 30.06.2020	30.06.2020
4	CE/W/10(142) /2020 Date 27/05/2020	"Providing Bore well, Pump and Pipe line for Drinking water at Navalatti Village"	11.01 Lakhs	11020/-	02.06.2020 To 01.07.2020	01.07.2020
5	DNM/PLM/PL- B&C /OTE/2020-21 Date 27/05/2020	"Pulley Lagging work with Category B & C at OCSL Plant for one year i.e. 2020-21"	18.60 Lakhs	18600/-	27.05.2020 To 26.06.2020	26.06.2020

Further clarification, tender related Sl. No. 1 to 4 may contact diomcivil@nmdc.co.in or by fax message to 08395-274644 and Sl. No. 5 may contact diomplant@nmdc.co.in/08395-232568. The detailed NIT and tender documents can be viewed and for downloaded from NMDC's website https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/default.aspx or Central Public Procurement Portal https://www.eprocure.gov.in. And also, for any corrigendum, amendment, clarification etc may For and on behalf of NMDC Limited

#### TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED Unit-1: KAGITHAPURAM - 639 136, KARUR DIST. TAMIL NADU Phone: 04324-277 001 (10 LINES) Unit-2: Mondipatti - 621306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu Ph:04332-265102 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description	Due date	
202113 000708	Optical Brightening Agent on cost per kg basis for Paper M/c No.1,2&3 a) Wet End OBA b) Surface OBA	10.06.2020	
202113 000667	DAF Chemicals De-inking Plant A. Flocculant Anionic b. Flocculant Cationic c. Coagulant Strong Cationic	09.06.2020	
SI. No 1	Manufacture and Supply of Stainless Steel (SS) Pipes for Hardwood Cooking area at TNPL Unit- II MEP	10.06.2020	
SI. No 2	Manufacture and Supply of Stainless Steel (SS) Pipe Fittings for Hardwood Cooking area at TNPL Unit-II MEP	10.06.2020	
202123 000203	Liquid non ferric alum for TNPL Unit-II	10.06.2020	
	202113000708 & 202113000667 - purchase.rawn	natl@tnpl.co.in	
Email	S.No: 1&2- pmd5@tnpl.co.in		
	202123000203 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in		
Terms & condition, Specifications, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available			

in Tender document at our websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in &

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROCUREMENT, JPDCL, JAMMU ELECTRIC CENTRAL STORES COMPLEX, RAIL HEAD, JAMMU J&K PIN -180012 PHONE NO. 0191-2473402 TELEFAX- 0191-2472350 e-mail: epc1jammu@gmail.com No: SE/PRJ/TS/ Dated: 25-05-2020

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER e- NIT NO. SE/PRJ/04/2020-21

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending

	engineer, Procurement, JPDCL, Jammu invites online e-bids from original Govt. reg- stered manufacturers for supply of material as under for the requirement of JPDCL:				
S. No.	NIT No.	Description of Material	Quantity (In Numbers)		
1.	SE/PRJ/ 04/2020-21 dated 25.05.2020	PURCHASE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF EEL-II OF RATING:			
		63 KVA Aluminum Wound	40		
		100 KVA Aluminum Wound	35		
	23.03.2020	250 KVA Copper Wound	35		

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Conditions of Contract and other details.

	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	26.05.2020; 12:00 Hrs
2.	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	05.06.2020; 14.00Hrs
3.	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ Clarifications	28.05.2020; 1200 to 1600 Hrs.
ŀ.	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	From 28.05.2020 1800 Hrs. to 05.06.2020 1400 Hrs.

Superintending Engineer Procurement, JPDCL, Jamm

# 7 THE OUTBREAK MIGRANTS ON THE ROAD



A group waits outside Kalupur railway station. They say they have not got a train for the last 20 days. Javed Raja



A social worker distributes water bottles to migrants waiting for a Special Shramik train on Tuesday. Harmeet Sodhi

### WAITING FOR TICKET HOME



Ariun, who hails from Fatehpur, returns from Guru Nanak Dev Stadium with his family after being told no trains are  $departing \ on \ Tuesday \ for \ Uttar \ Pradesh. \ As \ a \ was herman, he used \ to \ make \ around \ Rs7,000 \ per \ month \ before \ the$ lockdown. He had first registered for a train on May 2, and is still waiting for a ride home. Gun



A group of migrants at the Delhi-Ghaziabad border near Ghazipur Mandi on Tuesday. Prem Nath Pandey



Migrants from Bihar waiting for train tickets at the PMPML bus stand on Tuesday. Arul Horizon

### DELAYS CUT, TRAINS NEVER GET LOST, SAYS RAILWAYS OFFICER

# rationalisation' to explain diversions

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

WITH DIVERSION of Shramik Special trains to navigate network congestion blowing up into a controversy, even as delayed running of these trains and shortage of food and water on board continue to plague the Railways, the national transporter has officially notified the alternative or diverted paths and called it route "rational-

The diversions have been done so that trains are not held up at one place for hours without water and food, a senior Railways official told The Indian Express.

Atrain, this officer emphasised to reject the criticism, "never gets

According to Railways officials, there are multiple ways for a train to reach a destination from a "source" - or originating - station, and a "rationalised route" is one that may not be the usual route during normal times. But since the new route is notified, and is scheduled within the system, it cannot be technically called a diversion, an official explained.

planning of meals and watering of trains en route, and also cuts down the element of surprise for railway divisions on the way.

Shramik Special trains bound for Bihar and further on were earlier delayed by an average 24 hours, which officials said have come down to under five hours in

Over 1,500 migrant workers gather at Thane station to board a Special Shramik train to UP on Tuesday. Deepak Joshi

the last couple of days. "No diversions now. All trains originating during the last three days are running on their pre-scheduled rationalised routes," a ministry spokesperson said.

Officials said Manikpur Junction of North Central Railway, which normally falls on route of most of these trains from western India to destinations in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, was a major source of congestion until a couple of days ago, as trains from Central Railway and Western Railway converged there. While normally it took a train around 90 trains were taking up to four hours or so due to congestion.

But the "rationalised route plan" has assigned other routes through Northern Railway, West-Central Railway and North Western Railway to decongest Manikpur, and other such crossings, and given destination stations a breather, they maintained. Given capacity constraints, some railway zones have de-

creased and even stopped loading of goods trains to make way for Shramik Specials Officials said while busy sections such as Allahabad that see off around 300 trains one way every day in normal times are handling fewer - around 250 -Shramik Specials per day, these

trains are not running as per a set timetable. Field officials told The Indian Express that politicisation of the Shramik Specials have led to "indiscriminate" introduction of these trains without looking at network and handling capacity. "At the source station, board-

ing is taking a long time after concluding all health protocol. So if a train misses its scheduled path set by us, it has to eat into or share another train's path," a senior official said. "Places like Gorakhpur, which do not have terminal capacity to receive so many trains in quick succession, takes time to release platforms. This results in piling up of trains.'

With availability of meals in diverted trains proving to be a major pain point, the Railways has amended its General Financial Rules to enable a divisional railway manager to spend up to Rs 1 lakh for each train to arrange for food, water, etc. Officials in IRCTC said the PSU has so far supplied at least 74 lakh meals on board the Shramik Specials, but delivering to the diverted, unscheduled trains has been a challenge.

To make up for this, divisional officers in places such as UP and Bihar, among others, have made use of the new financial powers to arrange for food at remote locations, as also to load precooked food on trains.

On Tuesday, Railways planned to run 315 Shramik Special trains, a majority of which were scheduled from Maharashtra. However, Railways Minister Piyush Goyal stated that only 27 could be run. He tweeted: "Eight five of 145 trains arranged from Maharashtra were supposed to run today. But since the state government could run only 27 by 6 PM...'

Until Monday, 3,274 Shramik Specials were run to transport more than 44 lakh passengers; over 1 crore water bottles and 74 lakh free meals were distributed, the Railways said in a statement. **FULL REPORT ON** 

### As Shramik Spls 'stray', Rlys notifies 'route 'Unassigned' cases near 3,000, rise as curbs on movement lifted

KARISHMA MEHROTRA NEW DELHI, MAY 26

WITH THE increase in inter-state movement of people, the number of Covid-19 cases that are "unassigned" to any state has quadrupled over the past week

Only nine states in the country have a case load that is higher than that number.

Cases in the unassigned category make up 2 per cent of the country's 1,45,380 cases of coronavirus infection as of Tuesday, and could potentially skew the case curves of several states.

The category "Cases being reassigned to states" was introduced in mid-May. Numbers under that head grew from 230 on May 16 to 1,403 on May 21, to 2,970 cases on May 26. The category has no information on recovery or deaths within this group, unlike the other state categories.

Government officials said that the category captures the cases where discrepancies exist between the person's home

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) told *The* 

### CASE COUNT: THE CHANGING PICTURE

A look at how Covid-19 case counts in states are changing as migrants return home

**UTTAR PRADESH ANDHRA PRADESH** 8148 49 None Foreign entrants: 49 A4,966 # 229 62 Foreign entrants: None TAMIL NADU **PUNJAB** A 10,289 646 49 **26** 1500 (26 ) 1 Foreigner entrants: 5 Foreign entrants: None **RAJASTHAN HARYANA 9,323** 236 **167** 2031 ( 34 None Foreign entrants: NA Foreign entrants: None ■ Samples tested 🙈 Positive cases Foreign entrants: 27 ■ Migrants 🦪

Indian Express that the unassigned category has been growing because of the increased inter-state travel in the country – a sign of how countrywide movement could impact the efforts to track the epidemic.

"Those are the cases where need to reassign because A senior official of the where they are admitted or where they are being quarantined still needs to be deter-

\*States' data for last 24 hours, updated up to 9 pm on May 26 mined. For example, truck drivers. They have gone somewhere, they become symptomatic, and they get tested. A state now needs to own them. Once their test is positive, it comes into the

> has to be put in "the official said An official from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said: "The rule we use is

system. But the system doesn't

know in which state this person

that wherever someone is tested is the automatic location inputted. If, for example, someone from UP is tested in Delhi, the testing sample will be assigned to Delhi. But what if during sample collection, the person said they are from UP? Then, once a positive sample comes back, we need to determine exactly which location is this patient in now for hospitalisation, quarantine, etc. So every day, we have to shift the locations once the information is found."

 $The\,un assigned\,category\,has$ been growing within states as well. In Andhra Pradesh for example, there are now 312 cases - more than 10 per cent of the state's 2,719 confirmed cases with no district-level assignment. In Tamil Nadu, the unassigned category has grown from 40 on May 21 to 92 on Tuesday. In Gujarat, it grew from 26 to 43 in that same time.

Between May 1 and May 15, two-thirds of the 1,000 Shramik Special trains carrying migrants home took 8 lakh passengers from Red Zones to Green or Orange Zones. Domestic flights resumed on Monday and the past few weeks, vehicle movement between states too

### UP to open up public parks

Lucknow: The UP government Tuesday directed all districts to open up public parks for morning walks and set timings for their functioning, the state's chief secretary, Awanish Kumar Awasthi, said. He added that local authorities would have to ensure proper patrolling in the parks to ensure social distancing and security.

Also, the government has asked all the state's divisions to come up with a plan to establish an integrated office so that subdivisional offices can all be brought under one roof. **ENS** 

### Girl in Nainital quarantine dies of snakebite, 3 officials booked

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** DEHRADUN, MAY 26

THREE GOVERNMENT employees have been booked after a snakebite killed a 7-year-old girl quarantined along with her family at a school in Nainital on

The girl, identified as Anjali, and four members of her family had come from Delhi, and were scheduled to leave for their home from the quarantine on Tuesday.

Aniali's uncle Khim Singh alleged he had told quarantine incharge and revenue sub-inspector Rajpal Singh that he feared snake attack as the campus was surrounded by a thicket of bushes.

Rajpal Singh didn't receive the call when the girl's uncle tried to inform that his niece was bitten by a snake early morning, said sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Richa Singh. The girl was taken to a Community Health Centre where doctors declared her dead at 1:30 pm, said the SDM.

Rajpal allegedly neither picked the call nor informed his seniors about the incident. SDM said Rajpal Singh, village development officer Umesh Joshi and assistant teacher Karan Singh were found negligent in addressing the complaints and responding. Umesh and Karan were also unaware about the incident till af-

ternoon. The SDM said the three have been charged under various IPC sections, including 304 A (causing death by negligence).

### Pinarayi slams Rlys for sending trains 'without notice' **SHAJU PHILIP** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said the Railways sending trains to Kerala without prior information would undermine measures taken by the state to contain the spread of Covid-19. He said the issue had been brought to the notice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Last week, after the Railways sent a train to Kerala from Mumbai without informing the state government about its stop in Kannur, the Chief Minister had written to Railways Minister Piyush Goyal saying the state must be informed in advance about such trains. "He was told that such a step would dent the steps being taken by the govern-



Pinarayi Vijayan

ment to spread the disease. But, even after that, the Railways decided to send a train to Kerala from Mumbai. So this issue has been brought to the attention of the Prime Minister. It is a matter undermining our precautions," he said.

The CM said the government is of the view that people from all areas should come back to the state but at the same time, strict rules must be adopted to prevent the spread of the disease.

"Trains are coming to Kerala

from all parts of the country and there are no restrictions. Our only condition is that there should be prior intimation from the Railways. They should give us the list of passengers who have booked tickets. In the same way, it is important and compulsory for passengers to register on the Covid Jagratha portal before the journey. We will be prepared to receive the passengers. Those who arrive here are screened at the railway station and sent to home quarantine. But we need to have the list in advance so that we can ensure there is a proper facility for home quarantine. Any failure to do so would undermine the measures taken by the government... thereby prevent the spread of the disease," he said.

### **KERALA GOVT TO RAMP UP TESTING**

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala government has decided to step up daily testing as Covid-19 number has seen an upward swing with the arrival of people from abroad and hotspot states. Till two weeks ago, Kerala has been testing 700-800 samples a day. The state on Tuesday reported 67 new cases, the largest single-day rise so far. taking the total to 963. The number of active cases rose to 415 on Tuesday from 16 on May 8, a day after evacuation flights began landing in Kerala. Since then, the Covid-19 curve in Kerala has been going up.

### CLASS 12 STATE BOARD EXAMS TO RESUME TODAY

### Kerala takes first step back to school with exams: 20 students to a hall

#### SHAJU PHILIP& **VISHNU VARMA**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. KOCHI, MAY 26

SOCIAL DISTANCING, thermal screening, hand sanitisers, only 20 students in a hall, and strict instructions against children huddling together.

Kerala had all the guidelines in place when it became the first state in the country to resume the school board exams that were stalled by more than two months due to the ongoing Covid lockdown.

But it was a challenging task

for officials to ensure that the guidelines were adhered to as 4.25 lakh students reached 2,945 centres for the class 10 state board exams, and 29,458 students turned up at 389 centres for the vocational higher secondary tests across the state on Tuesday. The Class 12 state board ex-

ams will resume Wednesday, with 3,79,519 students expected at 2,032 centres. The school exams are scheduled to continue till the month-end.

"We are not approaching the exams with fear, but with vigil. All students have been given masks and pamphlets on Covid-



Social distancing in place for exam. Nitin RK

19 guidelines. Students have heen told to ensure social distancing, right from the time

they step out of their homes," said Director of Public Instruction Jeevan Babu.

5,000 thermal screening devices were purchased, and over the last few days, all centres disinfected by fire and rescue teams. After the first session, the halls, benches and desks were disinfected again for the afternoon.

And with public transport services still not available in districts, schools many arranged conveyance for students using PTA funds. In many cases, officials said, parents dropped their children at the

"Students who could not clear the thermal screening,

Officials said that about were in quarantine, or had family members under home quarantine, were allotted special rooms. They were asked to not hand over answer sheets to teachers, but deposit them in special bags," said Babu.

For the teachers deployed as invigilators, gloves will be provided every day, and kept in colour-coded packets for dis-

"Steps have also taken to ensure minimum contact between students and teachers at schools. The attendance sheets were not passed from one student to another for signing, instead the invigilators took the

New Delhi

count. The practice of teachers signing the answer sheets and affixing seals at the end was also done away with," Babu said.

On the ground, meanwhile, many schools witnessed officials and parents joining hands to ensure that the exams stayed on track — some PTA members even helped in disinfecting the centres under the guidance of local health workers.

For instance, in Kochi's **Edappally Government Higher** Secondary School in Kochi, the PTA sent details of seating arrangements directly to students through WhatsApp to avoid crowding.

In addition, students were advised to not share stationery or water bottles. And as soon as the exams were over, they were directed to head straight home without interacting with other students.

There was a minor problem, though. "Around two dozen stu-

dents did not have any comoptions muting from Mulavukad, which is 12 km from the school. We asked the local MLA, PT Thomas, if he could help. A bus was immediatelv arranged," Sankaranarayanan, the school principal.

# 8 THE OUTBREAK NATION

**ABANTIKA GHOSH** 

POLICE PERSONNEL at check

points, building security guards,

airport staff, bus drivers and staff,

vegetable vendors and pharma-

cists have been identified by

Indian Council of Medical

Research (ICMR) as "frontline

workers" who need to be tested

for Covid-19 if they show flu-like

symptoms. This is in addition to

healthcare workers, paramedics

strategy on May 18, "all sympto-

matic(ILI symptoms) health care

workers /frontline workers in-

volved in containment and mit-

igation of COVID19" need to be

tested for the Novel Coronavirus

(SARS-CoV2). ILI or influenza-

like symptoms are the symp-

toms associated with flu such as

Symptomatic healthcare

workers were eligible for testing

from the very start, but inclusion

of other frontline workers was

the big takeaway of the last test-

ing strategy revision. However, a

document drawn up by the ICMR

on the general way forward on

testing shows how widespread

that definition is set to become.

healthcare workers, the full list

includes: "Security staff at build-

ings both private and Govt, Police

personnel manning check-

points/roads (In certain indus-

trial areas/ business establish-

ments), airport staff, Air India

team involved in the evacuation,

migrant labourers returning to

States, bus driver and associated

staff, Certain category of shops

like – pharmacist, vegetable ven-

Apart from paramedics and

fever, sore throat, body ache.

As per the revision of testing

and returning migrants.

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

### Aim of lockdown 'failed', Rahul asks govt about plan B

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the aim and pur $pose\,of\,the\,nation wide\,lock down$ has "failed" and asked the Centre to spell out its strategy now to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Rahul also said "haphazard' lifting of the lockdown could result in a second wave of the pandemic in India – one which could be "extremely devastating."

Addressing an online press conference, the Congress MP said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told the country that India will defeat the virus in 21 days, and pointed out that the lockdown has not produced the result Modi had in mind, "Clearly, the Prime Minister and his advisers had underestimated the scale of the battle India had to launch to defeat coronavirus," he said.

Using cricket terminology, Rahul said the Prime Minister was quick to take centrestage in the early stages but has stepped back and "gone on the back foot" at a time when his leadership is most needed.

He said: "He (Modi) played on the front foot initially. Now he is not to be seen. But the country wants to see the Prime Minister He will have to tell the country how to go forward. He will have to come on the front foot again, aggressively — he has gone on the back foot. I am from the Opposition but I am telling him to come on the front foot again."

Rahul said state governments are not getting adequate support from the Centre and feeling "hamstrung" as a result. He said chief ministers of Congress-governed states have told him that they are "fighting a lonely battle" without adequate support from the Centre.



Rahul Gandhi

"What we are facing right now is a failed lockdown because the goal of the lockdown, as stated by the Prime Minister on national television, was that we will defeat the disease in 21 day... These are not my words; these are the PM's words... now we are coming to the end of the fourth lockdown and the disease profile is not reducing." He added, "So what we expected from the lockdown has not occurred. Disease profile is shoot-

First imposed on March 25 and extended thrice, the lockdown ends on May 31.

The former Congress president said India is the only country "where the virus is exponentially rising and we are removing the lockdown". He said there should be a strategy to ensure that the disease does not "run amok" once the lockdown is lifted, "I am worried that in a non-lockdown situation, in a haphazard opening up, we will get a second wave of corona that will be extremely devastating."

"It is pretty clear that the aim and purpose of the lockdown has failed. What India is facing now, what is in front of us, is the result of a failed lockdown. What we want to understand is, the government's view (of it)... going forward. We want to understand what their strategy is. It is pretty clear that the four stages of lockdown have not produced the result that the Prime Minister expected," he said.



Prakash Javadekar

### BJP hits back: Doubling rate up from 3 to 13 days under lockdown

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE BJP on Tuesday hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for slamming the Centre's lockdown strategy.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "Rahul Gandhi gave a wrong statement. I want to tell him, when the lockdown was imposed, doubling rate of infection was three days. Now the infection takes 13 days to double. This is India's success. and everyone's success."

He said the "whole world is praising India" for imposing the lockdown "at the right time".

Javadekar added, "When the lockdown was imposed, the Congress was upset why it was imposed across the country; (they said) the economy will be destroyed. They opposed the imposition of the lockdown and now are opposing the relaxation. This is their doublespeak. Compared to the loss faced by thE US, France, Britain, Spain, Italy, Iran, Brazil, and China, Îndia has been relatively less affected." are particularly in congested areas of cities and highincidence/containment zones.

The Covid-19 outbreak in India is currently concentrated in cities, with 70% cases and deaths in 10 cities.

However, sources said, the ICMR's list has been drawn up with an eye also on identifying emerging hotspots. "We have to gradually move to testing 'frontline' workers as per the expanded definition. This is the way forward. This document has been drawn up also with special focus on the eastern region where testing facilities are limited and authorities are still getting used to the containment and contact tracing drill," said a source. The document also reit erated the general testing principles such as RT-PCR being the gold standard and antibody tests being good for surveillance.

It is also partly with this expanded definition in mind that ICMR is looking at ramping up testing capacity to 2 lakh a day. A lot of the fresh testing is expected to be from the eastern states where infrastructure is scarce. Seventeen testing laboratories each are being set up in Bihar and Odisha, 27 in Uttar Pradesh and 36 in West Bengal.

The Ministry of Health on Tuesday held a meeting with Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, UP and MP, asking for states to take care of the immediate health needs of migrant workers by activating existing health infrastructure such as Ayushman Bharat health and wellness centres and complete enumeration at the village level of comorbidi-



A police officer helps an elderly migrant put on a mask after his arrival at Bikaner's Lalgarh junction to board a special train to his native place Motihari in Bihar on Tuesday. PTI

### Centre asks states, UTs to negotiate

with pvt labs, bring down test price

**ABANTIKA GHOSH** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

EVEN AS private diagnostic laboratories cite the Rs 4,500 price cap as one of the pain points for their coronavirus testing numbers stagnating at less than 20 per cent of daily tests done in the country, the Centre wants the price to be re-

This is in the light of availability of indigenous testing kits and other supplies, unlike in March, when all these had to be imported amid tough global competition.

In a letter to states and Union Territories on Monday, Dr Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department

testing supplies are also stabilizing and many of you have started procuring such kits from local narket. Due to varied options of testing materials/kits, including indigenous ones, prices are becoming competitive and are undergoing reduction.... ICMR continuously advocates aggressive testing of ILI symptomatic persons, for which RT-PCR test is considered as Gold Standard." He wrote, "In this backdrop, and keeping in view the evolving prices of testing commodities, the earlier suggested upper ceiling of INR 4,500 vide letter dated 17/3/2020

may not be applicable now". Therefore, Bhargava stated, all state governments and UT administrations are "advised to negotiate with private labs and fix mutually agreeable prices for samples being sent by the government and also for private individuals...'

Bhargava noted, "At the beginning of COVID19 pandemic, there was a global crisis of testing kits and reagents as India was heavily reliant on imported products for molecular detection of viruses. As such, in mid-March, no rates for RT-PCR test for Coronavirus was available for reference in the country. Keeping in view the cost of imported kits and efforts involved in carrying out the test, ICMR suggested the upper limit of a single test as INR 4,500..."

### HC: Too early to give Gujarat govt certificate

**SOHINI GHOSH** AHMEDABAD, MAY 26

IT WAS too early to give a certificate to the state government, the Gujarat High Court said during an urgent hearing on a civil application the government moved on Monday seeking clarorder while rebutting certain observations by the court.

The civil application sought to clarify its position on some scathing observations made by the court regarding the condition of the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, comparing it to "dungeons or worse".

To the state's objection on the court taking cognizance of an anonymous letter written by a resident doctor, the court said that while the government dismissed it as "rubbish", no resident doctor "would muster the courage of coming forward disclosing his identity for the purpose of redressing such grievances".

Defending itself against the court's criticism on the higher mortality rate at the civil hospital, the government said it could not be compared to Ahmedahad Municipal Corporation-run Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel hospital because it was taking more critical patients. The bench said the court will visit the civil hospital "one fine morning" and end all controversy.

### Situation in Ahmedabad better than Italy, France: govt

Ahmedabad: Defending itself in a civil application seeking clarifi-Court's May 22 order that said the Ahmedabad civil hospital was "as good as a dungeon or worse", the Gujarat government, said its (Ahmedabad's) Covid-19 situation was better than Italy and France, which had comparable populations.

According to the state government, "...the rise in number of Covid-19 cases has been substantially slow in the state as compared to the said countries" despite the latter having superior medical facilities. "Similarly, the number of deaths has been substantially less in Guiarat as compared to Italy and France," the application before the HC

The application moved by the government prayed before the court that it be "kind enough to clarify that the ... observations" of HC, which were based on "the anonymous letter of the Resident Doctor and the anonymous report of the Medical Officer of the Civil Hospital, do not reflect the true picture of the ground realities." ENS

### **MILIND GHATWAI** BURHANPUR (MP), MAY 26

ON APRIL 22, when the first Covid case was reported from Burhanpur, near Madhya Pradesh's border with Maharashtra, the district hospital had one ventilator, a severe shortage of doctors, and two ambulances with emergency support systems and two hired vehi-

One month, 293 cases and 13 Covid deaths later, the main government healthcare facility has got more beds, but is still short of key equipment and doctors.

The Indian Express visited Burhanpur on its countrywide journey to track hospital inventory in Covid-care facilities far from urban areas — and found a district that is scrambling to contain the outbreak.

There have been upgrades since the first case was reported,

The ANM training centre, near the main building of the 200-bed district hospital, has been converted into a 60-bed Level-2 facility for moderate cases. Three BiPap machines, for non-invasive ventilation, have been shifted from the hospital.

A new building block behind the centre is being used to quarantine asymptomatic patients, the first Level-1 Covid Care Centre (CCC) in the district.

And, a part of the government Ayurveda College and Hospital, located a few kilometres away,

#### **TEST REP**RTS **FROM THE FIELD** TRACKING THE VIRUS, LOCKDOWN

was "acquired" in the first week which can accommodate nearly 100 cases

But there are still some glaring gaps.

At the ANM facility, where 60 patients are undergoing treatment, not all nine oxygen cylinders earmarked for Covid cases are available together. "We have a serious shortage of doctors, too. Only four MBBS doctors and two MDs. who work in 12-hour shifts. attend to Covid patients. You can imagine the consequences. We treat patients to the best of our understanding. Or else, we refer them to MY Hospital in Indore. which is about 175 km away," said Dr Prateek Navlakhe, one of the doctors on duty.

With only a small board that reads 'Infection Disease Control', it is difficult to identify the isolation area in the same compound. "It's not uncommon for non-Covid patients and their relatives to enter by mistake. The ward boys and sweepers don't report for work out of fear," said another doctor, who did not wish to be identified.



MP district: More beds ready, need doctors

Inside the isolation facility at the ANM centre near the district hospital in Burhanpur, MP. Milind Ghatwai

At the Ayurveda facility, where 61 patients are being monitored. there are only three private Ayush (Unani) practitioners, hired on ad hoc basis on a salary of Rs 25,000 each, and three support staff. "We manage the show here No MRRS doctor has come here to check on patients. We have to do everything on our own. We need paramedics. The support staff provides only food and tea." said Dr Irfan Shaikh. one of the Unani practitioners.

