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Himachal BIP chief resigns amid Covid 'bribe' probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA, MAY 27

LEAVING THE ruling BJP redfaced in Himachal Pradesh, the party's state president, Dr Rajeev Bindal, resigned from the post Wednesday, "on the basis of high moral grounds", amid a corruption probe into the procurement of medical supplies by the government for the Covid pan-

Bindal, 65, was Speaker of the State Assembly until January, when he was picked by BIP national president I P Nadda to head the party in the state. His resignation comes a week after the vigilance and anti-corruption bureau arrested the director of health services, Dr A K Gupta, following a probe into an audio clip in which two men are purportedly heard discussing the handover of Rs 5

ond clip had led the Opposition Congress to tar-

Dr Rajeev Bindal

get the government, with the party's state incharge Rajni Patil alleging that the person heard "offering

The 43-sec-

the bribe" is a "ruling party leader". Former BJP CM Shanta

Kumar said the alleged scam made him want to "bow one's

Bindal, however, denied any link to the case, and said that he had resigned so that the probe is "not influenced in any way". The BJP said in a statement that Nadda had accepted the resigna-

"Recently, an audio clip of the director of health services went viral following which the state government took prompt action and the director was booked and arrested, and investigation by vigilance bureau is on. Meanwhile, fingers were pointed at the BJP in an indirect way by some people," Bindal

said in his resignation letter. Recounting the relief work being undertaken by his party during the pandemic, Bindal president and we want this CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

International Women's Health Day Special

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of The Indian Express. These pages are an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express **Group and contains** content paid for by advertisers. These pages should be read as an advertisement.

SALUTING COVID WARRIORS

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TENSIONS OVER SITUATION IN LADAKH

First time, Trump wades into India-China; Beijing says border situation controllable

Capable of resolving issues properly through dialogue and consultation: Chinese Foreign Ministry

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MAY 27

ON THE day Beijing struck a conciliatory tone with Delhi over tensions along the Line of Actual Control saying the "border area situation is overall stable and controllable", US President Donald Trump gave it a new dimension by wading in with an offer to mediate between the two countries.

"We have informed both India and China that the United States is ready, willing and able to mediate or arbitrate their now raging border dispute. Thank Trump tweeted Wednesday.

There was no immediate response from the Ministry of External Affairs. In the past, the US President has offered to mediate between India and

SHRAMIK SPECIAL

श्रमिक स्पेशन

A FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT

BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY

Pakistan over Kashmir, but this is the first time that he has made such an offer to India and China, referring to the LAC situation as

a "raging border dispute". On July 22 last year, Trump mentioned for the first time his CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Opening diplomatic lines

THE US President's

tweet and Beijing's comments reflect the realisation that a diplomatic solution is the only way forward to resolve the Sino-Indian border standoff when the world is busy fighting a pandemic. Much is at stake for the two economies, and diplomatic channels have been opened to deescalate the situation.

Nepal govt defers Bill on new map, Indian officials say larger debate is on

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE& **SHUBHAJIT ROY** KATHMANDU, NEW DELHI MAY 27

THE NEPAL government's move to bring in a constitution amendment Bill to give legal sanctity to its new map following a territorial spat with India has been deferred for the time being.

On Wednesday, the government of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli failed to table the scheduled Bill in Nepal's parliament owing to differences within the ruling party and more



time being sought by the main

In New Delhi, government sources said South Block is "carefully following" the developments in Nepal where a "larger debate" is underway.

"Border issues are sensitive by nature and require trust and CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PRIVATE COST

Rs 3-16 lakh: in Covid bills, drug cost, PPE are main unknowns

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, MAY 27

AS A share, the number of Covid patients needing treatment may still be low but the concern is a growing one – paying private hospital bills amid looming economic distress and uncertainty over course of treatment.

As of last week, less than 15 per cent of active Covid cases required hospitalisation. Of those in hospital, just 2.25 per cent needed admission in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU); 1.91 per cent required oxygen, and just 0.004 per cent required ventilatory support.

But these numbers will rise as the case load moves up and in cities, especially hotspots, more patients knock on doors of private hospitals.

The Indian Express scrutinised detailed bills of six Covid patients admitted in top private hospital chains in Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata and found two striking trends: those with comorbidities

THE DAILY **COVID TAB**

Some typical Covid procedures and cost

Room rent:

Rs 3,000-Rs 10,000 **■** Consultation:

medicine, critical care and cardio, Rs 7,000 ■ Tests for

infection/immunity: Rs 18,000

■ PPE kits: Rs 5,500 ■ Drugs: up to Rs 13,000 **■**Comorbidities hike

the bill

end up with heftier bills; and, second, with no specific treatment or drug available, the cost of drugs and PPE of staff constitute the biggest variable.

The bills range from Rs 2.6 lakh for a six-day stay to Rs 16.14 lakh CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE THE MONETISATION QUESTION BY DUVVURI SUBBARAO PAGE 10 **Madras HC** rules on Jaya home: nephew, niece legal heirs **ARUN JANARDHANAN** CHENNAI, MAY 27

EXPRESSING STRONG reservations against the use of public money to acquire and convert private properties into memorials, the Madras High Court Wednesday declared the niece and nephew of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and AIADMK founder, the late I Jayalalithaa, as Class II legal heirs

> The ruling state government passed an ordinance to take temporary possession of . Veda Nilayam,

Jayalalithaa's

Poes Garden

residence in

Chennai, to es-

tablish

Puratchi

State govt wanted to take over

her Poes Garden residence

Thalaivi Dr J Jayalalithaa Memorial Foundation.

A division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice Abdul Quddhose held that the government cannot acquire Veda Nilayam without the consent of the legal heirs, but suggested that it could utilise the half-acre property, valued at over Rs 100 crore, as the official residence of the state Chief Minister and convert a portion into a memorial.

At the same time, the bench allowed an application filed by Jayalalithaa's niece J Deepa and nephew J Deepak, and granted a letter of administration to the siblings for administering the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SC to Govt: Why can't pvt hospitals provide free Covid treatment

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G NEW DELHI, MAY 27

SUPREME Wednesday sought to know "why can't private hospitals, given land free of cost, treat Covid-19 patients for free".

Seeking a reply from the Centre on a PIL which sought "cost-related regulations for treatment of Covid-19 patients at private/corporate hospitals", the bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Rov asked it to identify hospitals which could treat these patients free or at very nominal

Hearing a plea by Sachin Jain, an advocate, the bench observed been given land either free of

cost or at a very nominal cost, and that "these charitable hospitals should treat them for free". Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the Centre, submitted that the question involves a policy issue and will have to be decided by the government. He said he will take instructions.

Last month, the Supreme Court had ordered that Covid-19 testing should be free in private laboratories. Following petitions by laboratories, the court modified its order and clarified that the benefit will be available only to those covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and to any other economically weaker sections as may be notified by the government.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE RECOVERED: 64,425 | DEATHS: 4,337

TESTS: 32,42,160 | DOUBLING RATE: 13.97**

7-DAY AVG. DOLIBLING SURGEIN 24HRS **TOWATCH** GROWTH* RATE** **■** Maharashtra 54,758 2,091 5.70% 12.62 2.90% 24.84 ■ Gujarat 14.829 361 **■** Delhi 15,257 792 4.67% 15.43 ■Tamil Nadu 17,728 646 5.18% 13.90

231 10.04% 7.17 **■**Bihar 2.968 4.42% 193 16.28 ■West Bengal 4.009 Calculated over 7-day growt **CONCERN CAUTION A GLIMMER**

BIHAR: Slight fall in numbers in the last two days but still the fastest growing

state in the top 10.

TELANGANA: Very slow growth, over 25 days doubling time, bút no testing **GUJARAT**: Large case load, but has the slowest growth

rate among the top

10 states now.

Based on daily data by Centre, ICMR, state governments

Heat wave, restart of industrial activity push power demand close to last year's levels

too. It was funny, the way he said

it. By then, it had been around 14

hours since we set off from

Udhna station near Surat, and

most of us had barely eaten. The

thought of home, biryani and

have been studying Political

Science at Central University of

Gujarat in Gandhinagar. When

I am from Hyderabad and

beer lifted our spirts briefly.

Officials wearing protective suits carry the body of a passenger who was found dead in a Shramik Special train from Mumbai, in

Varanasi, Wednesday. At least six persons on Shramik Specials were found dead at different stations in Uttar Pradesh. PTI PAGE 8

An anguished lullaby, fights for seats,

water: 24 hours on a Shramik Special

ANILSASI

PANAND

HYDERABAD, MAY 27

"ONCE THE train crosses into

Telangana, KCR (Chief Minister K

Chandrashekar Rao) will give us

beer and biryani," said a migrant

labourer sitting next to me on the

Surat-Warangal Shramik Special

train. I laughed, others laughed

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

A STEADY recovery in electricity demand, which picked up pace after May 10, offers the first definitive indicator of the gradual return to normalcy following the extended lockdown.