Besides, it takes a minimum of three days to get the test results

And yet, with 100 patients having been discharged so far, officials say Burhanpur -- the district was created just 17 years ago – is on track to face the crisis.

The administration is giving final touches to a separate 60-bed isolation facility on the first floor of the district hospital with oxygen facilities —13 patients from

### STATUS REPORT

IN PLACE: 350-bed Level-3, 200-bed Level-2, 2 Level-1 facilities, 1 isolation area.

WISHLIST: 10 ventilators, 10 BiPap machines, 1000 PPE, 1,000 VRT (Viral Transport Medium)

kits. **CASES:** 293, 100 discharged, 13 deaths.

**DISTRICT:** Municipal

limits in red zone, rest

in green.

the existing isolation area have already been shifted.

"The administration is prepared for any eventuality, We are BURHANPUR

going up. The District Institute for the city has been readied to house 150 patients. A tribal department building at Nepanagar, a town nearby, will be used to house 500 cases, if needed. We can start these facilities with just 12-hour notice," said District Collector Pravin Singh, who took charge on May 2.

"The government has also purchased five oxygen concentrators (that provide enriched air). We don't wait for patients to come to us in an advanced stage of infection. So we are tracking all wards and mohallas," he said.

"The administration has also involved government teachers and employees of different communities to build confidence and make people report illness and undergo tests. At 2,500 samples for a population of 2.5 lakh in the town, the average is more than the state's average of 1,144 tests per 10 lakh," Singh said.

Officials say that by keeping a tab on graveyards and the crematorium, the administration has also tried to ensure that no death goes unreported. "Irrespective of

ficials admit, there's still some way "It's difficult to manage the district hospital with less than 20 doctors. We need at least 60. But we will continue working,

whether the death is due to Covid

or not, we monitor family mem-

bers, order tests, and ask those

showing symptoms to go into

quarantine," a senior official said.

But yes, top district health of-

said Civil Surgeon Dr Shakeel Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr O P Garg is more forthright, "There are less than 10 doctors. And having just one ventilator has made it really difficult. We have sought 10 oxygen concentra-

tors, more BiPap machines and a portable x-ray machine," he said. There are PPE kits and masks in sufficient quantity." The administration has also drafted All Is Well, a 350-bed hospital that is among the largest pri-

vate facilities in the state, as a Level-3 facility for severe cases -a respiratory ICU has been created and 15-20 rooms earmarked for suspected cases. Officials said 13 Covid patients are currently undergoing treatment here. 'When Covid hit the town, private practitioners were scared.

People suffering from other respiratory illnesses were scared, too, and did not want to go to the government hospital. The system struggled," said Medical Superintendent Dr Subodh Borle. "But things are in place now".

### Cloud diplomacy: Consular access, demarche move online

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

AT A time when "social distancing" and "work from home" have become the norm, South Block is making efforts to conduct "virtual" diplomacy in the absence of "faceto-face" meetings.

Besides virtual summits and phone calls, demarche, consular access and even presentation of credentials have moved to online platforms.

In early April, in the middle of the nationwide lockdown. when the government realised that hundreds of foreigners had been rounded up for attending the Tablighi Jamaat congregation in Delhi in March, many embassies reached out to the Ministry of External Affairs for "consular ac-

cess" (a meeting between a diplomat and the foreign national facing charges). The MEA decided to grant virtual "consular access" via video conference.

Again, in mid-April, when South Block wanted to lodge a strong protest with Pakistan over what it called unprovoked firing that resulted in the killing of civilians near the Line of Control, a "demarche" (diplomatic note) was issued over the phone to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

"A strong demarche was made to the Pakistan side on the killing of three innocent Indian civilians with a phone call, which was fol-

lowed by an email," a source said. At least two Indian ambassadors who took charge recently presented their credentials "virtually". India's newly appointed High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal

Baglay, who went to Colombo in an Indian Air Force aircraft along with the medical supplies, presented his credentials to Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa through a video conference.

India's new Permanent Representative to the United Nations T S Tirumurti, who went to New York in one of the Vande Bharat evacuation flights, also presented his credentials to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres through a video conference.

President Ram Nath Kovind also accepted credentials from Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Australia, North Korea, Senegal, Trinidad & Tobago, Mauritius, Cote d'Ivoire and Rwanda through a video conference last week.

"This was the first time in the history of Rashtrapati Bhavan that



South Block has used online platforms to conduct substantive diplomatic conversations. File

credentials were presented through the digital medium," a statement said.

platforms to conduct substantive diplomatic conversations as well. External Affairs Minister S South Block also used online Iaishankar held the first-ever "vir-

tual" & 3rd Joint Commission Meeting between India and Denmark on May 12, the MEA said. Flanked by officials, Jaishankar and Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeppe Kofod discussed India-Denmark ties and strengthening of bilateral relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

also participated in online summits, from the SAARC summit to G-20 summit, and addressed Indian ambassadors all over the world through video-conferencing.

"With foreign travel being restricted in these times, online summits or virtual summits will be the new normal in the months to come," said an official.

Plans are being chalked out for a virtual summit with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in June, possibly June 4, as well. Morrison, who was set to visit

New Delhi

India in January this year, had to cancel because of the bushfires. While the Indian government

has used the NIC video platform. different countries have used different platforms to connect. "The virtual platform used is different for every summit, and depends on the host. Saudis used a different virtual platform for the G-20 summit, Russians used another for the SCO foreign ministers meeting," a source said

While video conferences and summits are usually planned ahead and take time, more substantive conversations have taken place during phone calls between Modi, Jaishankar and their counterparts. Modi and Jaishankar have together clocked about 100 phone calls since March with their coun-

While Modi held at least 53

leaders, including US President Donald Trump, Jaishankar held at least 44 phone conversations with his counterparts. "Some of these phone calls also took place through video conference," a While India has adapted to

phone conversations with world

virtual diplomacy in less than two months, China has also moved ahead on this and has coined a term - "cloud diplomacy". On Sunday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that while life may have paused due to Covid-19, diplomacy hasn't paused. He said that Chinese President Xi Jinping has held about 50 phone conversations with world leaders and has attended virtual summits, including of G-20 countries and the World Health Assembly.

# **India underlines faith in HCQ:** drug's benefits outweigh risks

Maharashtra says will continue with HCQ, but doctors at several private hospitals in Mumbai stop giving it to patients after noticing irregular heartbeats

ABANTIKA GHOSH, TABASSUM **BARNAGARWALA& ANURADHA MASCARENHAS** 

NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, PUNE,

A DAY after the World Health Organisation (WHO) suspended the allocation of patients in the hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) arm of its multi-country Solidarity Trial to find an effective treatment for Covid-19. India reiterated its faith in the continued prophylactic use of the antimalaria drug for the novel coronavirus disease

There is enough experience in the country of using HCQ, and sufficient data from observational and case control studies to warrant its use, the government

HCQ also continues to be used for treatment of Covid-19, along with the antibiotic azithromycin. "We will review it," Dr Balram Bhargava, DG, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary, Department of Health Research, said on Tuesday

Dr Vinod Paul, Member (Health) at NITI Aayog, and chairman of the Empowered Group on the government's medical emergency management plan, said: "We have used chloroquine for years... HCQ is even more safe because it is used continuously in rheumatoid arthritis. There is valid biological plausibility for its use. It is known to increase the pH of the cell and make it alkaline. Along with zinc it blocks the entry of the virus into the cell. Admittedly this is a new virus whose behaviour we are still learning about, but it (HCQ) is known to work in other coronaviruses. We have taken a call based on biological plausibility and availability of

Dr Paul said that the evidence had been examined "very thor-

#### Jury is still out

AS ICMR's Dr Balram Bhargava says, we don't know for sure what drug is working and what isn't in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Chloroquine has been in use for a century, and HCQ is considered a safe drug. The WHO has said that a call on HCQ would be taken after a review of the existing evidence. some time in the middle of next month.

oughly, including before making the expanded recommendation [for prophylactic use of HCQ] last week for all frontline workers", including those not in healthcare.

"Collectively the academic and research fraternity of India has put its faith in the drug. Prima facie there is a case for use of the drug. We will modify and expand the protocol as we go along, use it both for therapy and prophylaxis. There are minimal and tolerable side effects of HCQ including abnormal ECG and arrhythmias. However for the purposes for which we are recommending it, the benefits far outweigh the risks," Dr Paul said.

Dr Bhargava agreed with Dr Paul. "This is a new virus. We don't know what drug is working or what is not. There are a lot of drugs being repurposed for treatment or prophylaxis. Chloroquine is in use for 100 years. HCQ is even safer," he said.

The biological plausibility showed it could be an antiviral drug. There was data published in [the journal] Nature etc., that it showed antiviral activity. We found similar properties in vitro.

American government started using it, got fast-track approval. We had thought it may be a useful drug for prophylaxis based on in vitro data, bio plausibility and availability and safety of the drug. We had recommended it for empiric use under strict supervision some time back. During these six weeks we got some data in India and they were mainly observational studies, some were case control studies at AIIMS and ICMR and three public hospitals in Delhi. It was difficult to do RCT [randomised controlled trial] of something that we say "may benefit". We looked at data from both kinds of studies and found that it may

be working," Dr Bhargava said. Several private hospitals in Mumbai have, however, stopped using HCQ to treat patients of

Doctors in these hospitals said they had observed adverse reactions in a few patients who were being given a combination of HCQ and azithromycin.

Government hospitals in Mumbai, however, continue to use the drug for patients showing mild to moderate symptoms.

The number of cases in India reached 1,45,380 on Tuesday, with 6,535 new cases being reported in the last 24 hours. A total 4,167 people have died from the disease – however, an analysis of case mortality shows that India has had about 0.3 deaths per lakh population, which is amongst the lowest in the world. Globally, the mortality rate is 4.4 deaths per lakh population.

Pulmonologist Dr Jalil Parkar, who has been treating severely ill Covid-19 patients in Lilavati Hospital, said: "A few patients showed QT prolongation. We decided to change the regimen because this drug was not found

QT prolongation refers to chaotic heartbeats, which show up in a patient's electrocardiogram. Dr Parkar said he had stopped using HCQ even before the WHO suspended its trial, and had switched to a regimen of ivermectin and doxycycline in-

stead.

Dr Gunjan Chanchalani, chief intensivist at Bhatia Hospital, said, "We have not seen adverse reaction yet, but we reduced its (HCQ) use to very few patients after so many negative reports. Now we plan to completely stop

Dr Subhash Salunke, technical advisor to the state government, however, said that since the WHO has only paused – and not stopped - the HCQ trial, Maharashtra would for now continue to administer the drug to patients.

"We should not jump to conclusions. We need to take ECG, and observe patients closely for the effect of the drug. It should not trigger panic," Dr Salunke

Health Secretary Dr Pradeep Awate said: "ICMR released data which has shown only three serious side effects of HCQ as a prophylactic till now. WHO's Solidarity Trial used double the dosage that ICMR prescribes for its patients. Since our dosage is small, we are not concerned about side effects,"

On Monday, the WHO said that a call on HCO would be taken after a review of the existing evidence, some time in the middle of next month.

WHO Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan told The Indian Express on Tuesday that this was a temporary step, which will be reviewed based on evidence emerging from various trials worldwide, as well as published research.

"There is no need for panic, but randomised trials need to be conducted on the use of the drug prophylaxis,"

Swaminathan said. "The safety profile of the drug needs to be studied in both cases - drugs given to hospitalised patients and to healthy individuals exposed to Covid-19.'

OSBI

### Loan interest during moratorium: Supreme Court notice to Govt, RBI

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G

THE SUPREME Court issued notice Tuesday to the Centre and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on a plea challenging the decision to levy interest on loans despite the moratorium on repayment in view of the extended national lockdown.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, S K Kaul and B R Gavai issued notice on the plea by Gajendra Sharma, owner of an optical shop in Agra, who said "this action of imposition of interest during the moratorium period is completely devastating, wrong" and has caused "hindrance" and obstructed his "right to life" guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said he will take instructions on the matter. It will be

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(Under paragraph 21(2) of the Drugs Price Control Order 2013)

A. MENARINI INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

attention of general public is drawn to the fact that, A. Menarini India Private Limited, havir

stop the manufacturing and marketing of the below mentioned formulations after th

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No.101, in Tower A of Shapath-4, Opp. Karnavati Club, S.G. Road, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-380 CIN No.: MIPL-U74130GJ2001PTC039600, Website: http://www.menariniindia.com, E-mail: <u>customercare.india@menariniapac.com</u>, Phone No.: +91 22 42280700.

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A. <u>AFTER A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE</u>

Scabper Lotion – 30ml (Permethrin Lotion 5% w/v; Pack Size – 30ml)

nedicine. All the doctors/ Medical Personals may also make note of this

Date : **27th May, 2020** Place : **MUMBAI** 

Advt.No.03-R/IMSc/2020

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 $\label{eq:cetrilak-Solution-P} \begin{tabular}{ll} Cetrilak-Solution BP 20\% w/v; Pack-Size $-10$ Phenzee Syrup - 60ml (Promethazine Hydrochloride Syrup IP; Pack-Size $-60ml) $-10$ Promethazine (Promethazine Hydrochloride Syrup IP) $-10$ Promethazine (Promethazine Hydrochloride$ 

After discontinuation of the above medicines the same may not be available in the marke

Government of India

**Department of Atomic Energy** 

**CORRIGENDUM** 

Reference our indicative advertisement No.01-R/IMSc/

2020 Dated 20.03.2020 and subsequent indicative

corrigendum advertisement No.02-R/IMSc/2020 dated

20.04.2020 inviting applications for the post of

DIRECTOR, IMSc, Chennai (Level - 15 under 7th

Due to COVID-19 Lock Down, the last date is further

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through Registered Post (or) Speed post (or) Courier

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i) www.dae.gov.in under "Vacancy Notices"

ii) www.imsc.res.in under "Other Positions"

CPC) which appeared on all leading Newspapers.

heard again after two weeks.

The petitioner urged the court to declare ultra vires that part of the RBI's March 27 notification on the charging of interest since it "creates hardship in the present scenario of complete national lockdown being extended from time to time due to the Covid-19 outbreak".

Sharma pointed out that though RBI, by way of the notification, permitted all banks to grant a moratorium of three months on payment of all instalments due between March 1 and May 31, it "made clear that interest shall continue to accrue on the outstanding portion of the term loans during the moratorium period".

Sharma said he was running an optical shop in Agra and had a gross total income of about Rs. 6.57 lakh per annum. He had availed a home loan and had been paying the EMIs without

Girisan Kariangal

Director - BD, Marketing

Date: 26.05.2020

defaulting.

The extended lockdown, he said, had created "immense burden" on his "budget as apart from paying EMI on home loan", he had to "pay his employees... and also manage financial aspects of his home and family".

"In the present scenario, when all the means of livelihood has been curtailed by the Government of India by imposition of a complete lockdown pan-India... the Petitioner, being a citizen of India, has no way to continue his work and earn livelihood... imposition of interest during the moratorium will defeat the purpose of permitting moratorium on loans,"

restores 8-hour day for workers

Rajasthan govt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JAIPUR, MAY 26

THE RAJASTHAN government has restored working hours for factory workers to eight hours per day, state Labour Minister Tikaram Jully has said. Last month, the government had extended working hours to 12 hours a day for three months. The idea behind the extension was to "achieve the dual objective of restoring full supply of essential goods and ensure minimal presence of people in manufacturing and distribution facilities." In a statement, Jully said that currently, work at most factories is on, movement of workers has resumed, and that they don't need passes anymore.

### BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY

COIMBATORE - 641046

Phone: +91 422 2422222, Fax: +91 422 2425706 Website: www.b-u.ac.in No.BU/R/D1/C&G/Rate Contract /29612/2020-21 Dt.21.05.2020

#### NOTIFICATION

Price lists are invited from the Principal Suppliers Manufacturer of Chemicals / Glasswares / Plasticwares by the Registrar, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore - 641 046 upto 3.00 p.m. on 22.06.2020 for entering into a Rate Contract for the year 2020 - 21 for the supply of Chemicals & Glasswares Plasticwares to the University Departments.

REGISTRAR i/c



Advt. No. 6/2020

Date of Publication: 27th May 2020

### RECRUITMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS

Date of Commencement of Online Application: 27th May 2020 Closing Date for Online submission of Applications: 6th July 2020

CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), Bengaluru, is a oremier Research Laboratory under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), an Autonomous Body in the Ministry of Science & Technology under he Government of India. In addition to many Research, Development and Technology Programmes in Aerospace, NAL is actively involved in supporting the National Aerospace Programmes of ADA, DRDO, ISRO, HAL and IAF etc CSIR-NAL is also exploiting several aerospace technologies into spin-of industrial applications. It has excellent facilities in all the aerospace disciplines CSIR-NAL invites online applications for Scientists and Senior Scientists positions in various disciplines in the area of Design, Development, Testing & Evaluation of various Systems / Sub-systems and Project Management

Designation Reservation		Pay Scale	** Age Limit	
Scientist	3 (HH-2, UR-1)	Level - 11 (₹ 67,700 - ₹ 2,08,700)	32 years	
Senior Scientist	10 (UR-10)	Level - 12 (₹ 78,800 - ₹ 2,09,200)	37 years	
** Unner age limit as on the last date of online application				

Details of the Posts, No. of Posts, Pay Matrix, Age Limit etc., are given below:

Please go through the full text of the advertisement on our website www.nal.res.in regarding Qualifications, Field of Specialisation, Experience Job Requirements and General conditions etc. required for each position. All further announcements / details pertaining to this process / update corrigendum / addendum etc., will be published / provided only on NAL official vebsite: www.nal.res.in from time to time

Controller of Administration

Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

### **COVID19 - PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS (PCETS)**

In order to ensure the faster supply of essential commodities, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railways, has been running the following Parcel Cargo Express Special Trains (PCETs) on the following routes as per the schedule given below:-

				9		
COVID19 Special No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of run
00309	Howrah	08:15	New Delhi	07:00	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat	Upto 30.05.2020
00310	New Delhi	16:45	Howrah	16:30	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat	Upto 01.06.2020
00311	Sealdah	07:40	New Delhi	10:00	Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 31.05.2020
00312	New Delhi	16:45	Sealdah	19:30	Tue, Fri, Sun	Upto 02.06.2020
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Daily	Upto 03.06.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00403	New Delhi	22.30	Jammu Tawi	08:15	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00404	Jammu Tawi	18:10	New Delhi	04:40	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00433	New Delhi	15:35	Dehradun	23:55	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00434	Dehradun	10:25	New Delhi	19:15	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00453	Ambala Cantt.	04:00	Kalka	05:50	Daily	Upto 01.06.2020
00454	Kalka	20:00	Ambala Cantt.	21:50	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:30	Daily	Upto 03.06.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:40	Howrah	07:30	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:40	Thursday	Upto 28.05.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:00	KSR Bengaluru	10:20	Saturday	Upto 30.05.2020
00646	Chennai Central	18:00	New Delhi	05:00	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00647	New Delhi	18:00	Chennai Central	05:00	Daily	Upto 31.05.2020
00761	Renigunta	08:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	17:20	Mon, Wed	Upto 31.05.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Renigunta	16:15	Wed, Fri	Upto 02.06.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:30	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Upto 29.05.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:20	Monday	Upto 01.06.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Ludhiana	03:00	Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun	Upto 30.05.2020
00902	Ludhiana	23:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat	Upto 01.06.2020
00911	Mumbai Central	19:45	Firozpur Cantt.	02:30	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 31.05.2020
00912	Firozpur Cantt.	08:00	Mumbai Central	15:10	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 02.06.2020

The parties interested to book their Parcel in these trains may contact the concerned Divisional Officer/ Parcel Supervisor. Division wise contact numbers of concerned Officers/ Supervisors are available on Northern Railway's website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in>About us > Covid Corner > Covid\_19 Parcel Trains section.

The time table and operation status of all the above mentioned NOTE trains can be seen on the National Train Enquiry System (NTEs)

Note: (1) Parcel have to be loaded/unloaded within allowed halt/time. (2) No passenger is permitted to travel by these trains. (3) The trains will be escorted by security officials.







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**E-Auction Sale Notice** 

12th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building), 1, Tolstoy Marg, Janpath, New Delhi-110001, Ph. No.: 011-23701070, 23701097, 23701157, 23701167, 23701195, Fax No. 23701202. E-mail ID: sbi.04109@sbi.co.in "APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below mentioned Immovable property/ies mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor (State Bank of India), the constructive/physical possession mentioned below of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" Basis on 30-06-2020, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditor from Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors. The reserve price is mentioned below and the earnest money to be deposited is mentioned respectively

Reserve Price(RP) Date / Time of on - site Date & Time of **Demand Notice Date** Name of Borrower (B) / Inspection of Property Address of Security charged EMD Amount 10% of E-Auction with & Amount Due

Guarantor/s (G) with address/es	covered under Auction	The Reserve Price Incremental Amount	& Amount Due	with name of Authorized Officer	auto extensions of 5 minutes each
M/s Arise India Ltd at Khasra No 24/13, Khewat No 17, Khasra No 30, Killa No 24 Industrial Sector – 29, Village Hasmabad, Sonepat, Haryana Also at: B – 38, Jain Chowk, Manglapuri Palam, New Delhi – 110045.  Sh Avinash Jain (Director/Guarantor) at A – 3/71, Janakpuri New Delhi – 110058.  Also at: B-38, 3rd floor, Jain Chowk, Mangla Puri, Palam New Delhi 110045.  Sh Naresh Chand Jain (Director/Guarantor) at A – 3/71, Janakpuri New Delhi – 110058. Also at B-38, 3rd floor, Jain Chowk, Mangla Puri, Palam New Delhi 110045.  Sh Amit Jain (Guarantor) at A – 3/71, Janakpuri New Delhi – 110058.  Smt Anju Jain (Director/Guarantor) at H-34/133, Sec 3 Rohini New Delhi – 110085.	Land at Plot No 7, Bahastipura, Nr Ghanipura & Vaish Girls College Hostel Builing, Near Jhajjar Road- Rohtak In the name of Kemflo Power Pvt. Ltd. admeasuring 813 sq yds Approx., Bounded by East – Other's Property, West – Gali, North – Open Land, South – Gali	₹ 207.00 Lac ₹ 20.70 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac	SBI on 04.10.2017, IDBI on 17.10.2017, BOI on 10.10.2017, BOB on 16.09.2017, Axis Bank on 15.01.2018 & OBC on 14.03.2018 SBI is Rs 223,81,23,684.46/- as on 03.10.2017, IDBI is Rs 106,47,58,416/-	IDBI on 17.10.2017, BOI on 10.10.2017, BOB on 16.09.2017, Axis Bank on 15.01.2018 & OBC on 14.03.2018 SBI is Rs 223,81,23,684.46/- as on 03.10.2017, IDBI is Rs 106,47,58,416/- Mob.:	30-06-2020 From 12.00 Noon to 01.00 P.M.
Sh Vikas Jain (Guarantor) at 1266/17, Ward No. 17, Agarsain Street, Railway Road, Gali Durad Wali, Rohtak – 124001, Haryana.  Sh Pankaj Jain Prop M/s Vrinda Trading Company (Guarantor) at 1265-1266/17, Ward No. 17, Agarsain Street, Railway Road, Rohtak – 124001, Haryana.  Smt Sneh Lata Jain (Guarantor) at 1266/17, Ward No. 17, Agarsain Street, Railway Road, Rohtak – 124001, Haryana.  M/s Kemflo Power Pvt Ltd (Corporate Guarantor) at 1266/17, Agarsain Street, Railway Road, Rohtak – 124001, Haryana and having registered office at RZ – 226, Kailashpuri, Palam, New Delhi – 110045	24/13, Khewat No 17, Khasra No 30, Killa No 24 Industrial Sector – 29, Village Hasmabad, Sonepat Haryana, measuring 2600 sq yds in the name of Sh Naresh Chand Jain Bounded as: East – Road, West – Other Vacant Land, North – Remaining Portion Of Arise Factory, South – Other's Factory	₹ 35.20 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac	as on 01.10.2017, BOI is Rs 99,18,46,227/- as on 10.10.2017, BOB is Rs 62,88,17,582.81/- as on 31.07.2017, Axis Bank is Rs 38,26,38,382.39/- as on 30.06.2017 & OBC is Rs 37,93,19,172.58/- as on 28.02.2018 Total Rs 568,55,03,465.24/-	7738028686	30-06-2020 From 12.00 Noon to 01.00 P.M.
1. M/s Allied Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. Having its office at: DSM 103, DLF Tower, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 <u>Also at:</u> DSM-212, DLF Tower, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 <u>Also at:</u> DSM-241, DLF Tower, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 <u>Also at:</u> H-32, Fourth Floor, Vikas Apartments, West Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034  2. Shri Tarun Sachdeva S/o Late Shri Sant Lal Sachdeva, C-2/139, West Enclave, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi-110034 <u>Also at:</u> H-32, Fourth	Residential Flat no. C1-101, 1st Floor, Block – C, Project "Diplomatic Green" Phase-I at Sector-110A and 111, Urban Estate in Village- Chouma Gurgaon, Admeasuring Total area 2950 Sq. Ft. In the Name of Smt. Shalley Sachdeva	₹ 200.00 Lac ₹ 20.00 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac	SBI dated 01.05.2019 for Rs. 17,21,30,538/- As on 30.04.2019	10-06-2020 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. Authorised Officer : Sh Manoj Sharma -	30-06-2020 From 12.00 Noon to 01.00 P.M.
Apartments, Vasant Vihar-I, New Delhi-110057, Also at: H.No.3F, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001, Also at: 293, Kehar Singh Estate, West End Marg, Saidulajab, Saket, New Delhi 4. Smt. Krishna Sachdeva W/o Late Shri Sant Lal Sachdeva, C-2/139, West	Residential Building situate at GF, FF and SF at Plot No. 139, Block- C2, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Admeasuring Total area 84 Sq. Mtr. In the Name of Smt. Krishna Sachdeva	₹ 408.00 Lac ₹ 40.80 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac		Mob.: 9463428969 ————	30-06-2020 From 12.00 Noon to 01.00 P.M.
Enclave, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi-110034  5. Smt. Shalley Sachdeva Wo Shri Tarun Sachdeva, C-2/139, West Enclave, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi-110034, Also at: H-32, Fourth Floor, Vikas Apartments, West Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034  6. Mr. Amit Kumra, C-96, 1st Floor, Sector 54, Suncity Gurragon	Residential Building situate at GF, FF and SF at Plot No. 104, Block- C2, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Admeasuring Total	₹ 405.00 Lac ₹ 40.50 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac		Resolution Agent Sh. Sadhu Ram Mob.: 9871783777	30-06-2020 From 12.00 Noon

7. Mr. Anil Kumra, C-96, 1st Floor, Sector 54, Suncity, Gurgaon Date and time for submission of request letter of participation, KYC Documents, PAN Card, Proof of EMD etc.

area 84 Sq. Mtr. In the Name of

On or before 26-06-2020 upto 4.00 P.M. and EMD through RTGS/NEFT. The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT / RTGS in the Account No. 33108475877, Name of beneficiary: "THE AUTHORISED OFFICER, SBI, SAM BRANCH-1, NEW DELHI", IFSC Code: SBIN0004109 or by way of demand draft /Pay order in favor of

State Bank of India, SAM Branch-1, New Delhi drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:

E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line".

6. Mr. Amit Kumra, C-96, 1st Floor, Sector 54, Suncity, Gurgaon

Date: 27-05-2020, Place: New Delhi

The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd. (Help Line No.: 0124-4302020/21/23/24, Mr. Vinod, Mobile No.- 9813887931 & Email: support@bankeauctions.com) at heir web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com; E-Auction Tender Document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are availabl https://www.bankeauctions.com

To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the property/ies, prior to submitting their bid. In this regard, the e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank.

The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues. The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction o erms and conditions of the e-auction are published in the following websites. 1. https://www.bankeauctions.com 2. http://www.sbi.co.in STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002., The other to

#### WORDLY WISE

IF YOU BUREAUCRATISE POPULAR JUSTICE THEN
YOU GIVE IT THE FORM OF A COURT. — MICHEL FOUCAULT

### The Indian **EXPRESS**

Sounded By 
 RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

### TACKLING THE SURGE

Hospitals need to look for creative solutions to deal with patient influx, while ensuring safety of healthcare workers

ITH LESS THAN a week for Lockdown 4 to end, India's COVID-19 case-load has surged past 1,40,000. The relaxation of restrictions from the third phase of the lockdown onwards has added to the challenges faced by the country's already overburdened healthcare system. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, the positivity rate (share of tests that yield positive results) has gone up to 7 per cent in the three weeks of Lockdown 3 and 4—it was around 3 per cent at the end of Lockdown 2. The mortality rate, reassuringly, has remained static at about 3 per cent. Moreover, more than 80 per cent of the infected do not require hospitalisation. Even then, the sheer scale of the pandemic seems to be taxing the resources of hospitals in most parts of the country and taking a toll on the health of medical professionals. The death, on Sunday, of a COVID-positive nurse employed at a private hospital in Delhi, who was allegedly made to wear used PPEs, frames the difficulties of those at the frontlines of the battle against the virus.

In the past two months, states have tried to mobilise public resources, ramp up medical centres, and shore up quarantine facilities. In most parts of the country, such efforts have, at best, produced mixed results. In Delhi, more than 75 per cent of the beds earmarked for COVID-positive patients in private hospitals are already occupied. Though the Delhi government claims that the situation is under control, it needs to be on high alert because the city has been adding more than 400 COVID cases daily for more than a week now. In Mumbai, as a report in this paper showed last week, the situation is much more critical: There is an acute shortage of Dedicated Covid Hospitals, which admit critically ill patients like those who require ICU or ventilator support. With the return of migrants from hotspots, districts and small towns in the country will have their task cut out. Khagaria district in Bihar, for instance, expects about 50,000 migrants to return in the coming weeks, but has only two ventilators, both in private hospitals. Only 37 of the 135 posts of government doctors in the district have been filled.

Overwhelmed by the pandemic, some medical facilities have turned up the pressure on medical professionals, particularly junior doctors and nurses. Last week, the Gujarat High Court pulled up the state's health minister and chief secretary for neglecting the problems faced by patients and staff at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. Responding to an anonymous letter detailing the problems of the government hospital's junior staff, the court described the healthcare facility as a "dungeon". As the country's COVID-19 caseload increases, policymakers and hospital authorities need to work at creative solutions to deal with the patient influx. As a first step, they must treat healthcare workers in a humane manner, ensure their safety.

### UNLOCKING JUSTICE

That a 19-year-old is still in jail, accused of sedition, because court sees no urgency in her matter is a tragedy and travesty

NDIVIDUALS AGAINST WHOM cases of sedition have been filed in recent months, for protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the proposed National Register of Citizens in particular, may be facing a double injustice, in the justice process. As a report in this paper has brought to light, amid a public health emergency in which courts are hearing only "urgent" cases through video-conferencing, bail pleas filed in these cases are not being defined as such. That these people, like 19-yearold Amulya Leona, arrested in February by Bengaluru police under Section 124 of the IPC for raising "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans at an anti-CAA rally, are languishing in custody, their bail pleas unheard, is the second injustice. The first, as another report in this paper underlined in February, predates the pandemic: It is the fact that in many of these arrests, the remand orders by magistrates neither asked nor answered basic questions laid down by the Supreme Court to satisfy themselves that the serious sedition charge is founded. A scrutiny of 25-odd arrests made on charges of sedition in UP, Karnataka and Assam since the anti-CAA protests began, threw up a sobering pattern of police custody granted by courts, no questions asked, no reasons given, or after the most perfunctory hearings. While the Supreme Court has upheld the colonial-era sedition law, it has also read the provision restrictively, saying only seditious "speech tended to incite public disorder" was punishable. The apex court has emphasised that clear and immediate incitement to violence is necessary for making the offence of sedition.

The apparent languor of the courts, the evident lack of rigour or urgency, in cases where it would appear that the government is criminalising acts of protest by slapping serious charges on them, is troubling. It is disquieting if the pandemic becomes a cover to delay or deny the weak and the vulnerable their day in court, their fundamental right to bail. Ever since people's protests began across the country against the CAA and the proposed NRC — they were seen to be introducing religion as a criterion for citizenship, and discriminating against the Muslim minority — the BJP-led government at the Centre has, deservedly, invited accusations of intolerance of views different from its own. The government did not just turn a deaf ear to the protesters, it also attempted to subdue them, including by wielding the sedition law. This has cast a greater responsibility on the court.

The courts are the time-tested recourse for upholding and safeguarding constitutional protections for the citizens' freedom of expression, including and especially the liberty to dissent. They must not show, nor be seen to show, a lack of alacrity in performing their vital role.

### WATCH THE BIRDIE

The golden age of kabootarbaazi in Pakistan isn't over — another mission from the far side is on the radar

WICE EVERY DECADE, on average, intelligence officers on the border with Pakistan interrogate a flighty suspect and try to make it sing. But it can only coo, because it is a homing pigeon. The last time a Pakistani pigeon was caught in the Indian dragnet was in 2015, when a bird with nashtaliq markings was apprehended. The writing referred to a district and town in Pakistan, and was probably the pre-modern equivalent of the courier company's standard message: "If undelivered, please return to sender." However, amid rampant attempts by some custodians of Indian culture to purge it of Urdu, the lettering was found to be suspicious and the pigeon was interrogated mercilessly. The contents of its debriefing were never revealed. Presumably, the bird had cooed soothingly.

But it had lied. All is not well. The nashtaliq pigeon's successor in the service has been apprehended in Kathua, the border district in Jammu & Kashmir, as it flew in from Pakistani airspace, under the radar. This miscreant is inscrutable, but features radical heraldry. Its left wing is marked bright red, and so is a ring fixed to its leg, which bears a string of code. A dated signal from the communist movement, which has a largely forgotten history in Pakistan?

Having left behind that history, no one has the key to read that message any more. And anyway, the only apparent ground for suspecting the pigeon is its nationality. Maybe the "code" is just the bird's membership number in a pigeon racing club in Sialkot. Maybe it is the Swiss bank account number of its owner, which is the internal affair of Pakistan. Maybe it's a string of gibberish designed to keep the National Security Advisor on edge. Maybe we should wait five years for the next Pakistani pigeon to violate our airspace, bearing a more sensible message.

# The importance of campus



Pandemic is being used to push online education — but it must supplement, not replace, physical sites of learning

SATISH DESHPANDE

THE CURRENT CRAZE for online education (OE) reminds me of the wall graffiti advertising sex clinics that are visible across urban north India. These ads promise guaranteed cures — shartiya ilaj — for all kinds of ailments and afflictions. Today, OE is being force-fed to Indian education as a miracle cure — at all levels (school, college, university) and for all tasks (lectures, exams, admissions) — not only for pandemic conditions but for the future.

Readers may have already decided that I come to bury OE, not to praise it. They are half right. I believe that the incredible synergy unleashed by information and communications technology (ICT) is the best thing to have happened to education since the printing press. Indeed, higher education today is unthinkable without some form of the computer and some mode of digitised data transmission. As products of this revolution, online methods of teaching and learning deserve our highest praise - but only when cast in their proper role, which is to supplement, support and amplify the techniques of face-to-face education. The moment they are proposed as a substitute for the physical sites of learning we have long known - brick-and-cement schools, colleges, and universities - online modes must be resolutely resisted.

Resistance to OE is often dismissed as the self-serving response of vested interests, notably obstructive, technophobic teachers unwilling to upgrade their skills. But these are not the only vested interests involved. Authoritarian administrators are attracted by the centralised control and scaling-at-will that OE offers. Educational entrepreneurs have been trying to harvest the billions promised by massive open online courses (MOOCs) – think of Udacity, Coursera, or EdX. Pundits are now predicting post-pandemic tie-ups between ICT giants like Google and Amazon and premium education brands like Harvard and Oxford that will launch a new era of verticallyintegrated hybrid OE platforms.

Whatever the vested interests, ultimately it is the perspective of students that should be decisive. Is OE a viable alternative to traditional educational institutions (TEI) for the typical

We have long ignored the vital role public educational institutions play as exemplary sites of social inclusion and relative equality. In Indian conditions, this role is arguably even more important than the scholastic role. Though many ugly blemishes remain, the public educational institution is still the only space where people of all genders, classes, castes, and communities can meet without one group being forced to bow to others. Whatever its impact on academics, this is critical learning for life. Women students, in particular, will be much worse off if confined to their homes by OE.

Indian student?

Proponents of OE offer misleading answers to this question by making biased comparisons. Since no one with access to an elite TEI chooses OE instead, we know that OE always loses in best-to-best comparisons. Favourable impressions about OE are created mostly by comparing the best of OE with average or worse TEIs. But is it true that the best OE is better than the average college or university?

To answer this question, we must examine the implicit claim at the heart of the OE project, namely, that the goals of TEIs are achievable without the latter's physical location or forms of interaction. In other words, OE claims that neither the campus nor face-to-face interaction are integral to education. Since the comparative evaluation of virtual versus face-to-face pedagogic interaction needs more space, the campus question is considered here.

How does the typical student's home (where most would access OE) compare with a typical TEI campus? Census 2011 tells us that 71 per cent of households with three or more members have dwellings with two rooms or less (74 per cent in rural and 64 per cent in urban areas). According to National Sample Survey data for 2017-18, only 42 per cent of urban and 15 per cent of rural households had internet access, and only 34 per cent of urban and 11 per cent of rural persons had used the internet in the past 30 days. It is true that many TEIs (both public and private) have substandard infrastructure. But these data suggest that the majority (roughly two-thirds) of students are likely to be worse off at home compared to any campus. The impact of smartphone capabilities and stability of net connectivity on OE

pedagogy also needs to be examined.

But it is as a social rather than physical space that the college or university campus plays a critical role. We have long ignored the vital role public educational institutions play as exemplary sites of social inclusion and relative equality. In Indian conditions, this role is arguably even more important than the scholastic role. Though many ugly blemishes remain, the public educational institution is

still the only space where people of all genders, classes, castes, and communities can meet without one group being forced to bow to others. Whatever its impact on academics, this is critical learning for life. Women students, in particular, will be much worse off if confined to their homes by OE.

Its unacceptability as a substitute does not diminish the indispensable part that OE can play as a supplement to on-site education. It can use content and methods that are hard to include in the normal curriculum. It can put pressure on lazy or incompetent teachers. It can provide hands-on experience in many technical fields where simulations are possible. And it can, of course, be a powerful accessory for affluent students able to afford expensive aids. But it is fraudulent to suggest that OE can replace public education, the only kind that the majority can access.

Such bluntness may seem unseemly. It is necessary today when governments are using the cover of the COVID-19 emergency to push through regressive "reforms" - such as anti-worker amendments to labour laws that would face vocal opposition in normal times. In this context, there is a real danger that OE is being groomed to play the role played by the "cashless economy" during the demonetisation crisis, but in reverse. The mirage of a cashless economy was a retrospec $tively \, invented \, justification \, for \, a \, catastrophic$ autocratic decision. OE could be the proactive trojan horse smuggled in under pandemic conditions to abrogate the state's commitments in public education.

The best last-ditch argument for replacing TEIs with OE is to first undermine the former to the point of collapse, and then innocently point out that, after all, OE is better than nothing. This cynical argument works only if we are somehow persuaded to be complicit in the destruction of public education. Unless we resist such persuasion today, OE is exactly the kind of "shartiya ilaj" that we may be coerced into buying tomorrow.

The writer teaches sociology at Delhi University



### A Portable Welfare

Experience with GST holds valuable lessons for One Nation One Ration Card

Varad Pande and Subhashish Bhadra

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS precipitated by COVID-19 has focussed the country's attention on inter-state migrants. Millions of Indians in this diverse, complex group have crossed state borders in search of better economic opportunities. The crisis, however, has highlighted their precarious socio-economic condition.

Historically, governments have made several attempts to bridge the gap. A key part of that roadmap is the idea of portable welfare benefits, that is, a citizen should be able to access welfare benefits irrespective of where she is in the country. In the case of food rations the idea was first mooted under the UPA government by a Nandan Nilekani-led task force in 2011. The current government had committed to a national rollout of One Nation, One Ration Card (ON-ORC) by June 2020, and had initiated pilots in 12 states. While intra-state portability of benefits has seen good initial uptake, inter-state portability has lagged. The finance minister has now announced the deadline of March 2021 to roll out ON-ORC.

To ensure a smooth rollout, we would benefit from reviewing the challenges thus far. First, the fiscal implications: ON-ORC will affect how the financial burden is shared between states. Second, the larger issues of federalism and inter-state coordination: Many states are not convinced about a "one size fits all" regime because they have customised the PDS through higher subsidies, higher entitlement limits, and supply of additional items. Third, the technology aspect: ON-ORC requires a complex technology backbone that brings over 750 million beneficiaries, 5,33,000

In a noteworthy example of cooperative federalism, the central government created a GST council consisting of the finance ministers of the central and state governments to address these issues. The government could consider a similar national council for ON-ORC. To be effective, this council should meet regularly, have specific decision-making authority, and should operate in a problem-solving mode based on consensus building.

ration shops and 54 million tonnes of foodgrain annually on a single platform.

These barriers might seem daunting, but the country has previously dealt with an equally complex situation while rolling out the GST, which was widely touted as "one nation, one tax".

Just like with ON-ORC, fiscal concerns had troubled GST from the start. States like Tamil Nadu and Gujarat that are "net exporters" were concerned they would lose out on tax revenues to "net consumer" states like UP and Bihar. Finally, the Centre had to step in and provide guaranteed compensation for lost tax revenues for the first five years. The Centre could provide a similar assurance to "net inbound migration" states such as Maharashtra and Kerala that any additional costs on account of migrants will be covered by it for the five years.

GST also saw similar challenges with broader issues of inter-state coordination. In a noteworthy example of cooperative federalism, the central government created a GST council consisting of the finance ministers of the central and state governments to address these issues. The government could consider a similar national council for ON-ORC. To be effective, this council should meet regularly, have specific decision-making authority, and should operate in a problem-solving mode based on consensus building.

Finally, GST is supported by a sophisticated tech backbone, housed by the GST Network (GSTN), an entity jointly owned by the Centre and states. A similar system would be needed for ON-ORC. The Nilekani-led task force recommended setting up of a PDS network

(PDSN) to track movement of rations, register beneficiaries, issue ration cards, handle grievances and generate analytics. Since food rations are a crucial lifeline for millions, such a platform should incorporate principles such as inclusion, privacy, security, transparency, and accountability. The IM-PDS portal provides a good starting point.

At the same time, we should learn from the shortcomings and challenges of the GST rollout. For example, delay in GST refunds led to cash-flow issues. Similar delays in receiving food rations could be catastrophic. Therefore, ON-ORC should create, publish and adhere to time-bound processes, like right to public services legislation that have been adopted by 15 states, and rapid grievance redress mechanisms.

MSMEs also complained about the increase in compliance burden especially for those who had to digitise overnight. Similar challenges could arise in ON-ORC. PDS dealers will need to be brought on board, and not assumed to be compliant. Citizens will need to be shielded from the inevitable teething issues by keeping the system lenient at first, providing different ways of authenticating oneself, and publicising a helpline widely.

If done well, ON-ORC could lay the foundation of a truly national and portable benefits system that includes other welfare programmes like LPG subsidy and social pensions. It is an opportunity to provide a reliable social protection backbone to migrants, who are the backbone of our economy.

The writers work at Omidyar Network India



### May 27, 1980, Forty Years Ago

### ASSAM VIOLENCE

Four persons were killed when police opened fire on clashing mobs of rival student groups in at least two Assam towns this morning. More than 400 persons, including a dozen policemen, were injured. Scores of houses were burnt down, shops looted and innumerable cases of assaults were reported from as many as 24 places in lower Assam. Three of the casualties were at Bijni and one of them was at Abhoypuri. One person has been stabbed to death at Barpeta road last night.

OPPOSITION VIEWS
TWENTY LEADERS FROM various opposition
parties and groups in Parliament have been

invited by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for discussions on the Assam problem on May 31. Members of the cabinet committee on political affairs will attend the all-party meet. Mrs Gandhi had convened the meeting to make another bid to evolve an acceptable solution to the problem of foreign nationals in Assam. Mrs Gandhi is likely to seek the opposition's views on the various suggestions which have been made about the base year for deportation and settlement of those identified as foreigners. Since the earlier all-party meeting had endorsed the government's move to fix 1971 as the base year for identifying and deporting foreigners, it is felt that the opposition should be consulted if any change is to be made.

New Delhi

### KWANGJU CRISIS THE BATTERED SOUTH Korean city of

Kwangju remained in the hands of antigovernment rebels. The student leaders of the insurrection said that they wanted the United States as a "firm ally" to help mediate a solution to the crisis. "The US should exercise influence on the government," the militants told reporters as the stalemate between them and martial law authorities continued for the fourth day. Student leaders also announced a new death toll from the three days of rioting last week, saying that they had collected a total of 261 bodies, of which 100 remain unidentified.

— THE GUARDIAN

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

# THE IDEAS PAGE

# HIV lessons for Covid-19

HIV/AIDS was thwarted by a bottom-up approach, in which the marginalised and vulnerable were seen as partners, not subjects



Vivek Divan

A DECADE AGO, India demonstrated a health-related response that was acclaimed as a blueprint for how public health challenges can be successfully tackled. We seem to have forgotten (or dismissed) the fundamentals of that success already.

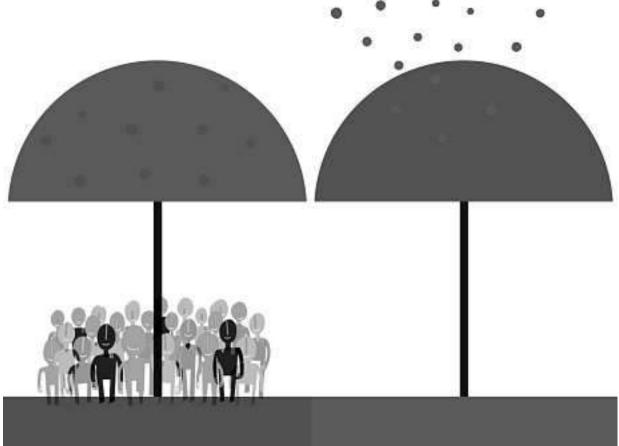
The decades-long response to HIV/AIDS fronted the following principles. First, dealing with epidemics requires placing the most marginalised and vulnerable at the forefront of any strategy. If their needs are met—whether in the form of access to information and services, or respect for their bodily, social and economic integrity—not only are their health outcomes more promising, but in all likelihood, the needs and health of others who are higher in the socio-economic ladder will also be met through such a thoughtful approach.

Shaping inclusive and nurturing health systems and social environments means that those delivering health are attuned to the realities of the vulnerable and marginalised, and can better serve their needs. It means fostering an environment of health and governance that those at the margins feel encouraged and safe to engage with. As a queer man who was vulnerable to HIV, I know how very distant a health system that shunned me and my ilk felt like in the 1990s. As a lawyer who has long worked on issues related to health, I saw how transformative it was to work with government bureaucrats, physicians, nurses, police, employers, and NGOs, who were open to conversations on sex, sexuality, illness and law, and how, over time, these dialogues fostered an enabling environment in the health sector, which began to reflect in policy, and in wider societal efforts to counter HIV.

In the case of HIV, fostering such an environment meant sex workers, hijras, people living with HIV, drug users, men who have sex with other men were at the heart of health and public policy efforts. In the context of COVID-19, it means centering front-line personnel such as healthcare workers, sanitation workers, and the police, people with co-morbidities, senior citizens, and those whose lives are turned chaotic by harsh measures such as lockdowns — daily wage and migrant labourers, women and the urban poor.

Second, make the marginalised and vulnerable allies in this journey through a collective approach that listens to their needs and offers appropriate solutions. Do not treat them as subjects to be regimented, but partners to be empowered — bottom-up, not topdown. Strengthen them with reliable, relatable, destigmatising and evidence-based information and services, the rights to avail these, and a health and social system that does not castigate but welcomes.

This requires humility, a consciousness to know that whatever our expertise, we



C R Sasikumaı

don't have the solutions to health issues that are entwined with complex human realities. And that although those in the most serious predicaments may be lower in all the kinds of ill-conceived ways by which we measure social and human worth, they probably have insights that lead us together to solutions.

Third, leave one's personal morality and the all-too-common human tendency to blame and vilify behind. This entails understanding how a disease transmits, but not faulting those who have it. Like with COVID-19, in HIV too an overwhelming majority of people have no idea that they are carriers.

Doing this in relation to HIV led to some extraordinary progress, including the maturing of a health bureaucracy for whom issues of human sexuality and sexual behaviour became routinely comfortable, one which was honest and empathetic about such issues, regularly at ease sitting with hijras and sex workers to listen and learn from them, and let such voices shape policy and practice, which became so much more reflective of ground realities, and therefore, more effective. Indeed, it was heartening to note that some of those who served in government at the peak of the HIV response are part of ICMR's high-level technical committee of experts on COVID-19. They will have lessons to share from HIV. That advice should be

HIV was thwarted from ravaging India not by an intimidating top-down approach. It was contained because of an empowered community of affected citizens who demanded their health and related rights, and a place at the table as responsible solvers of the challenge, not docile recipients of directives. It was a community that demanded ac-

Admittedly, the response to HIV was disease-centric, strengthened with large sums of financing and human resources. Unfortunately, it failed to transform health systems more broadly, which should have been another positive outcome of such a resourceintensive effort. And undoubtedly, COVID-19 and HIV are different in their pathologies, causes, manifestations and impacts. Still, like the Basic Structure of India's Constitution, there are some fundamentals which are true and work

cess to antiretroviral medication that made the government roll out and scale up a free programme that has saved and enhanced millions of lives. It was an active and diverse queer community that demanded an end to laws like section 377 which made them vulnerable to violence, unjust criminality and HIV that caused the law to be struck down. It was a vast swathe of citizens that worked on and obtained India's first anti-discrimination law — the HIV/AIDS Act. It is this community which challenges illegitimate monopoly claims by big pharma to patent life-saving drugs that threaten to make medication unaffordable.

Admittedly, the response to HIV was disease-centric, strengthened with large sums of financing and human resources. Unfortunately, it failed to transform health systems more broadly, which should have been another positive outcome of such a resource-intensive effort. And undoubtedly, COVID-19 and HIV are different in their pathologies, causes, manifestations and impacts. Still, like the Basic Structure of India's Constitution, there are some fundamentals which are true and work regardless of the nature of things.

Although the challenges of COVID-19 should not be dealt with in a disease-specific manner, this crisis is a ripe opportunity to strengthen the public health and social security system more fully, fortified by the humane and inclusive approaches that HIV has shown us. It is not yet too late for India's response to COVID-19 to recalibrate so that it serves community health and the public good in just this manner.

The writer heads the Centre for Health Equity, Law & Policy at ILS Pune

# When faith is shaken

"What is now at stake is bigger than the future of Hong Kong, as important as that is. Other nations should ask themselves whether they want China to believe that it can trample on its pledges and renege on international treaties

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

To reinstall trust of diaspora in government as effective rescuer, a Citizen Evacuation Policy is needed



with impunity."

**JAIVEER SHERGILL** 

ON JUNE 8, 2017, then External Affairs Minister of India, the late Sushma Swaraj, tweeted: "Even if you are stuck on Mars, the Indian Embassy will be there to help you." This confidence-laden declaration to help Indians on foreign soil during crises stemmed from two factors. First, the glorious track record of 30-plus successful overseas evacuations by the government since Independence, including the Kuwait Airlift and Operation Safe Homecoming. These, despite being held during wartime conditions, were characterised by a quick governmental will and intent to shield the diaspora. Second, from the assurance given to every citizen on the first page of the Indian passport which reads "...Allow the bearer to pass freely... and to affirm him or her, every assistance and protection of which he or she may stand in need".

COVID-19 has not only tested the resilience of the medical and safety infrastructure of the country but has also put to the test the seriousness of the pledge of assistance and protection made to every Indian travelling or studying abroad. While the reverse migration of labourers has exposed faultlines in the welfare apparatus, the commercialised, chargeable international missions — "Vande Bharat" and "Operation Samudra Setu" — expose the arbitrary and slow-footed response of the current central government towards the repatriation of Indians stuck abroad.

The government shut down Indian skies to all inbound traffic on March 22, which left a large number of Indians stranded in various countries. Indians marooned abroad stared at the bleak possibility of not returning home, faced evictions from hostels and hotels in certain cases due to safety measures as well as financial constraints. The sequence of events that followed, rather than reassuring them, gave the impression that the administration has a discriminatory and whimsical approach towards its citizens in need overseas. The decision to sign a contract whereby Air India would return safely the citizens of four countries — Germany, Canada, France and Ireland — and opting to fly back empty instead of ferrying back Indians (desirous of returning) left everyone with a sense of betrayal. The Ministry of External Affairs indulged in self-congratulation in one of its press briefings, for assisting 20,000 foreign nationals in exiting India. But it failed to share a blueprint or even give a commitment about the return of Indian citizens abroad, highlighting the "out of sight-out of mind" mindset of the decision-makers.

When the central government finally decided to offer a helping hand, it opted to launch a paid repatriation mission rather than an evacuation mission (which is free of cost for the evacuee). Is this the time to extract a pound of flesh from disheartened, disappointed and fatigued Indians? The Vande Bharat Mission along with Operation Samudra Setu has created history by being the largest paid repatriation exercise. It has also created history by being the most delayed and commercialised repatriation the world has seen in recent times.

More often than not, whenever the executive fails, the judiciary comes to the rescue. Unfortunately, in the case of stranded Indians, even the Supreme Court of India on April 13 said, "stay where you are" in an observation while dealing with the plea seeking directions to the government to initiate evacuation missions. The lacuna and unpredictability of the government's response bring to the forefront the urgent need for India to have a well-structured and institutionalised rights-based "citizen evacuation policy" with the potential to be initiated and implemented without being held hostage to unpredictable political temperaments and the bureaucratic maze.

The fact that such a policy is critical for being well-prepared for another COVID-19 like exigency is a foregone conclusion. Also, keeping in mind the increasing traffic of outbound students, businessmen, tourists (the United Nations World Tourism Organisation estimated that more than 50 million Indians will travel abroad till 2022), researchers and job-seekers, India needs to revisit its overseas evacuation strategy. As suggested by a research paper on January 4, 2017, "India's Expatriate Evacuation Operations: Bringing the Diaspora Home", published by Carnegie India, legislators and policy experts need to frame a set of standard operating procedures. These must not be based on convenience but on the requirement to strengthen the response mechanism of Indian embassies worldwide (amongst other things) so that every Indian on foreign soil is aware of the law, timelines, communication channels, individual rights beyond the "11 line promise" printed on the first page of the passport. At the same time, the officials at the MEA need to answer why there was a departure from the swift, noncommercialised approach adopted in the past, creating a trust deficit amongst the help-seeking citizens.

The Prime Minister of India, in a televised interview on January 21, 2018, claimed that the "Indian passport now has different respect and strength". Now, just as the faith of migrant workers has been shaken and demolished by the system, the faith of students and tourists abroad stands scarred. To reinstall the trust of the diaspora in the government as an effective rescuer, a Citizen Evacuation Policy must be tabled at the earliest.