After a sudden plunge nine weeks ago, electricity demand is now within touching distance of the corresponding figures for last

In fact, Tuesday's peak demand figure — the highest power demand met during the day - actually crossed the level of last year, the first time this has

happened since March 22.

the lockdown happened, our

campus shut down and most

people left, except for some of us

in hostels. Meals were always a

problem as the canteen was

closed. Finally, three of us from

Telangana — a batchmate, a PhD

student and I — decided to leave.

ficer in Gandhinagar and man-

aged to get slots for May 23 on a

We approached the nodal of-

The more-relevant 'energy met' figure for May 26 -- an indicator of overall electricity consumption — was marginally short of the figure clocked on the same day last year, according to the latest data compiled by stateowned grid manager Power CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

special train from Udhna, a sub-

At 5.45 am on May 23, we left

vehicle to take us to

our hostel. The District Collector

of Gandhinagar had arranged for

Ahmedabad. From there, five

others joined us and we were

sent to Udhna, where we were

to be screened and given tickets

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

urb of Surat, to Warangal.

THOUSANDS GATHER IN HONG KONG TO **PROTEST CHINA'S TIGHTENING GRIP**

No hugs & kisses, masks, gloves for all: Film, TV shoot guidelines

ALAKA SAHANI MUMBAI, MAY 27

■ Each crew member must wear a triple-layer medical mask and gloves during the entire shoot. Avoid handshakes, hugs, kisses

and other physical greetings. ■ Sharing of cigarettes should be stopped on sets/offices/studios. ■2-metre distance between col-

leagues must be maintained. ■ Avoid crew and cast members over 60 years of age for at least three months.

THESE ARE some of the "general practices" in the 37-page "new working protocol" sug-

gested by the Producers Guild of India, to be implemented when the entertainment industry resumes shooting.

This document, released two days after a video conference of some of the stakeholders with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday, suggests steps to be adopted for contagion prevention during

In its "Prepare to Prevent" section, it talks about carrying out a daily drill with the entire staff regarding precautions so that it becomes a habit: asking crew. artists and participants to report 45 minutes before the shoot; making floor markings so that people maintain social distancing; and giving priority to portable chairs over standard benches, among others.

The suggestions also include possible arrangements for bathing; portable wash-basins in all operational clusters; and dedicated help to ensure sanitisation and on-set hygiene (referred to as "Anti-Covid boys").

A key component of the guidelines is the "hair and makeup" protocol. It recommends single-use or disposable items; cleaning of hair wigs/extensions hefore and after use; use of own make-up; and, most impor-



Shammi Kapoor (left) with director Vijay Anand on the set of the 1966 film Teesri Manzil. The producers' guild wants people on film sets to be at least 2 metres apart, and to not share cigarettes, among other things. Express Archive

tantly, using a face shield, rather than a mask, once make-up has been applied. This apart, hair and make-up personnel will wear masks and gloves, which will be mandatory during the entire

The guild has also suggested that production units should avoid crew members above the age of 60 years for three months from the date of shooting, as and when it starts

Although the guild has made these guidelines public, some other film organisations have submitted their own SOPs (standard operating procedure) to the government, while others are still working on it.

Speaking to The Indian Express, actor Amit Bahl, senior joint secretary of Cine and TV Artists Association (CINTAA). said: "We have already submitted our recommendations along with SOPs of 20 countries regarding restarting production work. This includes the one framed by America's Screen Actors Guild (SAG).'

T P Aggarwal, president of the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA), said the guild's guidelines do not address all the concerns of middle-rung and small producers. "The guild has producers who

of producers of smaller projects. We will suggest a reduction in the fees of actors, technicians, and workers," he said. Last week IMPPA had appealed to the producers to clear all pending dues. Some key concerns are waiting to be addressed even as talks

make big-budget movies. We

will be looking at the concerns

among various stakeholders seem to have intensified to resume production work, "We are still figuring out who will bear the onus of medical claim in case someone falls sick during a shoot. In principle, we have agreed to try for bulk insurance. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EXPLAINED: WHY THE PRESENT HEATWAVE IN NORTH INDIA IS UNUSUAL

The current heatwave spell commenced on May 22 and is likely to continue till May 29. Heatwave conditions occurring in May have been observed to last longer, as the season reaches its peak this month.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



AT HOME WITH THE **STARS**

Madhuri Dixit Nene talks about shooting her debut song 'Candle'

ENTERTAINMENT



AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY

The film spoke of India as a robust, democratic and plural space

EXPRESS AUDIO

The challenges police forces have faced while taking on Covid-19

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode, we look at the challenges that police personnel have faced while on the frontlines against the coronavirus pandemic

FROM PAGE ONE

Nepal defers Bill

confidence to be resolved to mutual satisfaction. We note that there is a larger ongoing debate on this matter in Nepal. It underlines the seriousness of this issue. It also demonstrates the value being attached to relations between Nepal and India," sources said.