The writer is a Supreme Court lawyer and national spokesperson, Indian National Congress

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LEARN NOW

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Think smarter' (IE, May 26). There has to be a course correction in our Smart Cities Mission. How little health figures in smart city projects is ridiculous. Perhaps, if our infrastructure had not been so woefully inadequate, we may not have been pushed behind closed doors for so long. The lack of means to deal with COVID-19 has led to indescribable suffering. A healthy population is an asset for a nation. It's time to realise this and learn our lessons from the pandemic.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

### FEAR MONGERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The contagion of fear' (IE, May 26). The fear of an unknown disease, a contagion that has affected all aspects of life, is understandable. In India, though, the reaction to the disease isn't just about a natural fear. The political class, particularly the ruling party, has made the issue one of demonising minorities. It's own ant-science bias — as the author points out through examples — encourages exclusion and obscurantism.

### Biswadeep Chatterjee, Delhi UNEQUAL CITIZENS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Migration: Our's and theirs' (IE, May 26). The writer poignantly captures the unequal treatment meted out to the interstate and intra-state migrants, based on their caste and class. Inequality — a marker of capitalism — is today a way of life.

New Delhi

### IDEAS Online

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

• UNLOCKING GOLD'S POTENTIAL: MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM

● FOR AN AUTONOMOUS EC:ASHWINI KULKARNI, PRAMATHESH AMBASTA

www.indianexpress.com

With values like empathy, solicitude and respect missing in public life, a large chunk of the population is reduced to second-rate citizens. This betrays our collective conscience and the human spirit. A bit of conscientiousness and

due regard will go a long way. **Anirudh Parashar,** *Solan* 

### Don't succumb

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Unquiet front' (IE, May 25). The stand-off between India and China on the border appears to be a pressure tactic by the Chinese to force India to play a low key in the pandemic origin probe. India getting close to the US has also irked the Chinese. So, the latter has even provoked Nepal to raise a border dispute in Sikkim. India must stand its guard and not succumb to Beijing's bully tactics.

R D Singh, Ambala

# Crisis and leadership

things.

Uttar Pradesh is setting an example, dealing with pandemic with efficiency, firmness

regardless of the nature of

Akhilesh Mishra

WE ARE STILL in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, a more detailed analysis of all the factors at play in real-time may have to wait. However, several aspects of this pandemic — what it will mean for the world — are already visible.

world - are already visible. At the global scale, the system of governance is itself at test. This is not a minor happenstance, as history shows that such global crises have often led to major upheavals in the globally accepted forms of governments. In the present context, the question being posed is this: Is the autocratic model of China, which claims to have stopped the virus in its tracks, better? Or is the democratic model better? Considering the way the virus has been handled in some large democracies, an enterprising partisan could make a case for the Chinese model. The partisan could argue that South Korea or Singapore are not really models since they are very small states, and in terms of scale, China has fared better than the US or Britain in first managing the pandemic, and then later, in restarting the economy. India is the only spoilsport in this narrative. It is a large, chaotic and diverse democracy. Yet, from enforcing strict and early lockdowns to providing economic relief to almost half a billion people, and then to a gradual opening up,

India — under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi — stands as a shining democratic counter to the artificial glitz of the autocratic Chinese model.

Closer home, an unstated contest between the various states is also playing out. Which state leadership has proved its mettle in this time of unprecedented crisis? While an answer to this question may have multiple views, what cannot be contested is the emergence of Yogi Adityanath as the state leader with the most enhanced stature. He had already built a reputation for administrative dexterity by the simultaneous and flawless execution of the mega-scale Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and the 2019 Prayagraj Kumbh Mela. But in a sense, they were minor challenges. The real mettle is tested when one needs to react to unforeseen challenges - like COVID-19 - Adityanath and his COVID-19 "Team 11" management team have, so far, performed in a stellar fashion in managing all the dimensions of this challenge.

First, in establishing a protocol for contact tracing, testing and quarantining, Uttar Pradesh has set a good example. The successful Agra cluster containment model, for example, has already attracted a lot of attention. In dealing with the violators of guidelines, be it the Tablighis or others, the

state has displayed requisite tact and firmness. So far, more than 2.52 crore people in over 50 lakh homes have been reached by over 60,000 surveillance teams.

Second, health infrastructure has been scaled up in record time. Seventy-eight hospitals of Level-1, 64 government hospitals of Level-2 and six hospitals of Level-3 — with a combined bed capacity of 52,000 — have been set up, covering every district of the state. Fifty-three units manufacturing PPEs, 99 units making sanitisers and 412 units making medical equipment and medicines have been made functional in the state in the last two months.

Third, Adityanath is the only state leader to have understood the importance of providing early economic relief. It was the first state government to provide Rs 1,000 each to 5.97 lakh construction workers on March 24. Since then, in April, Rs, 1,000 each was transferred to an additional almost 30 lakh workers, and Rs 611 crore was transferred to over 27 lakh MGNREGA workers. On May 1, labour day, over 30 lakh workers were again given Rs 1,000 each. All this is over and above the central government relief packages.

Fourth, the state has been the most humane and proactive in managing the migrants' movement. Apart from immediate

travel, food and financial assistance, the state has also started preparing for the future. The unskilled labour that once left the state is now returning as a skilled and trained workforce. Utilising the opportunity, a Migrants Commission is being set up which, among other things, will prepare a district-wise human-skills map for use by industries in a bid to retain talent.

Fifth, realising the inherent opportunity in the crisis, aggressive reforms carried out at the state level — especially in labour laws — have already attracted global attention. Coupled with an already massive push towards creating connectivity, easier land acquisition processes and responsive state machinery, the state is putting its best foot forward. Von Wellx became the first company to shift its manufacturing from China to India post the COVID-19 crisis. Coincidentally, it chose UP as its base.

It will be fascinating to watch how UP fares in general, and Adityanath in particular, in the coming months and years. If the response to the COVID-19 crisis is any barometer, we are in for exciting times.

The writer is CEO, Bluekraft Digital Foundation and was earlier director (content) MyGov 0070705495-1

0070705494-

NC leadership

should express

party's stand on

J&K spl status,

says top leader

### Classifieds

#### **PERSONAL**

I, IC-72974P MAJ LALIT MOHAN SHARMA,S/O MR.OM PRAKASH SHARMA, have changed my minor son's name, from ARIHAAN to ARIHAAN SHARMA, for all, future purposes.

SUSHIL KUMAR, R/O-POCKET-E-15 H.NO.102, 103 SECTOR-8. ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE changed my name to NEEMA 0040538169-5

I. Neerai Chadha s/o Ramesh Chadha r/o K-116, Third Floor, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, also known as Vicky Chadha. Both are same person.

0040538153-1

**I,** Parveen Gambhir, S/o Om Prakash Gambhir R/o. NIL-11A. Malviya-Nagar, New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Praveen Gambhir.

0040538169-3

I, SUSHIL KUMAR AGGARWAL,S/O SURAJ BHAN AGGARWAL,R/O-POCKET-E-15 H.NO.102,103 SECTOR-8.ROHINI.DFI HI-110085.have changed my name to SUSHIL KUMAR.

0040538169-4

I, V.Ali Rani,W/o Vinayagam,R/o-24/8, Street.Kalavai.Arcot-Taluka. Vellore, Tamil Nadu-632506, have changed my name to Usha and my Date-of-Birth is-01-01-1960. 0040538169-6

I,JC-452026X SUB RAM AVTAR,S/O RAMRSHWAR,R/O-VPO-MAURI, TEH+DISTT-CHARKHI DADRI, HARYANA-123306.have changed my minor son's name, from ANKIT SINGH JANGHU to ANKIT KUMAR.for all.future purposes.

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all his movable and immovable estates their misconduct and misdeeds. Henc any acts and actions of abovenamed p shall in no manner construe and co any liability or responsibilities towar client, and anybody who has been with him or them in any manner whata will be doing so at his/her/their own ris and peril.

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cnown to all that my clients Shri Tara Sir Late Hukam Chand and Mrs. Rajesh D of Shri Tara Singh both R/o 18, Tik la, Maidan Garhi, South Delhi, Delhi-1100

equences.
Sd/- Anup Singh (Advoce

KAMAL SINGH (Advocate) Enrl. No. D-748/14

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that my Client Smt. Nirmala W/o Sh. Rajbir Singh S/o Late. Sh. Bharat Singh R/o -333, Village Jaunti, Delhi-110081 hereby declares that our Son Lakshay Vats (Age 26) & his wife Neelam & her daughter (0.6) are not well behaving with us and also showing selfish attitude towards us. Therefore we hereby severe and disowned from all assets & liabilities from now onward. Any person deals with Sh. Lakshay Vats, will be at their own risks and my

client shall not be responsible of

any claim against him with immediate effect in any

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

rdens, Sohna Road, Sector-33 Gurugram, Haryana, have debarre

their younger son Pranav Agarwa

his wife Smt. Ritu Agarwal, and the children Miss Maheika and Miss Sia

rom all their self acquired movable

years of their marriage and from now onwards they will have no relations whatsoever with my clients. My

ients will have nothing to do with

R.K.S. BAJWA (ADVOCATE

CH. NO. 114 LAWYERS BLOCK

any of the actions of the above said

Narendra Kumar Sharn

Ch. No. 508, Saket Courts New Delhi-110017

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Be it known my clients (1) RAJINDEI PRASAD S/O SH. SHISH RAM (2 NIRMAL BANSAL W/O SH. RAJINDEI

### Srinagar cardiologist complains against police, booked

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** SRINAGAR, MAY 26

POLICE HAVE opened a probe into Saturday's incident in Srinagar involving a senior interventional cardiologist who said he was stopped by police while on way to hospital and kept at a police station the entire day.

Dr Syed Maqbool said he was hit with a baton and later threatened. He said he was able to leave the police station only in the evening after his brother learnt of his whereabouts.

A row erupted after police

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

booked Dr Maqbool, claiming he tried to manhandle a policeman. SSP Srinagar Haseeb Mughal

said: "A case stands registered against him for attempting to manhandle a policeman on duty. Misbehaving and manhandling of policemen on the job will not be tolerated and firm legal action will be taken... I have received this complaint from the doctor, we (will) get it verified. (I) have askedSP Hazratbal Sudhansu Verma to enquire into the matter."

Dr Samia Rashid, principal of Government Medical College and Associated Hospitals, took up the matter with the civil and police

and families". A police statement said IGP Vijay Kumar "took strong notice" and instructed a senior officer to submit a factual. "It was also reiterated that doctors, paramedics and police are jointly combating Covid-19 and whatever incident has taken place, we shall look into them, conduct impartial enquiry

administration. She also tweeted

Monday, saying the "behaviour of

police has been deplorable to say the least" since "we as frontline

workers have been working day

in and day out, risking our lives

and take due action". On Tuesday, Bandipora CMO Tajamul Hussain said his car was stopped at a checkpoint near Nasoo and was not allowed to proceed. He said he stepped out of the vehicle and shouted at the policemen - video clips of this have since been doing the rounds.

Bandipora SP Rahul Malik said the matter was resolved on the spot. "There was no harassment by police," he said.

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER** 

9419439P LNK RAM KUMAR PRADHAN 26 MAY

On this day 9419439P Lnk Ram Kumar Pradhan of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles

(BATALIK) made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP VIJAY' (Kargil) in

May 1999 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be

remembered for his enthusiasm. To this braveheart we pledge that we

shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name

CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES

(BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE) (BATALIK)

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Through e-Payment CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders withou

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Custom Officials at 1st floor on transport building at MMLP/ KHATUWAS", tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs.

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19.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs.

Federation conference hall on 08.06.2020 at 11.30 AM

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ucation and Research (NPER), Wohakas par details given below

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GetDooumentation System with accessories

No.: 197-S/193/Hiring-Truck/NDLS & NZM/19/MC-IV Date: 23.05.2020 1177/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E-Tender Natice T1/2020

Online tanders are imited on behalf of the Director National Institute of Pharmaceutics

Date & Time of submission on or before 17.06.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.

nline from the website (www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL).

Bids in physical form not accepted.

nd capable tenderers.

Earnest money in

of tender hid

Powder X-Ray Offraction

Thermogravimetric Analyzer

3 Differential Scanning Calorimoty 4 ESVAPCHUMPLC-HRMS

Pressure Volume Loop System

8 Resi Time PCR System

Cryostat

Date & time of submission

of tender documents can be seen

ender No.

ompletion Period

arnest Money Deposit

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड **Container Corporation of India Ltd.** Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking) ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi – 110 020

कॉन/उ.क्षे./अमि./Khatuwas/Rest-Rooms/2020

04 months from the 15th day after date of issue of letter of acceptance.

Rs. 1000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment

Rs. 3,841/- Inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundab

From 27.05.2020 (11:00 hrs.) to 16.06.2020 (upto 17:00 hrs.)

TAMIL NADU CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FEDERATION LTD
690, ANNA SALAI PERSON EVEN BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

e-Tender (on-line) Notice for Appointment of O&M Contractor

On line bids are invited through e-tender portal https://tntenders.gov.in fo

appointment of Contractor for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of

Bagasse/Coal/Bio-mass Based Co-generation Power Plants in 6 Cooperative

and Public Sector Sugar Mills. The last date for submission of bids is 25.06.2020

at 11.00 A.M and Part 1 Bids will be opened on 26.06.2020 at 11.00 A.M onwards

Pre bid Meeting in this regard is going to be held in Tamil Nadu Coop, Sugar

690, ANNA SALAI, PERIYAR EVR BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035 Phone: 044-24330083,24344177. E-mail: tamilnaducoopsugarfederation@gmail.com

### BMC ties up with app-based cab service to track ambulances

Mumbai: In a bid to reduce the response time taken by ambulances to reach Covid-19 patients and others in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has tied up with an international app-based cab service to track the movement of 456 ambulances in realtime and dispatch them quickly where needed.

The operator of the appbased cabs has provided BMC with its software, through which the location of the ambulances spread across the city will be available in the civic body's Covid room. Municipal Commissioner I S Chahal, at a joint press conference with Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta and Health Secretary Dr Pradeep Vyas, made the announcement on Tuesday.

### SRINAGAR, MAY 26

Roohullah told The Indian Express: "The National Conference has a known principled stand for the last 70 years: autonomy, (Article) 370 and the conditions of accession to India. Constitutional guarantees. All those were violated illegitimately on August 5 last year, when special status to J&K was withdrawn]."

He said the party does not

"The only apprehension is, it

are misplaced. not doing justice to our job, to our people.'

cleric with hold among J&K's Shia population, Roohullah is an important and influential NC leader and

three-time legislator. He said the party has reasoned

that it is silent on these issues because the NC working committee could not meet, as several of its members are detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA), or are detained at home.

Roohullah, also a member of the working committee, said: "They (party leaders) have their own reasons; they have their own justifications, to which I partially agree and partially do not. They give justification --- they are my colleagues, and I do not separate myself from the party; my colleagues --- that unless they (working committee members) are released, and then meet and collectively decide, we should not speak, as it is the mandate of the working committee."

But, he said, "we don't need a mandate from the working committee to express our principled stand. We were betraved --- entire Jammu and Kashmir was betrayed, the instrument of accession was torn apart illegitimately. To make an opinion or to express what happened on August 5, you don't need the committee's mandate. What you need the working committee for is to decide the methodology --- how we go about it, what kind of response (party should give), the kind of reply, process, the methods we adopt...'

After he was released from jail in March, former J&K chief minister and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah had said that he would talk politics later --- "let's first fight this coronavirus", he had said. But Roohullah asked if the pandemic has not stopped the Union gov-

ernment, what is "stopping us". Party chief Farooq Abdullah has also been silent on the issue of abrogation of I&K's special status since his release from deten-

"The other side, which is New Delhi, as Ram Madhav put it, has taken it to its logical conclusion. They did everything they wanted

to do and turned us into dust. They are doing their job, (but) what stops us," he asked. "They are not stopped by the pandemic...what stops us? This pandemic isn't going anywhere, anytime soon, Whatever happens during that course, whatever is happening, we may not even be in a position

**BASHAARAT MASOOD** 

SEEKING TO break the party leadership's silence on abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating the erstwhile state into two Union Territories, a senior National Conference (NC) leader has asked what is stopping his party and its leaders from expressing the NC's "principled stand" on the issue.

While agreeing that the Centre's response could be "ugly and brutal" if the party breaks its silence, former J&K minister Aga Roohullah asked his NC colleagues to be "ready for that".

need "permission from (New) Delhi" to express what happened on August 5, 2019.

may cause a backlash, in a sense that Delhi will respond in a very ugly(way); their response would be more brutal. But my point is, be ready for that. It is not all about rosy gardens. If you think the political process means only elections, (getting to) the Secretariat and chairs, we

We are then A religious

has been a

### Notice Inviting Tender E-Tender ID:- 2020\_AAI\_48874 \_1 -Tender in the prescribed format are hereby invited for ollowing Facility at CCSI Airport Lucknow:- Name of

**Managing Director** 

facility: Application Based Cab Aggregator Service. ender processing fee Rs. 10,000/-, EMD- Rs. 4,70,000/-, MRI F\_ 9.82 000/\_ and a or further details & updates visit www.etenders.gov.ir TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

# to respond."

ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM
Extension of Tender Notice No.1-3-2 /F. CWSS /2020/ SDO/ CE-TNJ/ dt: 22.05.2020 Sub: 1. Creation of an additional source with pump house to Combined Water Supply Scheme to 893 habitations in Nagapattinam District. 2. Providing Combined Water Supply Scheme to 134 Rural Habitations in Kumbakonam Union of

Traily and District.

Providing Combined Water Supply Scheme to 73 rural habitations in Veppur union of Perambalur Extension of tender Notice – reg.

This office I.F.B. No. -02 / F. CWSS to 893 /2020 / SDO / CE-TNJ / dt: 17.04.2020 (SLNo.1)

2. This Office Extension of Tender Notice No. 11-2 / F. CWSS to 134 /2020/ SDO/ CE TNJ/dt.08.05.2020 (SI.No.2)

3. This office Extension of Tender Notice No. 1-1 / F. CWSS to 73 / 2020/ SDO/ CE-TNJ/ dt.08.05.2020

The sale period, Last date of receipt and opening of tenders in the references cited for the above works is here by extended as below in continuation of the Govt. announcement of 144 extension due to prevailing COVID-19 Virus spreading precautionary measures.

The last date for Sale of Tender 03.06.2020 upto 5.45 P.M The last date for receipt of Tender 05.06.2020 upto 3.00 P.M 05.06.2020 at 3.30 P.M

Date & Time of opening of Tender All other terms and conditions already published remain unaltered

DIPR/ 1921 /TENDER/2020 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Thanjavu **WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION** 

Neme of Work

Approximate

**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS** E-Tender Notice No. 04 of 2020-2021 dated 22.05.2020

DRM-ADI-99-2020-21 Gandhidham-New Bhuj section Providing 01 (One) nos. Road 01 DRM-ADI-₹ 20084353.74 ₹ 250400.00 under Bridges to eliminate manned level crossing no. 09 at km13/5-6 or Gandhidham-New Bhuj section by Launching Pre-casted RCC box segments (CUT & COVER Method) including provision of drainage arrangement, covering shed, provision of temporary diversions i.e. earthwork, soling, WBM etc., and other related miscellaneous works related to the road under bridges

02 DRM-ADI- CC surfacing of parking plots at 100-2020-21 Chandlodiya station, Maninagar ₹ 5230877.95 ₹ 104600.00 station and Kalupur station and Improvement to Vatva Diesel shed canteer 03 DRM-ADI-101-2020-21 of SWR/Free rails into LWR by using ₹ 70035281.87 ₹ 500200.00

flash butt welds with Mobile Flash Butt plant.

04 DRM-ADI-102-2020-21 Deep screening of loop lines and Point and Crossing in Yards and ₹ 6258870.67 | ₹ 125200.00 associated work in jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/SOUTH/ADI 05 DRM-ADI- Rag picking and cleaning of tracks ₹ 10984510.50 ₹ 204900.00 103-2020-21 on approaches to stations under

104-2020-21 track for Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way) -Kalol under jurisdiction of ADEN (MG) Sabarmati (for Two years). 07 DRM-ADI- Viramgam-Cleaning and annual ₹9000.00 105-2020-21 maintenance contract of under ground drainage for (02 Year).

08 DRM-ADI- Constructiion of office of Senior ₹11005333.53 ₹205000.00 106-2020-21 Sectional Engineer / JE (P.way)

09 DRM-ADI- Repairs to plaster, flooring and 107-2020-21 sanitary fitting at Dhrangadhra ₹8187238.58 ₹163800.00

colony and repairs to open and under ground drainage at Halvad under jurisdiction o Assistant Divisional Engineer-Dhrandadhra.

| 10 | DRM-ADI-| 108-2020-21 | Out sourcing of track maintenance | ₹ 13225101.94 | ₹ 216100.00

For All Above tenders: Closing date & time of e-tender: 23.06.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Office Address: Sr, Divisional Engineer, (Co.Ordination), Ahmedabad, DRM Office

Nr. Chamunda Bridge, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Amdupura Ahmedabad-382345, Website for participating e-tender: www.ireps.gov.inLike us on: 

f facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: 

twitter.com/WesternRly

I Surender Kumar Alias

Surender Kumar Goel S/o

Jagdish Sharan Goel R/o R-

Extension-16, Vani Vihar,

Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059,

have changed my name to

Sandeep Kumar Ahuia S/o

Sector-12, Gautam Budh

Ram Prakash Ahuja R/o V-71,

Nagar, Noida, UP-201301, have

changed my name to Sandeep

I Monika Chudasama W/o Kanil

Patel R/o-116 D.D.A.M.I.G Flats

PunjabiBagh New Delhi.have

changed my name to Monika.

Surender Kumar Goel

I Sandeep Kumar Alias

Kumar Ahuja.

0040538149-1 I, NIMA AGGARWAL W/O-

BANSAL.

0040538169-1 I. Briiinder Kaur Sethi D/opermanently.

> I, Umarali s/o-Qayyum Ali R/o B-1087, Old-B-181, New Ashok Nagar, Vasundhra-Enclave, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Umar Ali

> > LOST & FOUND

No.AF2B Space/Location AEZ,

lost.Finder contact:Veena Rani

Sharma Mobile No.9717788547.

0040538169-9

0040538169-10

Vaishali Ghaziabad has been

Original agreement of Shop

I, Ajay Srivastava, S/o-Late

Sh.R.A. Srivastava.R/o-

Road Mohan-Garden

H.No.47, Gali.No.4, Near-

Gandhi-Chowk, Budh-Bazar-

Uttam-Nagar, New-Delhi-59.I

had lost my original-property

81312) of above-property,

Finder-contact-9205239197.

papers(Doc.No.09AA081979/I0

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

My clientess Smt. Shanti Devi W/O Sh. Pardeshi, S/o Mithai La Both R/O. Near Bhagat Ji Mandir A-270, Gali No. 5, Part-2, Pusta-1

Sonia Vihar, Sabhapur, Delhi-94 nave disowned their son Sures

nave disowned their son Suresh Kumar and his wife Smt. Pushpa from their all movable and immovable properties and have severed all relations with them due to their egoistic and non-cooperative attitude and anyone dealing with them shall be doing so

dealing with them shall be doing so

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Sh. Shammi Sethi S/o Late Sh. Chander Bhan Sethi R/o A-280, Upper Ground Floor, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018 is the sole owner of the Property bearing No. A-280, Vikaspuri, New Delhi excluding

registered as a Document No. 2,606 ir Addl. Book No. 3, Volume No. 4,456 on pages 102 to 103, dated 14/01/1999,

nan Sethi. My client Sh. Shammi Sethi

writing with the documentary proo

hereof to my client within Fourteen day

from the date of publication

Advocate A. K. Verma

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby hoformed that my client Shri Arun varicha S/o Late Shri Prakash alath Pasricha R/o CB-44-A, shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 ereby declares that my Son unshul Pasricha & his Wife Divya vasricha are not well behaving with ne and also showing selfish titls de tweeds on the service are not well selfish.

me and also showing selfish attitude towards me. Therefore we hereby severe all our relations with him & his family members. He is therefore debarred and disowned from all assets & liabilities from now onward. Any person deals with Anshul Pasricha, will be at their own ricks and to will be at their own ricks and their own ricks are their own ricks and their own ricks and their own ricks and their own ricks are their own ricks and their own ricks and their own ricks are their own ricks and their own ricks and their own ricks are their own ricks and their own ricks and their own ricks are their own ricks and their own ricks are their own ricks and their own ricks are their own ricks are their own ricks and their own ricks are th

any claim against him with mmediate effect in any

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

General Public is hereb

informed that my clien

Anita W/o Late Sh. Sunil

Nandram Park, Uttam

Nagar, Delhi- 110059 has

debarred and disowned her

son Nikhil Kumar Sachdeva

from their all movable

immovable properties due

to their disobedient and

misconduct with my family.

In future my client shall no

be responsible by his any

Dilawar Singh (Advocate)

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to

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Express (P) Limited cannot be

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G-719, Karkardoom

Court, Delhi-110032

M. 9811451160

acts, deed or conduct.

R/o A-188A

(Advocate) ENRL- ID-D/1587/2010 Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88

ited by his father late Sh. Chande

ENRL No.: D-972/200

Rajinder Singh Sethi R/o-C-38,40, BK-Dutt Colony,Lodhi-Road, New-Delhi-110003, have changed my name to Brijinder Kaur. 0040538169-2

permanently. 0040538169-11 CORRIGENDUM-01

Open Tender Notice No. JH5W-M-SCRP-2020-21-3 Name of work: Collection regregation and disposal of 45000 MTs scrap for three years rom workshop to store depot. Jhansi, "Self attested conficute is to be submitted by bidder in place of notarized affidavit given in Annexure-E of tender document. Format of certificate can be downloaded from IREPS 510/20 FA

Security Helpline No. 182

DIPR/1907/Tender/2020

Arrige of Additional/New Bridges etc E-Tender Notice No. BY.CE/CON-3/ INV/2020/MAY/03; Dated: 16-05-2020. Open tender through e-tendering system s invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s) firm(s) for the Jollowing sorks: E-Tonder No. DY.CE/CON3/DMW/ Design, Name of work: Design of Additional/Now Bridges and related Geolechnical Investigations in connection with Dimaput - Kohima new BG line Project, Approx. Walue: ¥3,80,36,438,81. E-tender will be opped at 14:30 hrs. on 19-06-2020 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 19-06-2020, For Details Please visi www.irops.govin.

Dy.CE/CON/DWV/III Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organization)

PURCHASE MANAGER

#### CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER** 

: Sealed tenders are invited in the prescribed form 2. ADDRESS : PURCHASE MANAGER, Materials Department, No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai-2, Telephone No: 044 28451300, Extn:272

E-Mail: pmcmwssb@gmail.com www.tenders.tn.gov.in

3. <b>DE</b> 1	3. DETAILS OF TENDER :					
SI. No.	Tender No. and date	Description	EMD Amount in Rs.			
1.		Hiring of Water Tanker Lorries of 16000 litres, 9000 litres and 6000 litres capacity on contract basis for three years 2020-2023				

Availability of Tender Schedule : From 28.05.2020 to 30.06.2020 upto 3.00 P.M Due Date & Time for receipt of Tender: 01.07.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. Due Date & Time of opening of Tender: 01.07.2020 after 3.00 P.M.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TWAD BOARD, MADURAI. ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE No.1 /DATED: 20.05.2020

Ref: T.O. IFB No.F.Kadamalaikundu CWSS /SDO I/ CW /2020 / Dt: 17.04.2020 The period of sale of tender documents and receipt & opening o tenders called for in the reference is extended as below

Providing Combined Water Supply Scheme to 250 Rura Habitations in Kadamalaikundu - Mayiladumparai, Andipatt and Theni Unions in Theni District including maintenance for period of 5 years. (Period of completion - 18 months) Period of sale of bid documents Upto 5.45 P.M on 03.06.2020

Last date for receipt of tenders Upto 3.00 P.M on 05.06.2020 At 3.30 P.M on 05.06.2020 Opening of tenders All other terms and conditions already published remain unaltered

Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Madurai DIPR/ 1922 /TENDER/2020

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

**OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)** For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical).

and capable tenderers. Tender No. 197-S/235/Hiring-Truck/DLI/20/MC-IV Hiring of Truck (Carrying capacity-4.5T) at Coach Care Centre 3 Advertised Tender Value Rs. 15,72,314.64/- (Excluding GST & ECC) 4 Earnest money in favour Rs. 31,400/- (Note: It should be in the form of net

Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced

of Sr.DFM/NR, New Delhi banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as 5 Date & time of submission of tender bid Up to 23.06.2020 at 12:00 hrs. Website particulars where complete details of tender www.ireps.gov.in documents can be seen

No. 197-S/235/Hiring-Truck/DLI/20/MC-IV Date: 23.05.2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SRDEN/C/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against following tenders closing date 23.06.2020, 16:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are no allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tende document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through

Tender No. Date	34-DRM-MB-20-21 Date :- 26.05.2020	
Name of work	Hiring of one no. Multi Utility vehicle (Toyota Inno Safari Storme, Mahindra XUV 500, or similar) on basis for official use of Sr. DEN/III/MB for the p two years.	monthly.
Tender Closing Date Time	23.06.2020 16:00	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Rs. 11,69,932.32	
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs.23400.00	
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	2000.00	
Bidding Start Date	09.06.2020	
Validity of Offer (Days)	45 Days	
Period of Completion	24 months	
No. 75-W/2/3/WA/Publication DATED : 26.05.2020 1190/202		

### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

location rubbish/refuse/hedge cuttings etc. from the lustbins/ heaps or nominated sites of Railway Stations, Railway Colonies and other Railway

### Tender Notice

Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

#### conservancy contract for removal of Solid Waste 1. Name of work wit

		premises at Sarojini Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, Sewa Nagar and Lodhi Road Colony, New Delhi with contractor's own Iabour & deaning implements and use of his own truck/tempo or any
		other mechanized means for dumping the same into the Municipal Corporation dumping grounds everyday by 09:00 hrs, and keeping the area in and 3 meter around the dustbins clean and hydienic on a monthly payment basis.
2.	Approximate estimate cost	Rs. 44,999/- Per Month or Rs. 16,19,964/- (Rs.
		Sixteen Lakh Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Four only) for three years & GST extra as applicable.
3.	Cost of tender form	Rs. 2360/- (Rs. Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty only) to be deposited by online payment mode at www.ireps.gov.in
4.	Address of the office	www.ireps.gov.in
	website where the tender	
	form can be purchased	
5.	EMD to be deposited	Rs. 32,400/- (Rs. Thirty Two Thousand Four
		Hundred only) to be deposited by online payment mode at www.ireps.gov.in
6.	Completion period of the work	Three (03) year from the date of award of work
	Date & Time for	18.06.2020 up to 15:00 hrs. and opening 15:30
	submission of tender	hrs. same day
	& opening of tender	
8.	Website particulars where	www.ireps.gov.in
	complete details of tender can	
	be seen etc.	
N	o. 31-Med-SAN-Garbage-SOJ-I	PNR-2020-23. Dated 22.05.2020 1180/2020
	SERVING CUS	STOMERS WITH A SMILE
	•	

#### Bidist shall be excepted only through mode and no manual submission shall be enlertained. Director, NIPER reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without

**E-TENDER NOTICE** No. ELKS/SRE/SC/RT/T-11 dtd. 23.05.2020 Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrica

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

For details tender socurrent eligibility criteria. Comgendum/Addendum/it any and for applying online visit the website http://tendenwizard.com/hilper & http://miper.gov.in.

Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 10:30 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Open Tender No.	ELKS/SRE/SC/RT/T-11			
Name of work	Cleaning & Up-keeping arrangement of ELKS/SRE for a period of 18 months			
Date of Closing/Opening	13.06.2020			
Approx. Cost.	₹ 28,26,011.00			
Earnest Money	₹ 56,500.00			
Completion period	18 Month			
Validity period	30 days			
Cost of tender form	3,000.00 (non refundable)			
The required Earnest Money & Tender Document Cost will only be accepted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit				

card etc. upto tender closing date and time i.e. 13.06.2020 at 10:30 hrs. Manual payments through demand draft, bankers Cheque, deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be considered invalid. 2. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate i E-Tendering of Works Tenders.

Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility

documents as per conditions. 4. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 5. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.ir

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### New Delhi

1173/2020

SSE (P.Way) BG Sabarmati jurisdiction. 06 DRM-ADI- Hiring of Truck for maintenance of

and tool room for artisan staff at Sanand, Jakhwada and Detroj under jurisdiction o

Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way) Patan for one year.

# EXPRESS NETWORK



### **DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



### SOUND OF SILENCE

WHILE THERE was much political attention on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra, the silence by another leader has not escaped the attention of the political class. Former Maharashtra chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday reeled out figures of the financial aid given by the Centre to the state, and accused the state government of not utilising the money. But there was no immediate retort by state Finance Minister Ajit Pawar, surprising Congress leaders. Many of them are now wondering whether to read any political meaning into Ajit Pawar's silence given his political manoeuvrings only six months ago.

### Masks On Track

VICE PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu's office is learnt to have requisitioned washable masks from the Railways, and have been supplied some 1,000 masks and informally informed that more can be given, if needed. Not just Naidu, the masks, made at coaching workshops in Northern Railways, are being used by all top bosses in the Railways, including minister

### FRIEND IN NEED

THE BJP, which is in a bitter battle with the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, does not leave any opportunity to show that its leaders are more connected with the people of the state. On Monday, when domestic flight services resumed after nearly two months, many arrived in Delhi to catch flights to their respective states. However, confusion over protocols meant many flights were cancelled at the last moment. Students belonging to West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Nagaland from a private university in Punjab got stranded in Delhi after flights to their states got cancelled. When the university sought help, representatives from these states intervened and got them accommodated in respective state bhavans. With those from West Bengal reportedly not receiving any help, the students, including a few girls, were on their way back to Punjab when someone contacted BJP leader Shivprakash. Shivprakash, the party's Bengal in-charge, immediately intervened. As the bus reached Sonipat in Haryana, he made arrangements for the students there.

### GOING EAST

PERIASAMY KUMARAN, who is presently Ambassador of India to Qatar and was present at the US-Taliban signing ceremony in Doha in February, is now headed to Singapore as the Indian High Commissioner. Kumaran, a 1992-batch IFS officer, will rewed Ashraf who is headed to France as Indian ambas sador. Ashraf was in the PMO earlier.

### CID to re-examine 2018 abetment to suicide case against Arnab: Deshmukh

**MOHAMED THAVER** MUMBAI, MAY 26

MAHARASHTRA HOME Minister Anil Deshmukh said Tuesday that a abetment to suicide case registered against Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and two others in 2018, which had been closed by the Raigad police last year, will now be re-investigated by the state CID.

Deshmukh said that based on the request of the family members of Anvay Naik, who along with his mother Kumud Naik, were found dead at their bungalow in Alibaug in May 2018, the case will be reinvesti-

Deshmukh said he ordered reinvestigation after Adnya Naik, the daughter of Naik, claimed the police did not probe the nonpayment of dues which had driven her father and grandmother to suicide.

"Adnya Naik had complained to me that #AlibaugPolice had not investigated non-payment of dues from #ArnabGoswami's @republic which drove her entrepreneur father & grandmom to suicide in May 2018." he tweeted.

Raigad SP Anil Paraskar said, " We had registered a case of abetment to suicide against three persons when the body of the deceased was found based on the suicide note. However, last year in April we submitted a summary report before a court stating that there was not enough evidence to file a chargesheet against the accused."

### Bihar state boards: Farmers' sons bag top 2 ranks, 80% pass

**SANTOSH SINGH** PATNA, MAY 26

SONS OF farmers bagged the first and second ranks in the Class X exams of Bihar School Examination Board, results of which were announced on Tuesday. While Himanshu Raj from Rohtas district topped the state with 481 marks out of 500 (96.2 per cent), Durgesh Kumar from Samastipur bagged the second position with 480 marks (96 per cent).

About 80.53 per cent of the 14,94,071 students who had taken the board exams this year passed. The pass percentage was 80.73 last year, 68.89 in 2018 and 50.12 in 2017.

Following the 2012 toppers' scam, the state board had initiated several examination reforms, including OMR sheets. While the pass percentage among girls was 90.28 per cent, the percentage among boys was 84.12 per cent.

Three students of Simultala Awasiya Vidyalaya, a project school of the state government in Jamui, were among the top 10 performers in the state.

### As LAC heats up, India and China activate border mechanism talks

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

INDIA AND China are learnt to have activated the "working mechanism" at the diplomatic level, established during former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure in 2012 and signed by then Indian ambassador to Beijing S Jaishankar.

This has been activated alongside the military-to-military conversation taking place at the field level to "dis-engage" and "de-escalate" the situation.

The "Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs" was established in January 2012 after border talks between then NSA Shivshankar Menon and his Chinese counterpart Dai Bingguo, and is headed by joint secretarylevel officials from both sides. They are entrusted to help the special representative for boundary talks, a position currently held by NSA Ajit Doval.

While joint secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External

### Govt must tell nation what's on in border areas, savs Rahul

New Delhi: As border tension rises between India and China, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asked the Centre to be transparent and share with the country the situation in Ladakh and the reasons for escalation in tension.

"What we would like to see is some more trans-

Affairs (MEA), Naveen Srivastava, leads the Indian side, the Chinese side is led by Hong Liang, Director General, Department of Boundary and Oceanic Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the last meeting, in accordance with the importance placed by leaders of both countries for effective border management, the two sides had reviewed the situation in border areas. In this regard, they had also taken note of regular exchanges at the troops and diplomatic levels, including under the WMCC framework, for mainparency on what is going on," he told reporters.

Rahul also said it is up to the government to resolve the issue. "As far as India and China (border skirmishes issue) is concerned, it is a live issue now. I don't want to say more. I will leave it to the wisdom of the government... ENS

taining peace and tranquility.

In the current situation, Srivastava is said to be leading the conversation at the diplomatic level, since the mandate of the mechanism is clear: "aim for timely communication of information on the border situation" and "for appropriately handling border incidents".

India's assessment is that the Chinese are involved in what is known in military parlance as "holding the line". While there is no agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC), both Chinese and Indian

rent situation, it appears the Chinese crossed their perception of LAC and are now camping at the spot in a bid to "hold the line". This "holding the line" tactic is

troops patrol up to their "claim

lines" and then return. In the cur-

backed by a large number of Chinese troops — much more than ordinary patrols.

Sources said there have been multiple meetings within the gov $ernment-both \, online \, and \, some$ physical — and a call is yet to be taken on whether a political-level dialogue is to be opened, and at what level.

Although the effort is to resolve the situation "locally", where troops move back to their original positions in the next "7 to 10 days", New Delhi's position is that the "Chinese troops who have crossed over" and the "Indian troops are on the India side of the LAC".

But the efforts are to not dial up the rhetoric. While the MEA has issued two measured and nuanced statements so far on the situation on LAC, the Chinese foreign ministry has also issued

Vizag gas leak: SC grants 30 employees access to plant

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday allowed 30 employees of LG Polymers India Ltd to its plant at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, where a gas leak earlier this month left 12 people dead.

A bench of Justices UU Lalit, M M Shantanagoudar and Vineet Saran allowed access to 30 employees of the company after its counsel, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi urged the court to allow at least 28 technical personnel and two administrative officials emergency access so that adequate safety measures can be undertaken round the clock.

"As an ad interim measure, we permit the petitioner to give a list of 30 personnel as discussed hereinabove. Upon such names being given to the District Collector, those persons shall be afforded access to the plant round the clock to maintain adequate safety measures," the

### COOLING OFF

Children take a dip in a canal in Patiala on Tuesday, as the mercury rose to 44°C. Harmeet Sodhi

### Days after CPI-ML leader's kin killed, **ID(U)** MLA's cousin gunned down

Patna: Days after three family members of Gopalganj CPI-ML leader JP Yadav were shot dead at his home in Rupanchak village under Hathua Police Station limits, the cousin of JD(U) MLA Amarendra Pandey, was shot dead on Tuesday, police said, adding that they suspected it to be a case of retaliatory killing.

The deceased, Shashikant Tiwari (42), was shot dead by unidentified assailants in broad daylight in Repura village, also under Hathua Police Station limits. The police said the style of killing resembled Sunday's triple murder with bike-riding assailants

### floods, heavy rain forecast **ABHISHEK SAHA**

GUWAHATI, MAY 26 The Assam government on

Tuesday directed deputy commissioners to ensure adequate relief material and repair of embankments as the state braced for floods, with seven districts and nearly 2 lakh people already affected. Heavy rain continued to lash

large parts of the state, including capital Guwahati, even as the number of Covid cases increased. According to the Regional

Meteorological Centre in Guwahati, heavy rainfall is predicted in the region over the next

2 lakh affected in Assam

After a meeting, state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said that ministers in charge of different districts for the supervision of Covid will oversee flood management and relief in the respective districts.

#### 3 killed in Arunachal landslides

Guwahati: A landslide triggered by rain in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley district on Monday night led to the death of a family of three. After the bodies were recovered on Tuesday evening, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said relief will be extended to the next of kin.

## We support Maharashtra govt, not key decision-makers: Rahul

MANOJCG

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

EVEN AS the Maha Vikas Aghadi government struggles to contain the spread of Covid-19 in Maharashtra, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that his party was neither running the government nor a key decision-maker in it. The remarks set off speculation that alliance partner Congress was distancing itself from Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's handling of the situation.

The Congress has eight cabinet ministers and four ministers of state in the Aghadi government.

Rahul's remarks also come at a time when the BJP is sharpening its attack on the Thackeray government over its handling of the crisis. Maharashtra now has nearly one-third of the corona cases in India.

Sources in the Congress said there is anxiety in the party over the worsening situation in the state. A section of leaders believes Rahul was reflecting that unease when he sought to differentiate between states ruled by the Congress and governments supported by it. Some others disagreed.

Asked about the situation in the state, Rahul said at an AICC conference that press Maharashtra is one of the most "connected states" in India and is struggling because of this.

He added: "I would like to make a differentiation here. We are supporting the government in Maharashtra. But we are not the key decision maker in Maharashtra. We are the key decision maker in Punjab, in Chhattisgarh, in Rajasthan and in Puducherry. So, there is a difference between running a government and supporting a gov-

Rahul had made similar remarks on the migrant crisis in Maharashtra. "States where we are in alliance, we put pressure, but it is a conversation with other parties...," he had said on

Sources said AICC general in-charge of secretary Maharashtra Mallikarjun Kharge has called a meeting of state Congress ministers and senior party office-bearers on

A senior high command

leader told The Indian Express that it was strange that Thackeray had confined himself to his residence, indicating that there is unhappiness over his style of working as well. However, state leaders are said to be divided. Those in the ministry believe the CM is trying to contain the situation, while those who could not get any post believe the Aghadi government's inability to contain the outbreak is affecting its goodwill and credibility. This section says the Congress will have to share the blame for the situation.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Kharge as well as senior leader Congress Maharashtra minister Nitin Raut pointed out that Mumbai's population density is a challenge. Kharge said that much of the cases in the state are from crowded slums in Mumbai, Thane and Aurangabad. "Government is trying hard... but there are challenges," he said.

Raut alleged the BJP is contacting MLAs of the Congress, Sena and NCP in a bid to topple the government. "Devendra Fadnavis is contacting all our MLAs through his people. He is

BJP SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TARGETS AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

also trying to pressure the governor to impose President's Rule," Raut said.

Some in the Congress are openly questioning Thackeray's style of working. Senior Mumbai Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam told The Indian Express, "There is a huge communication gap between leaders of the government. Shiv Sena is running the government on its own as if it is their government. And because the CM does not have administrative skill and experience, he is dependent on bureaucrats. That is why there is a huge governance deficit....'

Rahul also said, "If the BJP wants to raise questions constructively... they should... it helps because our government can listen and learn... But to uproot the democratic structure and without any reason impose President's Rule... there is a difference between that and constructive opposition."

The remark is seen as an attempt to counter possible criticism that he is attacking the Centre's handling of the pandemic and at the same time washing his hands of a government of which the Congress is a

### govt will fall on its own, says Fadnavis **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

BJP not in a hurry,

MUMBAI, MAY 26

ALL FGING THAT there is no truth in the statement that BIP is working to destabilise the Uddhav Thackeray government, former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the three-party coalition will fall on its own due to sharp internal differences between allies Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress.

"Even Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has admitted that though his party was a part of the government, it was not involved in major decision making... Thackeray's lack of assertive leadership and inability to take bold decisions has adversely affected Maharashtra." he told mediapersons.

Almost 24 hours after senior BJP MP Narayan Rane met Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, demanding that President's Rule be imposed in the state, BJP distanced itself from the development.

"Rane is a senior leader and everybody is well versed with his blunt speak. His anger against the government's failure to tackle Covid-19 led him to demand President's Rule. The BJP does not support his demand. Politics is not our priority."

"Whether it is BJP's central or state leadership, the focus is to fight Covid-19. We are not in a hurry to form the government in Maharashtra," he added.

"The inherent differences which were voiced clearly by Rahul Gandhi, has exposed the cracks within the coalition... Rahul Gandhi's confession that Congress is in the government but is not a major decision-making partner is both surprising and shocking...

It is a clear pointer to Congress' double standards - on one hand, it participates in the government but on the other it has distanced itself from owning up for the coalition's failure in handling the Covid-19 crisis," said Fadnavis.

As per the former CM's calculation, Maharashtra's share under various direct and indirect financial Covid-19 welfare schemes translates to Rs 2.7 lakh crore, which, he said, the state did not have the potential to encash.

### Searching for son, Gujarat woman stranded in Dehradun for 2 months

**LALMANI VERMA** DEHRADUN, MAY 26

SUNITA GORAJI is stranded in Dehradun for more than two months. The 59-year-old came here from Ahmedabad in February to search for her son, who left home six years ago. Goraii is now waiting for the lockdown to end so that she can resume her search.

Goraji came here after her neighbour told her that her son Pravin (29) had been seen in Dehradun. "...I searched in hotels and near temples, but could not find him. I went to Doon Hospital



Sunita Goraji

for medicines on March 3 but a vehicle hit me, and I was in hospital for a few days. Meanwhile, the lockdown was imposed. Policemen later took me to this dharamshala," said Goraji.

Goraji said she gets free food and medicines, and doctors inquire about her health, but she does not know why she is not allowed to go out.

"There are restrictions on movement during the lockdown. She is elderly and not well. Hence, she is not allowed to go out. We are providing her all facilities free of cost," said Manju Jain, media-in-charge, Jain Samai. Dehradun.

Jain added that since Goraji is not carrying a photograph of her son, she plans to publish Goraji's photograph in local newspapers so that Pravin learns about her

**RITUSHARMA** AHMEDABAD, MAY 26 THE BJP has launched a cam-

paign on social media after the Gujarat government and its leaders came under attack following the High Court order on dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in the state. The campaign, under the hashtag #StopTargetingGujarat

launched on Monday in English, Gujarati and Hindi by the BJP IT Cell has been widely circulated on social media platforms. It targeted Vijay Nehra who was transferred from the post of

Ahmedabad municipal commissioner and made commissioner and secretary, rural development, accusing him of indulging in "self promotion" and "scaring people with his fictitious, baseless data" stating cases in Ahmedabad would reach eight lakh by May 31, citing it as among the reasons for his transfer. The other issues it has defended are

the criticism on low testing and the "faulty" Dhaman-1 ventilators manufactured by a Rajkot-based company.

BJP IT cell in charge Pankaj Shukla tweeted on Monday that AMC Commissioner Vijay Nehra

'Official transferred for self-promotion, scaring people' was transferred because he was "testing more". Stating three reasons, he said, "Because Vijay Nehra forgot about the problems of the people of Ahmedabad and was only seen on social media busy with his own publicity. He presented the fictitious and baseless data about Ahmedabad getting eight lakh corona cases which only scared the people... because he left Ahmedabad to the mercy of God and went on quarantine, which is why the government took an immediate decision to hand over the job to senior officers.'

> BJP Lok Sabha MP from Kheda, Devusinh Chauhan, also

tweeted the same on Monday. Speaking to The Indian Express, Shukla confirmed that the campaign had been launched but said, "I am in a meeting and will get back." Nehra said he had seen the posts but refused to comment.

Defending the Rupani government on the issue of religious discrimination while treating Covid-19 positive patients, the campaign says, "Patients are allotted wards by expert doctors according to their symptoms. Patients are treated for corona on the basis of necessity and not religion."

On Monday, Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha Gujarat President

Rutvij Patel, tweeted under the same hashtag alleging that "the media has been sold out", as it has latched on to the issue of private laboratories that were reprimanded (by the state government for not following the guidelines) only to increase their TRPs.

The same was tweeted in a difference of one minute by Deputy Mayor Dinesh Makwana BJP-ruled Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).

On Tuesday, Patel deleted his tweet and apologised saying, 'I did not have any intention of targeting the electronic media...

**FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

### CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

### **THE WORLD** 230,158 266,590 180,802 **1,667,154** US 374,898 236,259

**TOTAL CONFIRMED: 5,534,728** 

**DEATH COUNT: 347,587** 

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on May 26. **JHU's India tally and Health** Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.

### In gene linked to dementia, a correlation with severe Covid

A NEW study has found a link between the severity of Covid-19 and a gene linked to dementia. Having a faulty gene linked to dementia doubles the risk of developing severe COVID-19, according to the largescale study, published in in the Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences.

The gene is called APOE, and exists in a different forms, one of which is

termed Researchers at the University of Exeter Medical School and the University

Connecticut School of Medicine analysed data from the UK Biobank, which collects health and genetic data on 500,000 people. They found high risk of severe Covid-19 infection among European an-

cestry participants who carry two faulty copies of this gene. One in 36 people of European ancestry have two faulty copies of this gene, and this is known to increase risks of Alzheimer's disease up to 14-fold and also increases risks of heart disease, the University of Exeter said in a statement.

Now, the research team has found that carrying these gene mutations doubles the risks of Covid-19 — even in people who had not developed these

diseases. The same team has previously found that people with dementia are three times more likely to get severe Covid-19, the University said.

It said part of the increased risk may have been due to exposure to the high prevalence of the virus in care homes. However, the new study suggests that a genetic component may also be at play. The team found that

people with the APOE e4e4 genotype were at double the risk of developing severe Covid-19, compared to those with the common e3e3 form of the APOE gene. In this analysis,

2.36% (9,022) of 3.82 lakh participants with European ancestries had the APOE e4e4 faulty gene, but 5.13% (37) of 721 who tested

positive for Covid-19 had this gene variant, suggesting the risk is doubled compared to e3e3 (410 per 100,000 versus 179 per 100,000).

Co-author Dr Chia-Ling Kuo, of the UConn School of Medicine, said in the University of Exeter statement: "... We might now be able to pinpoint how this faulty gene causes vulnerability to COVID-19. This could lead to new ideas for treatments."

Source: University of Exeter

### SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# Solidarity Trial progress so far

In the hunt for possible Covid-19 treatments, WHO has halted enrolment for the hydroxychloroquine arm of trials. What led to the move, and what progress has been made with the other arms of Solidarity so far?

**ABANTIKA GHOSH** 

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

LATE ON Monday night India time, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced it would no longer assign patients to the hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) arm of the multicountry Solidarity Trial on possible treatments for Covid-19. The announcement raises several questions, particularly in India which is a major manufacturer/exporter of the drug and has also reposed implicit faith in its therapeutic and prophylactic role for health workers exposed to Covid-19 cases.

#### What is the Solidarity Trial?

'Solidarity" is an international initiative for clinical trials launched by the WHO, along with partners, to help find an effective treatment for Covid-19. It was originally supposed to look at four drugs or drug combinations: remdesivir, HCQ, ritonavir/lopinavir and lopinavir/ritonavir/interferon beta 1a. Now with HCQ trial enrolment stalled for at least the next few weeks, the Solidarity trial will proceed with the other three arms. Some data on HCQ will still be generated, though.

According to WHO: "By enrolling patients in multiple countries, the Solidarity Trial aims to rapidly discover whether any of the drugs slow disease progression or improve survival. Other drugs can be added based on emerging evidence... Over 400 hospitals in 35 countries are actively recruiting patients and nearly 3,500 patients have been enrolled from 17 countries. Overall, over 100 countries have joined or expressed an interest in joining the trial, and WHO is actively supporting 60 of them."

India is among the countries where the Solidarity Trial is being carried out. Four hospitals in Jodhpur, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bhopal have received regulatory approvals, and more will follow. In all, patients in 20-35 hospitals in the country will be part of the trial.

#### Have any of the arms made particularly good progress?

So far, remdesivir is widely being described as the most promising, although results of various trials have sometimes being conflicting. Developed by Gilead Sciences Inc, remdesivir is a broad-spectrum antiviral which was previously tested in humans with Ebola virus disease, and which has also shown promise as a drug against MERS and SARS, both of which



Remdesivir, often described as the most promising of the options. Reuters File

are caused by coronaviruses.

A trial funded by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has found, in the preliminary results, significant positives to the use of remdesivir in patients requiring oxygen therapy. The drug was found to speed up recovery during a trial and the results were encouraging enough to warrant publication of the results even while the trial was still on. However, In an earlier, truncated study reported in The Lancet, Chinese researchers had concluded they could not find any "statistically significant clinical benefits" of the drug.

#### What results was HCQ showing in trials, and what led to the suspension?

Hydroxychloroquine is a drug used in the treatment of autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, and also as a malaria treatment and preventive. In a sense, it remains part of the trial because patients who had been earlier randomised to get the drug will continue to do so until the treatment is completed. The WHO is expected to take a call on its future inside the

trial by mid-Iune.

On Monday WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom said: "On Friday, The Lancet published an observational study on hydroxycholoroquine & chloroquine & its effects on COVID-19 patients that have been hospitalised. The authors reported that among patients receiving the drug, when used alone or with a macrolide, they estimated a higher mortality rate. The Executive Group of the Solidarity Trial, representing 10 of the participating countries, met on Saturday and has agreed to review a comprehensive analysis and critical appraisal of all evidence available globally. The review will consider data collected so far in the Solidarity Trial and, in particular robust randomised available data, to adequately evaluate the potential benefits and harms from this drug. I wish to reiterate that these drugs are accepted as generally safe for use in patients with autoimmune diseases or malaria. The Executive Group has implemented a temporary pause of the hydroxychloroquine arm within the Solidarity Trial while the data is reviewed by the Data Safety Monitoring Board."

The study led by Brigham and Women's Hospital had concluded: "We were unable to confirm a benefit of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine, when used alone or with a macrolide, on in-hospital outcomes for COVID-19. Each of these drug regimens was associated with decreased in-hospital survival and an increased frequency of ventricular arrhythmias when used for treatment of COVID-19." Macrolides are a class of antibiotics that include the antibiotic

#### What are the other arms of Solidarity?

Both of these are with a combination of the drugs ritonavir and lopinavir, with one arm trialling the combination together with an additional substance. Ritonavir and liponavir are second-line HIV drugs, known as ĤIV protease inhibitors, that have been in use for some time. They bolster the immune system, which reduces the chances of a HIV-positive person developing complications such as tuberculosis.

Their use in India for HIV, though, is very limited – 70% Indian patients are on firstline drugs. These drugs are manufactured in India mainly for export mostly to African countries. Following early reports from China on successful use of the drug combination, India in February had obtained regulatory clearance for their use in Covid-19. The drugs were used in a handful of patients before India began to focus on HQL and azithromycin by the end of March.

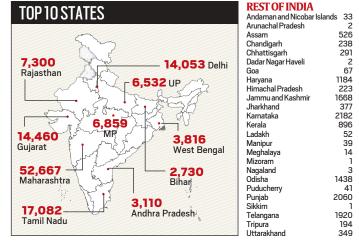
India's change of stance came following a 199-subject trial in China on the efficacy of ritonavir/lopinavir. The study reported that at 22.1%, the mortality reported in the trial was substantially higher than the 11% to 14.5% mortality reported in initial studies of patients hospitalised with Covid-19. However the drugs have not been written off as candidates in the hunt for Covid-19 treatments.