India's new road from Dharchula to Lipulekh as part of Mansarovar Yatra route angered the Oli government which came out with a new map, adding to it an area of 370 sq km at the tri-junction of Nepal, India and China (Tibet) that India claims is its territory.

A constitution amendment Bill was negotiated to legitimize the alteration or addition of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura to the new map when it promulgated its constitution on September 20, 2015, Nepal said the country's area and size would be as shown in the map published on the day. A constitution amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote. The government is short of nine parliamentarians in the 275-member House Representatives.

A section of the ruling coalition led by former PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. co-chairman of the ruling party, is said to have advised Prime Minister Oli to go slow

In the meantime, the main Opposition Nepali Congress, which has 63 members in the House of Representatives, sought more time to enable the "party central committee" to take a considered stand on the territorial issue. Party spokesman Bishwa Mohan Sharma, however, said it was committed to support the government on the territorial issue.

Two Terai-centered parties, Samajbadi Janata Party and Rastriya Janata Party, have been negotiating with the government to have their demands, including a more liberal approach on citizenship, adopted along with the constitution amendment Bill.

Kathmandu's move to come out with a new map has led to disquiet in Delhi.

On May 20, Anurag Srivastava, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said: "The Government of Nepal has released a revised official map of Nepal today that includes parts of Indian territory. This unilateral act is not based on historical facts and evidence. It is contrary to the bilateral understanding to resolve the outstanding boundary issues through diplomatic dialogue. Such artificial enlargement of territorial claims will not be accepted by India."

HP BJP chief

alleged corruption to be thoroughly probed and so that there is no pressure of any kind and the probe is not influenced in any way. I am tendering my resignation keeping in mind high moral grounds. It is to be kept in mind that I am only resigning on the basis of high moral grounds."

When contacted by *The Indian* Express. Bindal said that "everything is written in the letter" and "no other meaning should be taken out of it".

Bindal, a five-time MLA, is a graduate of ayurvedic medicine and surgery (GAMS), and was elected MLA from Solan thrice and is currently serving a second term from Nahan.

Dr Gupta was arrested on the night of May 20 and booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act, after vigilance officials obtained the purported clip in which two men can be heard discussing a delivery of Rs 5 lakh. The clip does not reveal the identities of

In the clip, a man is heard saying: "Leke aa raha hun samaan apka, ji (I am bringing your goods). Another man replies: "Thik hai, le ao. Kitna le aye (Ok, bring it, how much are you bringing?)

The conversation continues with the first man saying: "Sir, aapne 5 lakh bola tha, janab (You had mentioned 5 lakh)." The other man replies: "Thik hai, le ao (Ok, bring it).'

Earlier, speaking to The Indian Express, SP Shalini Agnihotri, from the special investigation unit probing the case, had said the bureau had verified the contents of the audio clip "through sources".

"The investigation points towards corruption in the purchase of various medical supplies and equipment from February onward. These purchases involved multiple suppliers, including those from outside the state," she had said.

ADG Anurag Garg had said that Gupta was arrested after several hours of questioning during which he gave "evasive and misleading replies" and "showed selective amnesia in recalling the events of the past couple of days".

"The mobile phone and voice samples of both Gupta and the other person have been sent to a laboratory for forensic examination," he said.

Gupta was hospitalised after his arrest, due to "diabetes and abnormal blood pressure", and remanded in police custody on Tuesday.

Jayalalithaa home

"When there are so many essential amenities which are yet to be provided by the welfare state, public money cannot be wasted for the purpose of constructing memorials. The real tribute to any leader should be paid by following his/her principles and working for the benefit of the people and development of the society,"

The court said that if the state acquires the land, it has to determine and pay compensation to the legal heirs. It suggested that the compensation "could be utilised for developmental purposes such as building infrastructure, providing potable drinking water, cleaning of water bodies etc...'

The bench passed the order on pleas by Deepa and Deepak, seeking permission to administer their aunt's properties in their capacity as Class 2 legal heirs.

Deepa, 44, and Deepak, 37, are the children of Javalalithaa's late brother Jayakumar, and were not seen to have been close to their aunt after the death of their father in 1995. Deepa's last meeting with Javalalithaa was in 2002. and her aunt did not visit her even on her mother's death in 2013. Deepa and her husband were also denied permission to see Jayalalithaa in Chennai's Apollo Hospital where the former CM was undergoing treatment before her death in December 2016.

Deepak, however, had developed a close relationship with the family of Javalalithaa's aide Sasikala and took part in the funeral procession following his aunt's death.