#### What is the other arm that includes ritonavir/lopinavir?

It involves the two drugs in combination with interferon beta 1a - which belongs to a class of substances known as cytokines that are secreted by immune cells to signal other cells to act against an imminent or acute infection. It is used to treat diseases like multiple sclerosis. Some studies have shown that if interferon beta 1a is added to ritonavir and lopinavir, there are better results than when the antivirals alone are used.

### INDIA COUNT: 145,380 (4,167 DEATHS)

NEW RESEARCH



Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, May 26. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. **60,491 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

### What next for HCQ after enrolment freeze?

#### **ANURADHA MASCARENHAS** PUNE, MAY 26

THE DECISION to temporarily suspend enrolment in the Solidarity Trial's hydroxychloroquine arm, one of four options being studied for Covid-19 treatment, was taken by the Solidarity Trial executive committee because the data safety monitoring board felt it prudent to gather more evidence on the safety and efficacy of the drug, World Health Organization (WHO) chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan said on Tuesday.

Dr Swaminathan told The Indian Express that the trial is ongoing. This was a temporary measure and a review will be done of the emerging evidence from various trials worldwide, as well as the published literature. Dr Swaminathan said the interim trial analyses are monitored by the global data and safety monitoring committee, which is an independent group of experts.

A recent study in The Lancet had cautioned that the use of a regimen containing



Move temporary, says Dr Swaminathan

hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine (with or without a macrolide) was associated with no evidence of benefit. Instead the use was linked to increased rates of mortality and heart arrhythmias among hospital patients with Covid-19. However, Dr Swaminathan mentioned that this was observational data, subject to bias, and these findings need to be confirmed by well conducted RCTs (random controlled trials).

Asked about the use of hydroxychloro-

patients, Dr Swaminathan said the safety profile is likely to be very different in sick patients compared to healthy individuals. "There is no need for panic, but randomized trials need to be conducted on the use of the drug as a prophylaxis. The safety profile of the drug needs to be studied in both cases drugs given to hospitalised patients and to healthy individuals exposed to COVID-19," she said. She reiterated that data emerging from various studies is being reviewed carefully before WHO can take a policy decision on the use of HCQ.

In India, Pune-based Indian Council of Medical Research - National AIDS Research Institute (ICMR - NARI) is the nodal centre for coordinating the Solidarity Trial, Dr Sheela Godbole, Head, Division of Epidemiology, ICMR-NARI and national coordinator of the Solidarity Trial, said the trial continues and they have been engaged in the process of randomising patients. "There has been evidence from observational studies about HCQ

quine as a preventive drug to be taken by and it is often a standard practice to temfrontline health workers treating COVID 19 porarily stop the randomisation of the drug in the trial while a data safety management board review is ongoing," Dr Godbole said.

> which are being assessed and the trial continues. We have registered more than 15 clinical sites for the trial and hope to register at least 30 and enrol 1,500 participants," she said.

"However there are three other drugs

Dr Samiran Panda, Director, ICMR- NARI, said the trial started with a few patients a couple of weeks ago and they will have to wait and see what happens as other countries have also progressed in their trial efforts. "The trial has an adaptive design that allows for adverse events and hence it is standard practice to halt the drug temporarily," Dr Panda said

"The Solidarity Trial is a huge effort and we were due to start next week," said Dr Zarir Udwadia, one of the members of Maharashtra's Covid-19 task force. After the WHO directive, the other three arms will be studied, he said. He also said several trials exploring the use of CQ or HCQ for prophylaxis of Covid-19 in healthcare workers is under way.

### Why locusts are being sighted in urban areas, what it can mean for crops

#### **PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS** PUNE. MAY 26

OVER THE last few days, swarms of locusts have been sighted in urban areas of Rajasthan, which is unusual. Swarms have also been reported from parts of Madhya Pradesh and Vidharbha region of Maharashtra. The first swarms were sighted along the India-Pakistan border on April 11, months ahead of the usual time of arrival.

### What are locusts and when are they are

sighted in India? The desert locust (Schistocerca gregaria) is a short-horned grasshopper. Innocuous when solitary, locusts undergo a behavioural change when their population builds up rapidly. They enter the 'gregarious phase' by forming huge swarms that can travel up to 150 km per day, eating up every bit of greenery on their way. These insects feed on a large variety of crops. If not controlled, locust swarms can threaten the food security of a country. At present countries in the Horn of Africa such as Ethiopia and Somalia

are witnessing one of the worst locusts attacks in the last 25 years.

In India, locusts are normally sighted during July-October along the Pakistan border. Last year, parts of Western Rajasthan and Northern Gujarat reported swarms that caused damage to growing rabi crops. These were the first swarms reported in India since 1997. This year, the first sightings of small groups were reported early — on April 11 – by scientists of the Agriculture Ministry's Locust Warning Organization (LWO), from Sri Ganganagar and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan.

### Why are locusts being seen in urban

Locusts are being seen in areas not historically associated with such sightings - Jaipur, MP's Gwalior, Morena and Sheopur, and recently stray swarms in Maharashtra's Amravati, Nagpur and Wardha.

K L Gurjar, Deputy Director of LWO, said there being no crops in the fields, the locusts have moved across states attracted by green cover. "The swarms were aided by high-speed wind and thus they made their way to Jaipur,"



A swarm of desert locusts in Jaipur on Monday. Rohit Jain Paras

he said. At present there are three to four swarms in Rajasthan, another two or three in Madhya Pradesh, from where a small group

has migrated to Maharashtra, which Gurjar said would not be very difficult to control. Keith Cressman, senior locust forecaster

of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said the locusts have started moving in search of food, "Spring-bred swarms from Pakistan started arriving in Rajasthan earlier this month. As this is before the monsoon rains, they found dry conditions so they continued to move east in Rajasthan looking for green vegetation for food and shelter where they will mature and then lay eggs with the onset of the monsoon in about five weeks," he said.

### What led to their early arrival?

This can be traced back to the cyclonic storms Mekunu and Luban that had struck Oman and Yemen respectively in 2018. These turned large deserts tracts into lakes, facilitating locust breeding that continued through 2019. Swarms attacking crops in East Africa reached peak populations from November, and built up in southern Iran and Pakistan since the beginning of 2020, with heavy rains in East Africa in March-April enabling further breeding.

What can it mean to crops in India? At present, chances of crop damage are

New Delhi

low given that farmers have already harvested their rabi crop. Orange growers in Maharashtra have expressed concern but as Gurjar said, the swarm in Maharashtra would be easy to control.

The bigger problem will come once the present swarms breed. An adult female locust lays 80-90 eggs thrice in her threemonth life cycle. If left uncontrolled, a swarm can grow exponentially to 40-80 million locusts per square kilometre, Gurjar and others estimatee. The locusts will start laying eggs after the monsoon starts and continue breeding for two more months, with newer generations rising during the growth phase of the kharif crop.

Earlier this month, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar chaired a meeting to take stock of the situation. Control involves spraying insecticide on locusts' night resting places like trees. Till date, the LWO has carried out spraying over 21,675 hectares in Rajasthan. India has also put an order of 60 specialised insecticide sprayers with the UK. Gurjar said the country already has 50 such machines. "Also, drones will be used to spray the resting places," he said.

# 5 THE OUTBREAK THE WORLD



A student in Cologne,

### Germany. AP

#### **GERMANY** Social distancing to be extended until June 29

Berlin: Germany plans to extend social distancing until June 29, newspaper Bild cited a draft document that still needs to be approved by the federal states as saying. Asked about the report, a spokesman for the German government said talks were ongoing. Bild said meetings in public places would be limited to a maximum of 10 people or members of two households. It said there would be no limits on the number of visitors allowed to visit people in their own homes but they must ensure that there is enough space for everyone to keep their distance. **REUTERS** 

#### **SAUDI ARABIA** Curfew ends June 21, except in Mecca

Cairo: Saudi Arabia will begin easing restrictions on movement and travel this week, more than two months after they were introduced. Restrictions will be lifted in three phases, culminating in the curfew completely ending - with the exception of the holy city of Mecca - from June 21, the state news agency reported in a statement early on Tuesday. The Hajj and Umrah pilgrimmages - which attract millions of travelers from around the world – will remain suspended until further **REUTERS** 

### 174 new deaths. case numbers cross 360,000

Moscow: The Russian government reported a record daily spike of 174 deaths Tuesday, which brought the country's death toll to 3,807. Russia's coronavirus caseload surpassed 360,000 on Tuesday, with almost 9,000 new infections registered in the past 24 hours.

# **Scale up battle preparedness: Xi to military**

**KJMVARMA** BEIJING, MAY 26

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi linging on Tuesday ordered the military to scale up the battle preparedness, visualising the worst-case scenarios and asked them to resolutely defend the country's sovereignty.

Xi, 66 who is also the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and head of the two-millionstrong military with prospects of lifelong tenure in power, made the remarks while attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and People's Armed Police Force during the current parliament session being held here.

Xi ordered the military to think about worst-case scenarios, scale up training and battle preparedness, promptly and effectively deal with all sorts of complex situations and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty. security and development interests, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, without mentioning any specific issues that posed a threat to the country.

His comments came in the backdrop of the continuing standoff between the militaries of India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Several areas along the LAC



Chinese President Xi linping talks to Wang Yang, the chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. during the second plenary session of China's National People's Congress in Beijing on Monday. AP

in Ladakh and North Sikkim have witnessed major military buildup by both the Indian and Chinese armies recently, in a clear signal of escalating tension and hardening of respective positions by the two sides even two

weeks after they were engaged in two separate face-offs.

The nearly 3,500-km-long LAC is the de-facto border between the two countries.

On May 22, China, the second-largest military spender after the US, hiked its defence budget by 6.6 per cent to USD 179 billion, nearly three times that of India, the lowest increment in recent years amidst the massive disruption caused to the communist giant's economy by

the COVID-19 pandemic.

delegation on Tuesday, Xi stressed on achieving the targets and missions of strengthening the national defence and armed forces for 2020, while maintain-

taken to overcome the impact of In his meeting with a PLA the epidemic to ensure major tasks on the military building are

achieved. Meanwhile, a Chinese expert commented that unlike the pre-

ing effective epidemic control on

the military deputies on fulfill-

ing epidemic control tasks.

strengthening training amid the

epidemic, and accelerating ca-

pacity building on biosecurity

battling Covid-19, Xi said the

people's armed forces have once

again proven themselves to be

heroic forces that can be fully

trusted by the Communist Party

brought a profound impact on

the global landscape and on

China's security and develop-

novation to address new situa-

tions and problems exposed in

the epidemic and ordered accel-

erating the research and develop-

ment on Covid-19 drugs and vac-

cines by tapping the advantages

the end of the 13th five-year plan

for military development, Xi said extraordinary measures must be

Noting that this year marks

of military medical research.

Xi demanded reform and in-

Xi said the epidemic has

Commending their role in

defence, among others.

and the people.

He listened to speeches by

Chinese and Indian armies, the latest border friction was not caused by accident, but was a planned move of New Delhi.

"India has been crossing the boundary line into the Galwan Valley region and entering Chinese territory. Indian soldiers have also deliberately instigated conflicts with their Chinese counterparts. If India failed to stop such provocations as soon as possible, it will impact on Beijing-New Delhi ties - and may even exceed the sort of intensity of the Doklam standoff, an article in the state-run Global Times written by Long Xingchun, president of Chengdu Institute of

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

"Any suggestion that Indian troops had undertaken activity across the LAC in the Western sector or the Sikkim sector is not accurate. Indian troops are fully familiar with the alignment of the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas and abide by it scrupulously," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a briefing last week. PTI

### Bolsonaro brought in generals to fight virus, but Brazil is losing battle

### **REUTERS**

SÃO PAULO, RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 26

IN MID-MARCH, Brazil took what seemed to be a forceful early strike against the coronavirus pandemic. Although Brazil had yet to re-

port a single death from Covid-19, public health officials appeared to be getting out in front of the virus. They acted on March 13, just two days after the World Health Organization called the disease a pandemic.

Less than 24 hours later, the ministry watered down its own advice, citing "criticism and suggestions" it had received from local communities.

In fact, four people familiar with the incident told Reuters, the change came after intervention from the chief of staff's of-



**Jair Bolsonaro** 

fice for Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro. "That correction was due to pressure," said Iulio Croda. an epidemiologist who was then the head of the Health Ministry's department of immunization and transmissible diseases.

The about-face, given scant attention at the time, marked a turning point in the federal government's handling of the crisis,

Behind the scenes, they said, power was shifting from the Health Ministry, the traditional leader on public health matters, to the office of the president's chief of staff, known as Casa Civil, led by Walter Souza Braga Netto, an Army general.

Brazil has lost two health ministers in the past six weeks — one was fired, the other resigned — after they disagreed publicly with Bolsonaro over how best to combat the virus. The interim leader now in charge of the Health Ministry is another Army general. More importantly, the revi-

sions underlined the hardening of Bolsonaro's view that keeping Brazil's economy running was paramount, the people said. Bolsonaro, a far-right former Army captain, has never wavered on that stance formuaccording to the four people. in mid-March, despite domestic and international criticism of his handling of the crisis, and a snowballing death toll.

Brazil now has the world's second-worst outbreak behind the United States, with more than 374,000 confirmed cases. More than 23,000 Brazilians have died from Covid-19.

"So what?" Bolsonaro said recently when asked by reporters about Brazil's mounting fatalities. "What do you want me

Some experts said Brazil's stumbles are all the more shocking because of its previous success containing malaria, Zika and HIV. "One thing that has been a shining light in Brazil has been their public health system," said Albert Ko, a professor at the Yale School of Public Health who has decades of experience in Brazil. "To see that all disintegrate so quickly, it's just been very sad."

### Sweden steadfast in strategy as virus toll continues to rise

Stockholm: Sweden's government defended its response to the Covid-19 global pandemic on Tuesday despite the Scandinavian country now reporting one of the highest mortality rates in the world with 4,125 fatalities, or about 40 deaths per 100,000 people.

"Transmission is slowing down, the treatment of Covid-19 patients in intensive care is decreasing significantly, and the rising death toll curve has been flattened." Foreign Minister Ann Linde said.

Sweden took a relatively soft approach to fighting the coronavirus - large gatherings were banned, but restaurants and schools for vounger children have stayed open. The government has urged social distancing, and Swedes have largely

### WHO warns of 'second peak' in areas where cases declining

**REUTERS** GENEVA, ZURICH, MAY 26

Countries where coronavirus infections are declining could still face an "immediate second peak" if they let up too soon on measures to halt the outbreak, the World Health Organization said on Monday.

The world is still in the middle of the first wave of the coronavirus outbreak, WHO emergencies head Dr Mike Ryan told an online briefing, noting that while cases are declining in many countries they are still increasing in Central and South America. South Asia as well as Africa.

Ryan said epidemics often come in waves, which means that outbreaks could come back later this year in places where the first wave has subsided. There was also a chance that infection rates could rise again more quickly if measures to halt the rst wave were lifted too soon.

"When we speak about a second wave classically what we often mean is there will be a first wave of the disease by itself, and then it recurs months later. And that may be a reality for many countries in a number of months' time," Ryan said.

"But we need also to be cog-

nizant of the fact that the disease can jump up at any time. We cannot make assumptions that just because the disease is on the way down now it is going to keep going down... We may get a second peak in this wave.'

He said countries in Europe and North America should "continue to put in place the public health and social measures, the surveillance measures, the testing measures and a comprehensive strategy to ensure that we continue on a downwards trajectory and we don't have an immediate second peak.'

#### **HCQ** safety findings expected by mid-June WHO said on Tuesday that a

safety team would review data on hydroxychloroquine by next month, a day after officials cited safety concerns that prompted them to suspend use of the malaria drug in a global trial in Covid-19 patients.

The WHO called time on using the drug in its multi-country trial, called Solidarity, after a study published in British medical journal The Lancet found patients randomised to get hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) had increased mortality rates and higher frequency of irregular heartheats.

### Leaders face scrutiny over adherence to lockdown rules

#### THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK, MAY 26

AS TOP officials revisit their response to the constantly shifting coronavirus pandemic, they are coming under increasing scrutiny not just for their broader policy approaches but for their personal willingness — or not — to abide by the restrictions they've imposed.

In Britain, the apparent breach of lockdown rules by Dominic Cummings, a top aide

to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, has ignited a political firestorm. Mr. Cummings held a news conference on Monday to confirm reports he traveled more than 250 miles from his home during the lockdown, but he pointedly declined to apologize. Mr. Johnson has defended him.

The issue has opened a rift in the governing Conservative Party, with at least 20 lawmakers from the party condemning Mr. Cummings and a junior government minister resigning his



A poster depicting Donald Trump in Washington. AP

post on Tuesday in protest.

The Polish government had to apologize last week after Minister Mateusz Morawiecki tweeted photos of himself sitting down a meal with three colleagues at a recently reopened restaurant and encouraged others to visit local establishments.

Leo Varadkar, Ireland's caretaker prime minister, was targeted by some tabloids and critics on social media and accused of violating his country's lock-

down rules when he picnicked in a Dublin park over the weekend with his partner and friends. In the US, the prospective

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden stepped out for his first public appearance in months on Monday, donning a face mask. That was in a stark visual contrast to President Donald Trump, who attended Memorial Day commemorations without one. Mr. Biden, 77, and his advisers have said they intend to abide by the public safety recommendations.

### OTHER TOP GLOBAL STORIES

### Afghan govt to free 900 prisoners; Taliban may extend Eid truce

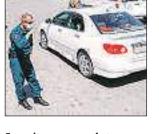
#### **ASSOCIATED PRESS** KABUL, MAY 26

THE AFGHAN government announced it would free 900 prisoners on Tuesday, its single largest prisoner release since the US and the Taliban signed a peace deal earlier this year that spells out an exchange of detainees between the warring

The announcement came as a three-day cease-fire with the insurgents draws to an end. The Taliban had called for the truce during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr that marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

There are expectations that the prisoner release could lead to new reductions in violence, and Taliban officials say they are considering an extension of the

A senior Taliban figure confirmed this to *The Associated* 



Security personnel at a checkpoint in Kabul on May 23. Reuters

Press. "If these developments, like the announcement of prisoner release continues, it is possible to move forward with decisions like extending the brief cease-fire and to move in a positive direction with some minor issues," the Taliban official said.

The prisoners were being released from Bagram prison, where the US still maintains a major military base, north of

Kabul, as well as from the infamous Pul-e-Charkhi prison on the eastern edge of the Afghan capital. By late afternoon, the AP wit-

nessed scores of men pouring out of the Bagram compound presumably the released prisoners. It was not immediately possible to verify their numbers or whether they were all Taliban members. The prisoner release is part of

the US deal with the Taliban, signed on February 29 to allow for the eventual withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan, bringing to an end the country's protracted war and America's longest military in-

Under the deal, Kabul is to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners while the insurgents are to free 1,000 captives they hold, mostly government officials and Afghan forces, before intra-Afghan negotiations can begin.

### US military says Russia deployed its fighter jets to Libya

Cairo: The US military Tuesday accused Russia of deploying fighter planes to conflict-stricken Libya to support Russian mercenaries aiding east-based forces in their offensive on the capital,

In a strongly worded statement, the US Africa Command said the Russian military aircraft arrived in Libya recently from an airbase in Russia via Syria, where they were repainted to hide their Russian origin.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow.

Libya is now split between a government in the east allied with Hifter and one in Tripoli, in the west, supported by the United Nations. Hifter is backed by The

United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia, while the Tripoli-allied militias are aided by Turkey, Qatar and Italy.

### country's interests in Hong Kong THE NEW YORK TIMES HONG KONG, MAY 26

THE COMMANDER of China's

military garrison in Hong Kong said in an interview posted Tuesday that forces stationed there would "resolutely" protect the country's national security interests, a pointed reminder of Beijing's ultimate power to enforce its rule over the semiautonomous territory.

The commander's remarks came as Hong Kong's embattled leader, Carrie Lam, defended the central government's plan to draft new national security laws to punish acts of dissent or subversion, even though the process sidestepped the territory's own legislative process.

"Rights and freedoms are not absolute," Mrs. Lam said at her regular weekly news conference in Hong Kong.



China's military vows to defend

Riot police after they dispersed protesters on Sunday. Reuters

New Delhi

"If a minority of people, indeed a very small minority of people, are going to breach the law to organize and participate in terrorist activities to subvert the state power, then of course they have to be bounded by the needed legislation," she said.

The garrison commander, Maj. Gen. Chen Daoxiang, ad-

dressed the situation in Hong Kong in an interview on the sidelines of the National People's Congress in Beijing. General Chen said the new

legislation would deter "all kinds of separatist forces and external intervention forces," echoing the view of Mrs. Lam and others in China's political leadership that support intended to undermine the Communist Party's rule over the city. 'Garrison officers and sol-

diers are determined, confident, and capable of safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests and maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong," General Chen said in interview with China's state television network, CCTV.

The video of the interview was accompanied by scenes of previous military training exercises, including drills against rioters and marine operations in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor. Some of the clips appeared to be from operations last year, when the protests overwhelmed the city and the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police sent a surge of new troops into and near Hong Kong.

### **KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD**

**OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE** 

Name of Work: Design, Engineering, Supply, Transportation, Installation Testing and Commissioning of 110 KV EHT power supply arrangement from KPTCL receiving/Grid substation at Kumta (near Kumta Railway Station) to KRCL's Traction Sub-Station at Kumta along with bay arrangement and under ground transmission line equipped with switch gears, EHT/HT/LT power/contro cabling etc. at Kumta in the state of Karnataka. Tender Notice No: KR/CO/EL/KT/T/4/2020 Date:27/05/2020. Completion Period: Four Months Estimated Cost: Rs. 9,99,92,515/-, Excluding GST. EMD: 6,49,970/-. Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender: 17/06/2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. Opening of Tender: On 17.06.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. Submission of Tender Documents: Through IREPS. Manual tender documents shall not be accepted.



### CSIR - CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE IIT ROORKEE CAMPUS, P.O.-CBRI Roorkee - 247667

Notice Inviting e-Tender

CSIR-CBRI invites online tenders through CPP portal in two bid system for following work(s):-

Tender ID:- 2020\_CSIR\_48952\_1, Name of the Work 'Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Cooling Appliances in CSIR-CBRI Campus", Estimated Cost Rs 4.73 Lakhs, Tender Cost Rs. 590.00 Earnest Money Rs. 9460.00, Period of Completion 365 days, Last time and date of submission of bid is 12/06/2020 up to 5.00 pm.

The tender document and other details can be viewed downloaded from the website <a href="https://etenders.gov.in">https://etenders.gov.in</a> The press notice is also available on website of CSIR-CBRI i.e. https://www.cbri.res.in.

Corrigendum/Addition/Clarification / Notification in respect of NIT of the above said work, if any, will be uploaded on the CPP Portal.



lew Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Vebsite: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

#### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

A (1) 01/GM(R)/AO/SM(JAL-OA)2020-21 - M/o STP (Providing laying of M.S. Pipe Construction drain and others Miscellaneous work in Compound of STP-54, Sector-54, Noida), Cost. ₹ 36.02 Lacs The above tenders can be uploaded by date 10.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 11.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office:-

Office:-Water Works Compound, Sector-5, Noida General Manager (R), Noida CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

### CONTRACT

Tender No.: SNT-08-LMG-2020-21 Dated: 21-05-2020; E-Tonder are invit by the undersigned for the following work me of work and Location: Arms Repairing Contract of defective SMR odules of (make: PUNICOM) SMPS chargers installed under the jurisdiction of Sr. DSTE/Lumbing in Lumbing division for period of three years. Tender Value ₹14,07,673.22. Earnest Money: ₹28,2000 Cost of Tender document : ₹ 2,0003 Date and Time of Closing of e-Tender 15:00 hrs. on 15-06-2020. Date and Time of Opening of e-Tender at 15:30 hrs. or 15-06-2020. For details prease visit we ball

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Lumding **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** 



I/C TSG

निगम लि. अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा दो भागों में प्रतिष्ठित एवं योग कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से निम्न कार्य हेत् निविदा शुल्क/धरोहर धनराशि दिनांक 01.07.2020 तक . ऑनलाईन पोर्टल पर प्राप्त की जायेगी एवं ई-निविदा दिनांक 03.07.2020 को अपराहन 1.00 बजे तक ई-टेण्डर पोर्टल पर प्राप्त कर प्रथम भाग अपराहन 4.00 बजे से खोला जायेगा। (1) नि.वि.सं. 11/2020-21: 33/11 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र हिमायूपुर जनपद आग के कन्ट्रोल रूम भवन का रूफट्रीटमेन्ट, ट्यूवबैल बोरिंग एवं जीर्णोद्वार से सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य (2) नि.वि.सं. 12/2020-21: 33/11 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र मझारा जनपद आगरा के कन्ट्रोल रूम भवन का रूफट्रीटमेन्ट, ट्युवबैल बोरिंग एवं जीणींद्रार र सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य। (3) नि.वि.सं 13/2020-21: 33/11 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र निबोहरा जनपद आगरा के कन्टोल रूम भवन क रूफट्रीटमेन्ट, ट्यूवबैल बोरिंग एवं जीर्णोद्वार सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य। (4) **नि.वि.सं**. 14/2020-21: 33/11 के वी उपकेन्द्र मही चौराह जनपद आगरा के कन्ट्रोल रूम रूफट्रीटमेन्ट, ट्यूवबैल बोरिंग एवं जीर्णोद्वार से म्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य। (5) **निविसं** 15/2020–21: 33/11 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र डबरई जनपद फिरोजाबाद पर शौचालय एवं शेड़ का निर्माण तथा स्वचयार्ड में टर्फिंग से सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य ( 6 ) **नि.वि.सं**. 16/2020-21: मुख्य अभियंता (वितरण), आगरा क्षेत्र, आगरा के कार्यालय परिसर में अधिशासी अभियंता (कार्यशाला) के कार्यालय भवन की रंगाई पताई एवं शौचालयों की मरम्मत एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य। (७) **नि.वि.सं**. 17/2020-21: 33/11 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र उजरई जनपद आगरा पर स्विचयार्ड में सिक्योरिटी फैन्सिंग/वाल एवं नियंत्रण कक्ष के जीर्णोद्वार से सम्बन्धित अन्य जानपदीय कार्य। (8) नि.वि.सं. 18/2020-21 33/11 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र नवादा जनपद मथुरा की क्षमतावृद्धि हेतु कन्ट्रोल रूम का विस्तारीकरण एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य। (१) **नि.वि.सं**. 19/2020-21: 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, सिकन्दरा, आगरा स्थित प्रबन्ध निदेशक, द.वि.वि.नि.लि., आगर कार्यालय परिसर/ विद्यत कॉलोनी में बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से लॉन मेन्टेनेन्स तथा पार्क प्लोन्टेशन का कार्य। (कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, के लिये www.dvvnl.org एवं http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखें। हैल्प लाईन-1800-180-3023 ''सष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाओ" हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत जनपद मण्डल (वितरण), 64 खम्बा 618/वि.जा.म.( वि. )/आ./टी-2 26/05/2020

#### **HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** Phone No.01903-221031 Fax: 091903-221031

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** The Executive Engineer, Banjar Division, HP,PWD, Banjar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible Class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-

	constitution to the charge of							
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting date for bid downloading bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of bid			
1	Construction of 50 Bedded Integrated Ayush Sowa- Rigpa Hospital at Bajaura Distt. Kullu HP (SH:- Construction of Hospital Building portion, C/O Kitchen Block and Mortuary Block(Civil work, WS & SI) & Septic tank, Soak pit and Rain water Harvesting Tank)	75956753	30.05.2020	500000	15.06.2020			
Th	The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in  Executive Engineer, Banjar Division, HP.PWD., Banjar 175123 Phone No.01903-221031 Fax: 091903-221031 E mail: - ee-kul1-hp@nic.in							

Fax: 091903-221031 E mail:- ee-kul1-hp@nic.ir On behalf of Governor of HF

### 0625/HP

PRESS NOTICE ON SHORT TERM BASIS TO BE ISSUED FOR **PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPERS FOR E-TENDERING** 

	The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. II, Kullu at Bhunter invites Online tenders on short time basis on behalf of Government or Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through e-tendering process:								
Job No.		Estimated Cost	EMD Cost of Tender	Time of Completion (Months)	Cost of Form				
1	Providing LWSS to Phatti Peej, Phatti Khahrahal phatti Balh, Barahar and Kadihar in tehsii Bhunter Distt Kullu H.P. (SH: C/o Pump House, sanitary tank electrical fitting, septick tank C/o RCC storage tank of various capacity, providing laying Jointing and testing of raising main distribution system providing and errection of pumping machinery and C/o anchor block)		2,70,450/-	12 Months	2500/-				
2	Providing Lift Irrigation scheme to Bakshal & its adjoining area in GP Devgrah Gohi & Railla in tehsil Banjar Distt Kullu H.P. (SH: Providing and laying of raising main and C/o Thrust Blocks and supply and errection of pumping machinery)		71884/-	6 Months	800/-				

Last date submission of tender: 16.06.2020 upto 5.00 P.M. and opened on 17.06.2020 up to 12.30 P.M. The tender forms/NIT and other detailed conditions can be down of the Executive Engineer up to date specified above. -HIM SUNCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK-

0609/HP

(Er. Ravinder Kumar Sharma) Executive Engineer,

Jal Shakti Division No. II, Kullu at Bhunter

#### सिविल सर्जन, पानीपत ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

स्वास्थ्य विभाग, हरियाणा की ओर से सिविल सर्जन, पानीपत निम्नवर्णित कार्य के लिए एक वर्ष की अविध दिनांक 01.07.2020 से 30 .06 .2021 है, के लिए निविदा दस्तावेजों में प्रदान किए गए अन्य पात्रता मापदंड तथा वैध लाईसेंस धारक पात्र बोलीदाताओं के वैबसाईट https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in/ etenders.hry.nic.in पर आनलाईन बोलियां आमंत्रित करते हैं।

क्र. सं.	निविदा का विवरण	बोली दस्तावेज शुल्क	ई.एम.डी.	निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड की प्रारंभिक तिथि	निविदा प्रस्तुतिकरण की अंतिम तिथि	ई.एम.डी. व टैंडर जमा करने की तिथि	टैंडर खोलने की तिथि
1.	सब डिविजनल अस्पताल समालखा, सामुदायिक रवास्थ्य केंद्र, अहर बापौली व ददलाना, मडलौडा, नील्या, खोतपुरा, नारायणा व इसके अंतर्गत सभी पी.एव.सी. स्थित समर्थक सेवाए, अतिरिक्त समर्थक सेवाए, मांग अनुसार प्रदान करना जैसे कि हाउस कीपिंग, जनरल डचूटी असिस्टेंट, माली, धोबी, इलैक्ट्रिशियन, कंप्यूटर आपरेटर, पलंबर एवं आदि।	10000/-	6 लाख	26 .05 .2020 प्रातः 9 .00 बजे से	11.06.2020 12.00 बजे तक तक		12.06.2020 प्रातः 10.00 बजे

विस्तित निर्देशन निविदा की नियम एवं शर्तें संशोधन वैबसाईट <a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> etenders.hry.nic.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

सिविल सर्जन, पानीपत 81020/HRY

**INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

### (INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS)

### Corrigendum-6

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) GLOBAL in order to develop Technical specifications for development and manufacture of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Hybrid Distributed Power Rolling Stock (DPRS) with regenerative braking system, EOI (IROAF/CME(G)/FUEL CELL POWERED) invited on 03.01.2020.

The date of submission of EOI in the prescribed Format is extended from 27.05.2020 to 12.06.2020

Please visit website of IROAF https://iroaf.indianrailways.gov.in/→IROAF Tenders→Expression of Interest.

Contact person:

Chief Mechanical Engineer/BD,

Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF),

Government of India, Ministry of Railways 4th Floor, Railway Office Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002

Telephone no.:-011-23379107, Fax no.:-011-23379083

Email: cmebdiroaf@gmail.com SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
Regional Office: 4, Nehru Place, Tonk Road, Jaipur-15 (Rajasthan)

An e-tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of Vendors for the period of one year for providing services of Vehicle Tracking System for the vehicles used by FCI Road Transport Contractors for transportation of foodgrain from various dispatching centers to various receiving centers of Rajasthan region.

Juder e-tender notice ROJ/CONTRACT/VTS/02/2020, the bids shall be accepted ONLINE orm 27.05.2020, 02.00 PM to 16.06.2020, 02.00 PM. All the Terms & Conditions and other details are available on CPP Portal's website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and Corporation's website www.fci.gov.in.

General Manager (Region) General Manager (Region

**O**SBI

Anytime Channels Department, Air India Building, Corporate Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021. E-mail: dgm.atmins@sbi.co.in CORRIGENDUM-IV

Please refer our **Corrigendum** (RFP No.SBI/AC/2019-20/006 dated 17.03.2020 for Installation of 10,000 ATMs under Total Outsourced Model (TOM) PHASE XIV (YR. 2020). In this regard pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 29.05.2020 via video/audio conference. The details

are available on the link "Procurement News" on Bank's website

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering** 

(E-Procurement Systems)

1. Repair and fencing of Boundary wall of SSE/C/TRD Store at Ajmeri gate side, New Delhi under Sr.DEN/Works.
2. Face Lifting of Delhi Area stations with Vnyil painting on exteriors and

Interiors under Sr.DEN/Works.

3. Annual operation and maintenance of sand filter, disinfection syste

and valve operation at HNZM water complex in the section of SSE/W

HNZM under DEN/W-2/DLI. (For two years) 4. Construction of additional 6.10 m wide FOBs at East & West FOBs a

Delhi Main station under Sr. DEN/Works.

5. Extension of 3rd FOB from PF 4/5 to PF 8/9 with additional landing

(1) Rs. 3006082/- (2) Rs. 22113932/- (3) Rs. 14832164/-

(4) Rs. 33345607/- (5) Rs. 22471113/-

It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:

DR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as pe

(1) Rs. 60100/- (2) Rs. 260600/- (3) Rs. 224200/-

(4) Rs. 316700/- (5) Rs. 262400/-

(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated: 31.08.2016)

(1) Rs. 3540/- (2) Rs. 5900/- (3) Rs. 5900/-

(4) Rs. 11800/- (5) Rs. 11800/-

vww.ireps.gov.in

Website particulars notice board location | Above tender available on IREPS site i.e

Serving Customers With A Smile

Unto 15.00 hrs on 26.06.2020 Opening of

1175/2020

tender at 15.00 hrs. On 26.06.2020

circulating area at Hazarat Nizamuddin under Sr.DEN/Works/DLI.

Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated: 31.08.2016)

https://bank.sbi or https://sbi.co.in.

Cost of

Dated: 26.05.2020

Sd/-Deputy General Manager (ATM-I&S)

**Appeal For Identification** 



General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Kalia S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 38 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5 Ft. 5 Inch, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black Colour Jacket, Grey Colour Pant and Blue Colour Sleeper in Feet, has been found dead on 26.03.2020 Near Oriental Insurance Building,

Delhi Gate, Daryaganj, Delhi and dead body preserved in Maulana Azad Medical College Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours. In this regard a DD No. 15-A Dated 26.03.2020 has been lodged at PS. Daryaganj, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. DP/104/CD/2020.

PS. Daryaganj, Delhi Ph.: 011-23279331, 23274683



tate Project Implementation Unit, Uttarakhand mplementing World Bank Funded Project-UKWDP) ent Industrial Training Institute (Women) Campus 26-EC Road, Dehradun – 248001. Email- spiuukwdp@gmail.com

**CORRIGENDUM No. 6 (EXTENTION IN BID SUBMISSION)** Name of Project: Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP) All prospective bidders are hereby informed that the bid Submission dates for the packages mentioned below has already been extended thrice due to the unprecedented conditions prevailing in the country. Due to the numerous representation received from the prospective bidders requesting for extension, the last date of submission of the technical bid is further extended as per the table below

Bid Ref No.	Bid submission date	Bid	Bid submission date	Bid
		opening		opening
		date		date
	As per Corrigendum No	4		
For Fitter	29th May 2020,11am uploading	29 <sup>th</sup> May	16th June 2020,11am	23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Trade IN-	on www.uktenders.gov.in	2020,	uploading on	2020,
PIUUKWFDP	29th May 2020, 2pm Physical	4pm	www.uktenders.gov.in 23rd	4pm
- 154891-	submission at SPIU office		June 2020, 2pm Physical	
GO-RFB- 01			submission at SPIU office	
For	30th May 2020,11am uploading	30 <sup>th</sup> May	17th June 2020,11am	24th June
Electrician	on www.uktenders.gov.in	2020,	uploading on	2020,
Trade	30th May 2020, 2pm Physical	4 pm	www.uktenders.gov.in	4pm
Ref.no. IN-	submission at SPIU office.		24th June 2020, 2 pm	
SPIU-			Physical submission at SPIU	
UKWFDP-			office.	
154891-GO-				
RFB-02				

It is further informed that this may be treated as the last and final extension and no further date extension shall be done. All prospective bidders are informed to work actively to ensure the timely bid submission. Further as per the above table, a window of additional seven(7) days is being provided for hardcopy submission of documents, failing which the bid will not be admitted.

The rest of the terms and conditions shall remain unchanged Note: This corridendum will be uploaded on websiteswww.uktenders.gov.in and

**Project Directo** 

fender No. DYCE/CON-3/D-K/Sur 02 published vide Tender Notice No DYCE/CON-3/DMV/2020/MAR/02 Dated: 20-03-2020. Pleaso read as losing data of Tender on 11-06-2020 at 14.30 brs. instend of 21-05-2028 an pening on 11-06-2020 at 15:30 hrs stend of 21-05-2028.

All other terms and condition remai

Dy.CE/CON-ItiDimapu Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) D ESEMBNO COSTOMENS HOWA SWILE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TEMP. CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M), U.P. JAI NIGAM, MORADABAD Short Term E-Tender Notice Letter No.: 585 / 1970 / 46 Dated : 19.05.2020

E-Tenders are invited U.P. Nigam Lucknow from registered contractor having requisite wor experience and financia capabilities for Supply of Per Gravel at different Water Supply Scheme District Sambhal. The tender document shall be available on e procurement website http:// etender.up.nic.in from date 28.05.2020 at 10:00 am criward Interested contractor can download the above tende document and upload their tends duly filled from dated 28.05.2020 to 08.06.2020 up to 05:00 pm or above e-procurement website Tender shall be opened on dated 09.06.2020 at 11:30 am in the office of Executive Enginee Construction Division (E/M) U.P. Jal Nigam Moradabai in presence of intending tenderers if any. Tender cost Ra 1000.00+18% GST (Nonrefundable) in form of demandraft in favour of Executive Engineer Temp, Construction Division (E/M) U.P. Jel Nigen Moradabad will be uploaded with tender. Other terms and condition can also be seen on U.P. Ja Nigam website http:/ in.upsdc.gov.in and procurement website http:// etender.up.nic.in in tende

Date and time for Submission of

tender and opening of tender

complete details of tender can be seen

and address of the office from where

the tender form can be purchased etc.

128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-1,2,3, 4&5-2020-21/Works

#### GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS CIRCLE, COIMBATORE

**TENDER NOTICE** 

Tender Notice No.01/2020-2021/SDO, Dated: 26.05.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Schedule tender through online only will be received upto 13.07.2020, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Coimbatore for Sl.No.1 under Work Announced by Hon'ble Minister (Highways & Minor Ports) during Budget Demand 2016-2017 pertaining Coimbatore (H) Projects Division.

Details of work, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in from 30.05.2020. If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)

OUTSIDE THE CITY/PRESCRIBED AREA BY MCF BY HIS OWN.

TRACTOR TROLLEY, + 1 OTHER WORK

PROVIDING THE VARIOUS STAFF OF OUTSOURCING POLICY

PART -1 IN MC SADHAURA.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

20

81024/HRY

1187/2020



#### **GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Building Organisation - Form of Contract : Lumpsum Short Time Tender Notice No.9 / VLR - CLE / 2020 - 2021 / Dated : 26.05.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Sealed Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, PWD Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Vellore - 1 for the following works from the eligible Contractors registered in Public Works Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, upto 3.00 pm as per office clock on 17.06.2020 under Two cover system (Pre qualification and Price tender). The Prequalification cover (Cover I) alone will be opened on 17.06.2020 at 3.30 PM by the Superintending Engineer in presence of the Tenderers or their authorised agents.

PACKAGE WORKS: Construction of Class rooms, Science lab, Toilet block, Drinking Water facility, Compound Wall and Electrical arrangements in GHS / GHSS at (1) Slice 1: M.Kunnathur, Slice 2: Arasampattu, (2) Slice 1: Thirunavalur, Slice 2: Pall in Kallakurichi District, (3) Slice 1 : Sithalingamadam in Kallakurichi District, Slice 2 : Vikkiravandi in Villupuram District, (4) Slice 1 Sangeethamangalam, Slice 2 : Chinthamani, (5) Slice 1 : Illodu, Slice 2 : Ongur, (6) Slice 1 : Sathiyamangalam, Slice 2

The E.M.D remittance and other details can also be available from the Govt. designated website (http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Vellore - 632 001. The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the above website upto 16.06.2020 - 5.45 pm.

DIPR/ 1923 /TENDER/2020

Superintending Engineer, PWD. Buildings (C & M) Circle, Vellore-1



#### **GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT** Madurai (Construction and Maintenance) Circle TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.01/2020-2021/HDO/Dated: 22.05.2020 For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 01.07.2020 - 14.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Madurai Circle under CRIDP 2020-21,

(Package No.1 to Package No.19) pertaining Theni (H) (C&M) Division. Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 29.05.2020 onwards in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

DIPR	IPR/1914/TENDER/2020 PROJECTS CIRCLE, COIMBATORE-43			913/Tender/2020		RINTENDING ENGINEER (H C&M, Madurai Circle
3		HARYANA G	La I-Sur Marie No.	Design and the second	MENT	
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/ENAIL
1	HVPM_KARNAL	MTC, OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN POWER HOUSE COLONY AT 220/132 KV S/STN, HVPML, KARNAL (TYPE-1 - 20, TYPE 31- 35, TYPE-III - 21, TYPE-8 - 1 AND TYPE-C - 2 QTRS)	21.05.2020 03.06.2020	7.45 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hvpn.org.in
2	HVPVL, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF DRAIN IN TYPE- III QUARTERS ((VIII TO 23/III, 13/III TO 23/III & QTR 31/III TO 25/III) AT 220/132KV SYSTN, POWER HOUSE COLONY, KARNAL	21.05.2020 02.06.2020	1.09 LACS	www.hvpr.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@fivpn.org.in
3	HVPVL, KARNAL	REPAIR OF ROAD OF APPROACHING ROAD AND INTERNAL YARD ROAD AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, MADHUBAN	21.05.2000 02.06.2000	8.19 LACS	www.hypr.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hypr.org.in
4	HVPNL, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF OUTER BOUNDRY WALL OF POWER HOUSE COLONY AT 220/132KV S/STN. POWER HOUSE COLONY, HVPVL, KARNAL (TYPE-8 - 1 AND TYPE-C - 2 QTRS)	21.05.7020 03.06.2020	4.93 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0177-3583780 Pro@hypn.org.in
5	HVPML, KARNAL	REPAIR OF ALL TYPES OF CHARLAS OF QUARTERS AT 220/133KV S/STN., POWER HOUSE COLONY, HVPNL, KARNAL	21.05.2020 04.06.2020	8.25 LACS	www.hype.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
6	HVPNL, FARIDABAD	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF RESIDENTIAL COLONY AT 220KV SISTIN, AS HYPNIL, FARIDABAD	CLOSING DATE 05.06.2020	19.56 LACS	www.hypr.org.in	0177-3583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
	LOUDIN PARTIES	AUGMENTATION FROM 100 MVA 220/132 KV TO 160MVA 220/132KV T/F AT 220 KV S/STN: KATTHAL: (SURFACE	CLOSING	As 3520 for General,	110000000000000000000000000000000000000	0172-7583789

3	HVPVL, KARNAL	REPAIR OF ROAD OF APPROACHING ROAD AND INTERNAL YARD ROAD AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, MADHUBAN	21.05.2020 02.06.2020	8.19 LACS	www.hypn.org.in	0172-2583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
4	HVPNL, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF OUTER BOUNDRY WALL OF POWER HOUSE COLONY AT 220/132KV 5(STN. POWER HOUSE COLONY, HYPVL, KARNAL (TYPE- B - 1 AND TYPE-C - 2 (TRS)	21.05.2020 03.06.2020	4.93 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0177-3583789 Pro@hvpn.org.in
5	HVPML, KARNAL	REPAIR OF ALL TYPES OF CHADAS OF QUARTERS AT 220/132KV S/STN., POWER HOUSE COLONY, HVPNL, KARNAL	21.05.7020 04.06.2020	8.25 LACS	www.hype.org.in	0172-0583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
6	HVPNL, FARIDABAD	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF RESIDENTIAL COLONY AT 220KV SISTN. AS HVPNL, FARIDABAD	CLOSING DATE 05.06.2020	19.56 LACS	www.hypn.org.in	0177-7583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
7	HVPNE, KARINAL.	AUGMENTATION FROM 100 MVA 220/132 KV TO 165MVA 220/132KV T/F AT 220 KV S/STIL KATTHAL (SURFACE DRESSING, SUPPLY AND SPREADING OF GRAVEL) (CIVIL WORKS).	CLOSING DATE 08.06.2020	Rs 3520 for General, Rs. 1760 for Registered Society	www.hupn.org.in	0172-7583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
8	NUNICIPAL COMMITTEE RADAUR	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF MC PARKS STRUATED NEAR GUIGGA MAADT RADAUR AND ON MAIN SK ROAD RADAUR	26.05.2020 03.06.2020	END =30000/15000	https://www.etenders.fry.nic.in	secymcradaur@gmail.com
9	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURLGRAM	RENOVATION/CONSTRUCTION (CIVIL WORK, PLUMBING WORK AND ELECTRICAL WORK) AND OPEN INTOHEN AT TERRACE, BALANCE WORK IN CARTERPIRI CHAUPAL VILLAGE CARTERPURI AT 20NE-II WARD NO.2, GURUSHAN. + 6 OTHER WORKS	21.05.2000 02.06.2000	1.70 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	MCG.ee2@mcg.gov.in
10	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BAHADURGARH	CONST. OF IPB STREET VIBHA, JANKI AND KAVITA WALI GALI IN WARD NO. 11 BAHADURGARH + 10 OTHER WORKS	DATE 11.06.2000	2.14 CRORE	ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.DV	9350496582 NAVEENDHANKHAR®GMAIL.COM
n	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SHIWANG	CLEARANCE TO SILT FROM DRAIN/NALA AND REPAIR OF NALAS IN VARIOUS PLACES ONWARDS IN MC BHINANI AREA.	CLOSING DATE BLOG 2020	13490/4	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9810880504 me.mcbhiwani@gmail.com
12	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHOWARD	CONST OF TWO ROOM SET AND OTHER WORKS IN NANDISHALA IN MC SHIWANI.	CLOSING DATE 08.06.2020	10460/-	https://etendors.hry.nic.in	9810880504 resunctriwani@gmail.com
13	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JIND	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JIND DO HEREBY INVITES TENDER FOR CAPTURING OF MONKEY + 1 OTHER WORK	20.06,2020	1045.00 Lass	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-246358 incjint2013@gmail.com
14	NUNCIPAL COMMITTEE TAURU	CONST OF TOLLET IN HARLIAN CHOUPAL BUILDING MEAR H/O KARAN SINGH IN WARD NO 15 MC TAURU + 7 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 06.06.2020	1.48 IACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	SECRETARY
15	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SOHWA	REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION OF EXISTING DUMPSITE BEHIND OF NIRANKARI COLLAGE AT SOHNA	23.05.2020 04.06.2020	4.64 CRORE	https://etenders/hry.mc.in/	9466676699
16	HARYANA SEEDS DEVEOPMENT CORPORATION LTD	INTERIO VEGETABLE SEEDS (TOMATO, ONDON, DKRA, CHILLY, CAPSICUM, CAULIFLOWER, CORJANDER, PUJSKMELON AND BABYCORN) ON CONSIGNMENT BASIS	23.05,2020 09.06,2020	END 1 LACS	https://etenders/ny.nc.in/	9896076676 cmpfedd Sgmall.com
17	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, PANCHKULA	PROVIDING SOUND SYSTEM FOR GYM OF HRHC SECTOR 6, PANCHRULA	26.05.2000 01.06.2020	13.35 LACS	www.hphc.org/in	dapanchikula@yahoo.com
18	H.F.O.C. YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF SHISHAM AND EUCALYPTUS SWIN TIMBER FOR MANUFACTURING OF FURNITURE UNDER HEDC, YAMUNA NAGAR SAW MILL JAGADHRI OR FREMISES PROVIDED BY HEDC YAMUNA NAGAR	23,05,2020 29,05,2020	2 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	General Manager
19	MARKET COMMITTEE, FARIDABAD	DAILY CLEANING, SWEEPING WITHIN THE NEW GRAIN/FRUIT 6 VEGETABLE MARKET, DABLA, FARIDABAD, ALL THE TOILETS, CLEANING SEWERAGE LINE AND STAFF QUARTER AREA WITHIN NGHYMM, DABLA FARIDABAD ARE TO BE CLEANED DAILY DUMP THE GARBAGE/MUD AND DUST DAILY	CLOSING DATE 01.06.2000	EHO 2 UACS	https://etenders.hry/nc.in.	Secyc-ourn E.O.

New Delhi

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

ulbharyana.gov.in



secy.mcsadhaura@gmail.com





₹75.66

**35.98** 

SENSEX: 30,609.30 ▼ 63.29 NIFTY: 9,029.05 ▼ 10.20 NIKKEI: 21,271.17 ▲ 529.52 HANG SENG: 23,384.66 ▲ 432.42 FTSE: 6,057.80 ▼ 64.52 DAX: 11,477.98 ▲ 86.70

### COVID-19 IMPACT — **CONSUMER INTERNET COS**

### Over 4.4K jobs cut by 5 major Indian cos in 1 month; Uber lays off nearly 600 people

**PRANAV MUKUL** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

FIVE LARGE companies in the consumer internet space in India have announced reduction of over 4000 jobs over the last one month, on account of contraction in business due to COVID-19-led lockdown and the subsequent fall in demand.

On Tuesday, US-based cabaggregator Uber announced it will lay off around 600 full time employees in the India-South Asia region, a majority of which are located in India, due to the "impact of COVID-19 and the unpredictable nature of the recovery".

In total, five companies — Uber India and South Asia, Ola, Zomato, Swiggy and Cure.fit have together announced the reduction of around 4,441 jobs in the last one month. "The impact of COVID-19 and the unpredictable nature of the recovery has left Uber India SA with no choice but to reduce the size of its workforce. Around 600 full time positions across driver and rider support, as well as other functions, are being impacted. These reductions are part of previously announced global job cuts this month," said Pradeep Parameswaran, president, Uber India and South Asia. The number of laid off staff comprised about a fourth of Uber India and South Asia's employee base.

The taxi-hailing company said the layoffs were part of previously announced global job cuts. Last week, the firm's parent company — US-based Über Technologies – announced a 23 per cent reduction in its workforce.

Uber's Indian rival Ola, which saw its revenue fall by 95 per cent over the last two months, last week announced that it will be letting go off 1,400 employees. "... the prognosis ahead for our business is very unclear and uncertain. It going to take a long time for people to go out and about like before. With more companies preferring to have a large number of employees work from home, air travel limited

### **UBERTOLAY OFF FULL-TIME STAFF**

**■**Uber India and South Asia, Ola, Zomato, Swiggy and Cure.fit have together cut around 4,441 jobs in the last one month

■ The 600 people that Uber plans to lay off are full-time employees

to essential trips and vacations being put off for better times. the impact of this crisis is definitely going to be long-drawn for us," Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal wrote in an e-mail to employees, adding that the crisis has affected livelihood of millions of the company's drivers.

Prior to this, the two largest food-tech companies in India – Swiggy and Zomato – announced, in quick succession, the plan to prune their employee base. Exhorting that the number restaurants is expected to shrink by 25-40 per cent over the next 6-12 months, Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal wrote to the company's staffers that around 14 per cent of them, or 541 people, have been asked to look for new jobs. Swiggy CEO Sriharsha Majety told the employees that the core food delivery business had been severely hit and was likely to stay impacted over the short term. To this effect, he announced

letting go off 1,100 employees. Similarly, health and fitness startup Cure.fit had also laid off around 800 people, in an effort to reduce costs.

In addition to the layoffs, some of these companies have also announced salary cuts for a chunk of their employees. Zomato said its staff will undergo a temporary salary reduction of up to 50 per cent, with some of the senior memof 100 per cent. Similarly, Ola said that over the past couple of months, all members of its extended leadership team had taken "significant salary cuts".

### AMID PRIVACY CONCERNS RAISED BY CYBERLAW EXPERTS Centre shifts stance, releases source code for Aarogya Setu app

**AASHISHARYAN&** KARISHMA MEHROTRA NEW DELHI, MAY 26

IN A departure from its previous stance, the Centre on Tuesday released the source code of its contact tracing app Aarogya Setu and announced cash prizes for those who find a bug or vulnerability in it. Government officials overseeing the mobile application development also told The Indian Express that they will soon provide anonymised data to researchers to conduct their own analysis on COVID-19 trends in the country.

The release of the app's Android source code (which 98 per cent of the 115 million Aarogya Setu users use) comes nearly two months after the app was released on April 2. When asked about the delay in releasing the code after significant calls from India's developer community, IT Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney told The Indian Express: "Even the best developers don't document their code when they are rushing to make it functional. Now, they have properly cleaned the code. We even plan to release the code for the server function so that other countries can pick it up and use this app in their country as well."

National Informatics Center Director General Neeta Verma said the government's internal assessment found potential vulner-

'States' fiscal deficit seen

Despite the relaxation in COVID-19-related restrictions,

the revenue balance of states in FY21 is set to worsen,

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said in a report

rising to 4.5% of GDP'

EXPLAINE

### May help assuage concerns over privacy, security

WITH THE opening up of the source code for developers as well as the announcement of a bounty scheme for finding bugs in the Aarogya Setu app, the government has opened itself to scrutiny of coders across the world.

This will, however, restore some faith in skeptical minds as they can now read and understand the code for themselves. It will also help in assuaging the data privacy and security concerns surrounding the app.

abilities in the app, calling for developers to attempt to solve the concerns in a detailed technical document. The Centre's first-ever bug bounty programme will give up to Rs 3 lakh for two reward categories - security vulnerability reporting and suggestions for improvement in the source code.

Although the IT Ministry's own policy from 2016 states that all software used by the government will be open source as far as possible, the Ministry had barred individuals from reverse engineering the code of Aarogya Setu.

Reverse engineering allows individuals and firms to deconstruct the working of a software or a hardware by tracing back steps from the final product, often to enhance the working of the source code or find a bug in the system.

Sawhney told The Indian Express the Centre shares Aarogya Setu data in three buckets. "Personal data is shared to medical officials in order to fight the pandemic. Anonymised, aggregate data is shared with supporting departments like the planning development to assess the inventory required. And we will begin to share 'hard anonymised' data with research institutions who request such data and are cleared by a committee soon to be set up by

Till date, 1,264 emerging hotspots have been identified across India through the app. "Transparency, privacy and se-

the Principal Scientific Advisor."

curity have been the core design principles of Aarogya Setu since its inception and opening the source code up to the developer

community signifies the government of India's continuing commitment to these principles," Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said, while announcing the release of the source code. He said that if 70achieve "digital immunity."

code fulfills a long pending de-

"Aarogya Setu should always have been open source, right from the get go. Everything developed by the government should always be open source as that uses taxpayers money. Work to ensure that the app doesn't mutate into any other vehicle that plays with sensitive information of such a large population should continue," Mishi Choudhary, technology

Earlier this week, the government updated the terms of usage of the app, removing the restrictions on tampering with its code and allowing reverse engineering of the same. In the updated terms of use, the Centre also specified that an individual's failure to comply with the terms of usage of the app will no longer lead to the sus-

Aarogya Setu has become mandatory for central government employees and for travelers crossing several borders across parts of the nation.

80 per cent of a community has the app downloaded, they can The opening up of the source mand of cyberlaw experts from

across the country and the world.

lawver and founder. SFLC.in said.

pension of their account.

0.9% **EXPECTED NOMINAL GDP GROWTH RATE FOR FY21 AS** NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN **WOULD EXACERBATE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN** 

### 2.8% **OFGDP**

**OF THE GDP: EXPECTED** 

HIGHER FROM EARLIER

**FORECAST OF 3%** 

AGGREGATE FISCAL DEFICIT

FOR THE STATES IN FY21,

4.5%

Expected aggregate revenue deficit for states as against earlier forecast of 0.4%, with states likely to face significant slippages from their budget targets for FY21

### ₹8.25 TRILLION

Estimate of gross market borrowings of states in FY21, revised upward from earlier estimate of ₹

states (constituting nearly 86% of the budgeted target) came in 4.2% lowerthan budgeted at ₹24.79 trillion in FY20, primarily led by a

### 16.2% reduction in the devolution of

States' own tax revenue receipts were lower by 2.2% in revised estimates for FY20 than budgeted ₹12.04 trillion ■ Revenue and fiscal deficits are budgeted at 0.02% and 2.5% of

central taxes

GSDP in FY21

Ind-Ra expects states to resort to higher market borrowings to fund the fiscal deficit. The pressure on support to households and businesses through fiscal stimulus measures is set to increase Source:India Ratings and Research/PTI

### 'Q4FY20 GDP growth likely to be 1.2%, may contract 6.8% in FY21'

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, MAY 26

 $INDIA \hbox{'S GDP growth is likely to be} \\$ at 1.2 per cent in the January-March quarter (Q4) of the previous fiscal (2019-20), as economic activity came to a standstill in the last week of March due to the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19, a State Bank of India report has said.

According to the SBI's research report 'Ecowrap', gross domestic product (GDP) growth is likely to be 4.2 per cent for the full year of FY20. It is expected to contract by -) 6.8 per cent for the ongoing FY21. The Q4 GDP growth number for FY20 will be announced by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on May 29.

"We now believe that Q1 GDP FY21 loss will be humongous and could even exceed 40 per cent," the SBI report said. When India had first imposed a lockdown, GDP estimate was 2.6 per cent and since then it has been progressively reduced to a negative 4.7 per cent, with nominal GDP

witnessing a contraction, it said. "However, given that the  $States\,are\,now\,taking\,a\,staggered$ approach in terms of activities in red, green and orange zones, we believe that a bottom-up approach estimation to growth could be more appropriate than an earlier top down approach," it added.

Subsequently, SBI estimated the district-wise, zone-wise loss in GSDP for each state and found that total GSDP (gross state domestic product) loss due to COVID-19 for states stands at Rs 30.3 lakh crore, which is 13.5 per cent of total GSDP. The loss is maximum (around 50 per cent) in red zones and where almost all the big districts of India are located. The combined loss of orange and red zone is around 90 per cent of total loss. "The loss in green zone is the least as 80 per cent of population in this zone is located in rural areas which are almost open for all activities," it

The Ecowrap said state-wise analysis indicates that top 10 states accounted for 75 per cent of total GDP loss, with Maharashtra contributing 15.6 per cent of total loss, followed by Tamil Nadu (9.4 per cent) and Gujarat (8.6 per cent). These three states also have the largest numher of confirmed COVID-19 cases in India, it said.

According to SBI, one interesting aspect of data is the difference between GDP and GVA (gross value added). Normally the difference between GDP and GVA

### **India facing** worst recession in FY21: Crisil

New Delhi: India's fourth recession since Independence, the first since liberalisation and perhaps the worst to date, is here, Crisil said Tuesday as it predicted the economy to shrink by 5 per cent in the current fiscal.

"The first quarter (April to June 2020) will suffer a staggering 25 per cent contraction," it said in its assessment of India's GDP. "About 10% of GDP in real terms could be permanently lost." PTI

### Fitch projects economy to contract 5%

New Delhi: Fitch Ratings on Tuesday forecast a 5 per cent contraction of Indian economy in the current fiscal, on account of slump in economic activities and very stringent lockdown policy. This is substantially lower than 0.8 per cent growth for 2020-21 fiscal projected in April.

Fitch said it has made further cuts to world GDP forecasts in its latest Global Economic Outlook for May. PTI

growth rate is not large, but this time due to huge losses in net indirect taxes the difference will be quite big. "We estimate real GVA growth could be at - 3.1 per cent in FY21 and real GDP growth at -6.8 per cent in FY21," it said.

SBI said GDP numbers for Q2 of 2020-21 could witness a smart recovery and clock 7.1 per cent, if the country is able to sustain the demand. "Q3 and Q4 growth numbers could also look much better, with an average of 6 per cent, but the Q2 bump could come down with the immediate bust in pent up demand in Q2 subsiding subsequently," it said.

However, things could rapidly change as the income and job loss could again propel the country towards a lower equilibrium after the initial bump up.

"We thus believe the ment might be looking at the data more closely to prevent such loss in momentum in Q3 and Q4 and even come up with another targeted package later in the year," the report said.

Chile's LATAM

largest airline

to file for

**REUTERS** 

virus crisis.

ruptcy protection.

bankruptcy

BENGALURU, MAY 26

LATAM AIRLINES Group SA filed

for US bankruptcy protection on

Tuesday, becoming the largest

carrier to seek an emergency re-

organization amid the coron-

follows rival Avianca Holdings of

Colombia in seeking US bank-

LATAM posted profits for four con-

secutive years totaling more than

\$700 million. It had recently ap-

ees out of over 40,000 in the lead-

LATAM laid off 1,800 employ-

"We have implemented a se-

proved a dividend payment.

up to its bankruptcy filing.

Latin America's largest airline

But unlike Avianca, Chile's

### – Briefly —

### Ola Fin Services raises₹205 cr

New Delhi: Ola Financial Services (OFS), which operates Ola Money, has raised about Rs 205 crore in funding from Matrix Partners and others, as per regulatory documents.

### Kotak Mahindra **Bank QIP**

Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra Bank Tuesday launched its over Rs 7,000-crore qualified institutional placement. PTI

### Moers to be Aston **Martin CEO**

London: Aston Martin confirmed on Tuesday Tobias Moers, CEO of Mercedes-AMG, would become CEO on August 1, replacing Andy Palmer. **REUTERS** 

### Vedanta seeks nod for delisting

New Delhi: Vedanta Ltd on Tuesday began the process of seeking shareholders nod for delisting the company.

### Torrent Pharma netat₹314 cr

New Delhi: Drug firm Torrent Pharmaceuticals on Tuesday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 314 crore for the quarter ended March 31.PTI

### New norms for delivery centre for commodity derivatives contract

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

SEBI ON Tuesday issued uniform guidelines to be followed by stock exchanges while identifying and selecting a location as a delivery centre for commodity derivatives contracts. The move by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has been taken based on the recommendations of Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee(CDAC) and in consultation with bourses.

A particular location can be identified and selected as a delivery centre by a stock exchange based on demand-supply dynamics, liquidity of the contract, value chain participants, infrastructure support and trade feedback, the regulator said in a circular. The regulator said that delivery centre, whether basis or addi-

### No restriction on use of PoA by broker: Sebi

New Delhi: Sebi said it has not imposed any restriction on the use of Power of Attorney (PoA) between a client and a broker in the equity markets. It said systems are in

place where broker using PoA transfers client securities as margin into his client's collateral account and then place these securities with clearing corporation (CC) by way of transfer or creation of pledge towards margin. PTI

tional, plays an important role in the pricing and settlement of the physically delivered commodity derivatives contract.

### Bharti Telecom BBB selects SN Rajeswari as CMD of sells 2.75% stake in Airtel for ₹8,433 crore

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** NEW DELHI, MAY 26

PROMOTER FIRM Bharti Telecom has sold 2.75 per cent stake in Airtel to institutional investors in the secondary market, raising over Rs 8,433 crore, the company said on Tuesday. The sale proceeds will be fully utilised to repay debt at Bharti Telecom and will make the promoter holding firm a 'debt free company', it said.

Bharti Group and Singtel will continue to hold a majority stake in Bharti Airtel at 56.23 per cent after the transaction, the telco said.

However, shares of Bharti Airtel fell nearly 6 per cent after the sale of stake. It dropped 5.71 per cent to close at Rs 559.15 on the BSE. Intra-day, it tumbled 5.96 per cent to Rs 557.65. On the NSE, shares of the company fell 5.72 per cent to close at Rs 559.25

# Oriental Insurance via video interview

**GEORGE MATHEW** MUMBAI, MAY 26

SN RAJESWARI, General Manager, New India Assurance (NIA), has been selected by the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) as the Chairman and MD of the Delhi-based Oriental Insurance Company (OIC) after an online video interview process in the wake of the lockdown.

With this move, there are clear indications that the Centre is not in a hurry to implement the 2year old proposal to merge three PSU general insurers, OIC, National Insurance Company (NIC) and United India Insurance, analysts said. The BBB had conducted virtual interviews of five senior general managers of the public sector general insurance industry — with two years of residual services till May 2022 — to select a CMD for OIC on Tuesday. AV Girija Kumar, CMD, OIC, is retiring this month

end on reaching 60. For the first time, the inter-

### Rajeswari, General Manager of New India Assurance, is set to replace AV Girija Kumar,

who retires this month views for selecting a CMD were

done through video conferencing.

with the nation under lockdown

to check the spread of COVID-19. Currently, BPSharma heads a seven-member panel to select CMDs of PSU insurance companies and banks. In a unique practice, BBB has preferred, for the second time, to announce the result of the interview on the same day.

Earlier, results of interviews for selecting CMDs of GIC Re and Agriculture Insurance Company were announced the same day.

The Finance Ministry will now start the process of appointing Rajeswari as the CMD of OIC. After Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's nod, the official papers

would be sent to Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and the Prime Minister's Office for their approvals. "Going by the earlier experience, the whole process may take around two months to notify the name of Rajeswari," said sources at the Ministry.

Other general managers who appeared for the interview were Dinesh Waghela (OIC), Sobha Reddy (NIC), Deepak Godbole (GIC Re) and Madhulika Bhaskar (GICRe). Rajeswari, a chartered accountant, is currently the second senior most GM of the public sector general insurance industry and will retire in May 2022.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has indicated that it would start the official exercises to appoint directors of PSU general insurance companies. It had completely stopped appointing directors in the four PSU general insurers for almost two years and as a result majority posts of directors — out of eight — are currently lying vacant in those four PSU companies.

ries of difficult measures to mitigate the impact of this unprecedented industry disruption, but ultimately this path represents the best option," CEO Roberto Alvo said in a statement regarding the LATAM is an instantly recog-

nizable brand for South

Americans, dominating international air travel in the region, as well as a leading domestic flight operator in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Ecuador. Carriers in Latin America have

sought bailouts to no avail so far. unlike rivals in the United States and Europe. LATAM will continue to fly while it is in bankruptcy protection. Its affiliates in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay were not included in the Chapter 11 filing.

### Oil prices rise as faith in supply cuts grows

**REUTERS** NEW YORK, MAY 26

OIL PRICES rose on Tuesday, supported by growing confidence that producers are following through on commitments to cut supplies and as fuel demand picks up with coronavirus restrictions

Brent crude futures were up 45 cents, or 1.3 per cent, at \$35.98 a barrel by 1709 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures gained 89 cents, or 2.7 per cent, to

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other leading oil producers including Russia, a group known as OPEC+, agreed last month to cut their combined output by almost 10 million barrels per day in May-June to shore up prices and demand, which has been hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, US stocks jumped

and the S&P 500 crossed 3,000 points on Tuesday as optimism about a potential coronavirus vaccine and a revival in business activity helped investors overlook simmering Sino-US tensions. During intra-day trade, the

Dow Iones Industrial Average was up 593.68 points, or 2.43 per cent, at 25,058.84, the S&P 500 was up 50.88 points, or 1.72 per cent, at 3,006.33. The Nasdaq Composite was up 81.78 points, or 0.88 per cent, at 9,406.37.

### Rupee gains 29p Mumbai: The rupee appreci-

ated by 29 paise to close at 75.66 against the US dollar on Tuesday. In the Indian equity market, the BSE Sensex fell 63.29 points, or 0.21 per cent, to end at 30,609.30, while the NSE Nifty ended 10.20 points, or 0.11 per cent, down at 9,029.05. PTI

### Apple to reopen about 100 US stores, most with pickup option

New Delhi

**REUTERS** SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 26

APPLE INC plans to reopen about 100 US stores, mostly with curbside pickup but some with walkin service, the company said on Tuesday. Apple shuttered stores worldwide as the novel coronavirus pandemic spread but has slowly opened them based on lo-

#### the company reopened a handful of stores in Alaska, Idaho and Alabama. Under Apple's new proce-

dures, stores with walk-in service will require customers and employees to undergo temperature checks and wear masks before entering. Apple will provide masks to customers who have none. Social distancing rules will limit the number of people in the store cal health data. Earlier this month, at one time.



### WI RESUME TRAINING

Gearing up for a proposed tour of England in July, some West Indies players, led by skipper Jason Holder, returned to training in small groups following a coronavirus-forced hiatus.

# Teenaged gamer gets the real wheel

Chennai's Kutti, winner of eRacing series held during lockdown, to train at Karthikeyan's academy & with Volkswagen in real world

NIHAL KOSHIE

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

VIRTUAL RACING series started by prominent Indian race drivers during the lockdown have given a teenaged gamer his big break – a move to real-world racing.

Amith Kutti, a 16-year-old from Chennai, sat on a plastic chair while driving with a gaming racing wheel in front of a PC screen at home when eRacing against some of the best drivers in the country. Kutti went wheelto-wheel with Narain Karthikeyan - the first Indian to drive in Formula One - and Arjun Maini, a European Le Mans Series driver, in Ultimate E's all-star race, an online series hosted on weekends during the lockdown.

Earlier this month, Kutti beat 31 racers from 15 cities to win the third season of the Indian Sim Racing League (ISRL), a virtual racing series that began in April. Consistent podium finishes in Ultimate E enhanced his reputation. His reward: admission to the karting programme at Karthikeyan's racing academy and a training stint and test with Volkswagen Motorsport India. He will now get to drive real cars and karts on racing tracks.

'Now especially during the lockdown, there have been new virtual competitions paving the way for virtual drivers in India. I haven't been offered anything (in the real world) before. This is the first time I have been offered a chance to train at the NK Racing Academy, Volkswagen Motorsport training is the prize for winning the Indian Sim Racing League season," Kutti says.

Karthikeyan called him the 'fastest gamer in India' when he announced the tie-up between his academy and Ultimate E. "ERacing has become more relevant with the Covid-19 situation. In the first edition of this collaboration, we have decided to sign up Amith Kutti, who has excelled in multiple eSports leagues and has easily come on top as the fastest gamer in India," Karthikeyan says. The objective, according to him, is to get Kutti a seat in the Rotax  $Max \, (karting) \, national \, champions hips. \,$ 

Home-grown virtual racing competitions, open to anyone with access to a simulator or a console at home, were launched by professional drivers when race tracks became inaccessible because of the countrywide lockdown from March 25. ISRL is promoted by multiple-time national karting champion Rayomand Banajee while Formula 2 racer Armaan Ebrahim and Aditya Patel, who drives for Audi Motorsport, have created Ultimate E.

Both virtual racing championships held their inaugural seasons during the lockdown to keep motorsport addicts engaged. The driving experience mirrors real-world racing with practice and qualifying sessions for each race, officials watching every lap, drivers being penalised and having to enter the pitlane to repair damage and losing out on time.

When the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of traditional races, Formula One, Formula E and Moto GP launched virtual competitions but they were restricted to professional drivers and teams. Formula One Esports series, which began in 2017, pits eSport drivers signed to F1 teams against each other. The Nissan GT Academy is one of the most popular virtual-racing talent hunt programmes in the world and enables gamers to make a transition onto the track.

ISRL and Ultimate Ewant to provide Indian drivers with a similar non-traditional route.

Kutti is confident of making the switch from the simulator to the road. "In the simulator, you feel (the physical force) through your arm and in the real car, you feel it through your body, especially when you brake," Kutti explains. He got a first-hand experience of a racing car-his only one - when he drove an entry-level Formula LGB4 in Chennai in February. "When I first drove it, I was scared that I was going too fast. But I am comfortable now," Kutti says.

The teenager's initiation into gaming began when a friend convinced him to buy a Formula One game for the Xbox. A few months earlier, his father, a businessman, had taken him to watch the 2012 Formula One Indian Grand Prix in Greater Noida. He recalls being fascinated watching the cars speed past.

#### **Transition challenge**

Sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle, be it a kart or a modified car, will be challenging for a rookie like Kutti, experts reckon.

Banajee, founder of IR eSports, which runs ISRL, will train Kutti in a Volkswagen Motorsport car. The experienced driver talks about 'speed' and 'braking' being a whole new experience. "Speed at which you are going on



Amith Kutti has been virtual racing from home during the lockdown. Express

### Why e-racing connects with pro drivers

A skilled gamer may best LeBron James and Lionel Messi on NBA 2K and FIFA video games but stands no chance on the real turf. Virtual racer Enzo Bonito, however, already grabbed the bragging rights for his community when he beat Lucas di Grassi, a Formula E and ex-Formula 1 driver, in a realworld race last January. The G-force-driven, high-risk world of real racing demands enormous skill and bravery, but simulated racing is still incredibly realistic and difficult. It is the only esport that has parallels with the real world; the reason why it has connected with professional drivers. It starts with the gear. There's no joystick or keyboard + mouse setup. Professional virtual racers train with wheels and pedals. Advanced simulators go even further, implementing cutting-edge aerodynamic and suspension research as well as real-world 3d technology.

There is massive overlap and parallels between our real life and virtual worlds. The same cannot be said about many other sports," Julian Tan, head of Formula 1's esports division, told this paper. Red Bull driver Max Verstappen has been the intermediary between the two worlds and uses virtual racing to sharpen his skills. In gaming too, the 22-year-old remains milliseconds faster, focussing on real-life details such as steering angle, slip angle of the car, trail braking or downshifting. It's not a 1:1 experience, but the process of tailoring the car to specific needs and using telemetry on painstakingly recreated circuits is a valid form of training for professional drivers, and a great jumping-off point for gamers looking to transition.

the computer does not scare you but it will scare you in the real world. Getting your braking right too (will be key) because there is no real-world feel when you are racing here (simulator). Abroad, some eSports racers have done exceedingly well on the actual race track. In India, I think gamers who are talented need to be given enough of an opportunity. You can't take the best gamer and tell him this is your one chance on track. We have to be patient," Banajee says.

Sim racing, however, can help in the switch from a gaming wheel to a steering wheel. "For example, if you are getting a lot of understeer, how are you are going to tackle it with the steering. The process is going to be the same," Banajee adds.

Twenty-year-old Sai Prithvi, the winner of the second season of ISRL, will also test drive with Volkswagen Motorsport. Prithvi comes with the experience of racing in both worlds. He has a number of track races under his belt, including podium finishes in the Formula Junior Rookie Series and Red Bull and ECR karting challenges.

"The first thing I realised when I started Sim racing is how similar it was and how far it has come (technology). I have been playing racing games since I was young and to see it evolve to what it is today was astonishing in terms of how accurate it can be. Except for simulating the physical forces on the body, everything else, going from setting up your car, tyre degradation or weight balance is almost perfect," Prithvi, who made his virtual competition debut in the ISRL, says.

Ebrahim too acknowledges the advances in virtual-racing technology. "You can't even call these games, games anymore. They are so realistic in a simulator," he says.

Kutti would have had to wait longer for someone to give him a break but the lockdown opened the door of opportunity.

Ebrahim says the pandemic hastened the start of virtual leagues in the country. "I think we in India woke up a little late to the potential of virtual racing and how it can be a platform to identify talented drivers," he says. Towards the end of last year, as part of the promotion for the X1 Racing League (custom-built cars on track), Ebrahim took simulators to six different cities to test waters. "We realised the appetite for eSports last year. The Covid situation accelerated the progress and we started hosting races every weekend on different platforms as part of Ultimate E, which people can play from home. The aim is to put drivers from the virtual track to the real track," Ebrahim adds.

Kutti is currently brushing up his physics lessons as he starts Class XII, a crucial year, one which will also see him graduating to the racetrack with Karthikeyan guiding him.

### **BRIEFLY** —

### Pak legends mourn Balbir's death

Balbir Singh Sr's death evoked emotional tributes from Pakistan's hockey community, which described the legendary centre-forward's demise as a big loss to the sport in general and the subcontinent in particular. The 96year-old three-time Olympic goldmedallist, considered one of the best centre-forwards of all time, died on Monday in Mohali. "He had amazing flexibility, speed and litheness in his game. His sprints were a treat to watch," former Pakistan captain Samiullah said. The Secretary General of the Pakistan Hockey Federation Asif Bajwa also condoled the death.

### JLN, National Stadium reopened

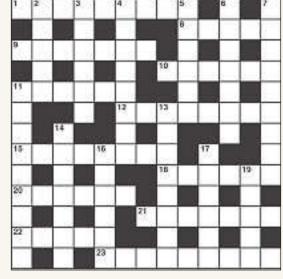
The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Tuesday started activities in two out of its five stadiums in the national capital after the central government green lighted resumption of outdoor sports in a phased manner. According to a SAI statement, sporting activities have resumed at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium from Tuesday afternoon in slots of one hour which needs to be pre-booked online. However, activities in Indira Gandhi Stadium and Karni Singh Shooting Range are expected to start in a week's time as logistics are being worked out.

### Holyfield-Tyson rematch on cards?

Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield has said he is open to facing one-time rival Mike Tyson in a trilogy fight for charity on the condition that Tyson asks for the bout to be set up. Tyson, 53, fought two epic bouts with Holyfield, 57, during their professional careers, including their controversial 1997 encounter in which Tyson bit off a chunk of

PTI/REUTERS

### **CROSSWORD 4128**



### ACROSS

- Felt shops contributed to high
- living(9) The god of unions (5) Musician having ear most  $developed \, (7) \,$
- 10 A new angle for a girl
- 11 I am in pursuit in a carriage 12 His relations make the
- headlines (8) 15 What one requires to  $complete \, the \, score$
- 18 Lowers oneself?(6)
- 20 Three times they initially faced new peril (6)
- 21 Letter I've given to the girl 22 A question of place
- 23 Crossword addicts should be  $used \,to\,such\,set backs$

DOWN

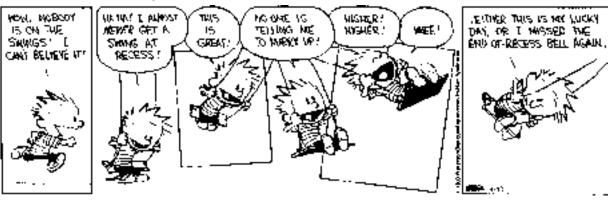
- One may be attached to a dog because of it
- Is in a hide to see a bird Go through poetry, being
- unreasonable (8) Not his sort of religion (6) 6 Granted, it could set many free
- Starting point for a person or the other side (3,6)
- 11 Eastern quarter in Dresden?
- 13 Ancient writers made their point with it (8)
- 14 He doesn't believe in field management (7)
- statements?(6)
- 17 Is against using Latin
- 19 Up or down it is neither

Solutions Crossword 4127: Across: 1 Declaim, 4 About, 7 Aims, 8 Crackers, 10 Follow suit, 12 Railed, 13 Refuge, 15 Fatal error, 18 Clean-cut, 19 Serf, 20 Noted, 21 Riposte. Down: 1 Dwarf, 2 Complain, 3 Morose, 4 Archimedes, 5 Open, 6 Testate, 9 warned, 11 Quarters, 12 Rubicon, 14 Valuer, 16 Rifle, 17 Lent,

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson



### **MARVIN** by Tom Armstrong





THE VICE PRESIDENT





### **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 There are three faithful friends-an old wife, an old dog, and \_\_\_\_\_, -Benjamin Franklin (5,5)

**CPAEE AEIRDM BINOR AELRYY** 

nenjamin Franklin Answer: There are three faithful friends - an old wife, an old dog, and ready money. -SOLUTION: PEACE, ROBIN, ADMIRE, YEARLY

#### Difficulty Level 1s Instructions

SUDOKU

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

### 9 4 6 5 7 2

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4120 2 8 6 5 4 9 7 3 1 9 7 3 1 2 8 6 5 4 6 7 3 4 3 5 2 8 6 7 9 8 4 1 5 3 9 7 1 6 2 7 5 2 8 1 6 961 3 4 2 6 2 1 8 3 4 5 9 7

### **DAY TODAY**

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Someone at home

needs a good talking to, and if you don't do it, nobody else will. This is, by the way, a good day to check up on all travel arrangements, mainly because your intentions may have moved on. There might also be something you have

overlooked, perhaps something You may have good reason to question other people's

priorities, especially if you feel their ethical stance leaves something to be desired. You may also get in touch with family members who are far away, or engineer a reunion between friends who may have

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

This is an extremely useful moment to sort out all financial plans, although I hope you don't slip back into the confusion of the past. You have about three days in which you may take very valuable steps to boost your material security, after which you'll have a fresh chance in

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) On the psychological level everything hinges around how much you value yourself, and where you see your true worth. Sort this out and you'll get rid of several bad distorting your ability to deal with money reasonably

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) The overall emphasis remains highly pleasurable, but that's probably

because you can enjoy activities and experiences which leave lesser people feeling worn out and weary. Unlike many people, you have a higher regard for the virtues of hard work. Keep VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

If you settle outstanding issues at home once and for

New Delhi

all, you should then find that more pleasurable possibilities are opened up. A cultural outing seems appropriate, but any activity which broadens your horizons and adds to the sum total of human happiness will be worthwhile

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's important that you open a dialogue

interview to attend or must put over your point of view in any other way, the planets are on your side. Just don't let differences over money cloud the real issues. And do listen to friends who know yourself.

If you have an

For once in your life it is very hopeful that your professional achievements and worldly

ambitions will be properly rewarded. This is no more than you deserve, and many of you have waited an extremely long time. If there is a further delay, don't despair, but keep your hopes up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) You still have the and influence

everything that happens at home, so don't squander this valuable opportunity. Other people are very much of one mind, and so you'll need to have your wits about you, finding a way forward which fulfils everybody's wishes.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) You may be in a haze today, but no

matter. By this

evening you should once again have your finger on the pulse, and nobody will be able to pull the wool over your eyes again, at least not for another week. Make a point of talking to people whose opinions are usually ignored.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) This could be a sociable day, one

when you may easily make the most of friendly advances. There are further indications that you'll need to spend some time alone Some of you will even shut yourselves away, tending your sensitive emotions and oh-sovulnerable feelings.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) There is something to be admired about the way you

instinctively seem to know what other people are feeling. Colleagues will be in need of your sympathy today, even if first appearances tell you otherwise. You may stop, listen, and offer your wisest advice.

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