Earlier, in an observation during the hearing, the court raised the idea of keeping a portion of Jayalalithaa's properties for public welfare, following which Deepa and Deepak clarified that they had no objection.

"But as the only legal heirs of Jayalalithaa, we are entitled to all her properties. We have plans to establish a trust in her name and do charity to the people through it," they told the court through their counsel.

Rs 3-16 lakh

for almost a month - in all these cases, except one, all patients re-

More significantly, two patients did not have insurance coverage - and in the remaining four, insurance cover did not the complete cost. Out-of-pocket pocket expenses ranged from Rs 60,000

Trump wades into India-China first time

willingness to "help" and "mediate" between India and Pakistan over Kashmir — an offer that was rejected by the Ministry of External Affairs which reiterated New Delhi's stated position that the issue can only be discussed bilaterally.

Since then. Trump has repeated the offer, with a "if both sides want" rider, about half-adozen times, and has been politely told no each time — once even by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Biarritz in France last August.

Trump's comments on the Sino-Indian border tension comes amid a bruising war of words between US and China in the last few weeks — as the US goes into elections later this year.

US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo fired the latest salvo on the issue Wednesday when he said Hong Kong is no longer politically autonomous from China – a statement that is going to spark a fresh diplomatic duel between Washington and Beijing.

"Hong Kong does not continue to warrant treatment under United States laws in the same manner as U.S. laws were applied to Hong Kong before July 1997," Pompeo said in a

Corporation (POSOCO) Ltd.

sification of the summer heat

in North India is partly re-

sponsible for the pick-up in

domestic load, the gradual

resumption of operations

across the country's indus-

trial pockets, alongside the

resumption of rail and other

transportation services, is

activity, evidenced mainly by

the larger companies resum-

ing partial operations and this

having a catalysing impact on the smaller vendor ecosys-

tems, is slowly adding to the

industrial load, which is now

complementing the surge in

the summer-powered do-

dustrial load is reflected on

the Indian Energy Exchange,

India's largest power ex-

change, which recorded its

highest volume of 211 mil-

lion units (MUs) in the cur-

ity in major manufacturing

sector units is visible across

geographies. While the en-

ergy met figures for May 26

at over 3.775 gigawatt hours

(GwH) was a shade less than

the 3,850GwH on the same

day the previous year, experts

said that the figure for this year

The resumption of activ-

rent fiscal on May 25.

Evidence of the rising in-

mestic load.

The restarting of industrial

pushing up demand.

While the sudden inten-

son can assert today that Hong Kong maintains a high degree of autonomy from China, given facts on the ground."

Over the last couple of months, US and China have duelled over the origins of the virus. Pompeo has repeatedly claimed "enormous evidence" shows the virus emanated from a laboratory in Wuhan, and that Beijing refused to give access to international scientists to find out what happened.

Last Sunday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China and the US could do without a new Cold War even as he blamed "a political virus" in Washington for the worsening ties. Trump's latest intervention

comes at a time when Delhi and Beijing are turning to military and diplomatic channels to resolve the situation. Earlier in the day, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Zhao Lijian, during a media

briefing in Beijing, said China's

position on border-related is-

sues is clear and consistent. "We have been following the important consensus reached by the two leaders and strictly observing the agreements between the two countries," he said, referring to directions of

Power demand close to last year's levels

ALL INDIA MAXIMUM DEMAND

160000 MACHINE MARKET M

ALL INDIA ENERGY MEET

25 March -14 April 2020: All-India containment measures vide MHA or-

5 April 2020: Lighting switch off event at 21:00 hrs for 9 minutes

14 April - 3 May 2020: Extension of all-India containment measures

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi after their two informal summits, asking their militaries to take more confidence building measures to maintain peace and

tranquillity along the borders. Zhao said: "We are committed to safeguarding our territorial sovereignty and security, and safeguarding peace and stability in the border areas. Now the China-India border area situation is overall stable and controllable".

"Between the two countries, we have good border related mechanism and communication channels. We are capable of resolving the issues properly though dialogue and consultation," he said, confirming reports that diplomatic efforts were on to ease the border tensions.

Asked where the talks are taking place, Zhao said the two countries have established border-related mechanisms and diplomatic channels. This includes communication between border troops and diplomatic missions, he said.

In New Delhi, Chinese ambassador to India Sun Weidong too said: "We should never allow our differences to shadow

Stressing that India and China don't pose any threat to each other. he said. "We should gradually seek understanding through communication and constantly resolve differences... and India should be good neighbours of harmonious co-existence and good partners to move forward hand in hand."

As reported by The Indian Express, India and China are learnt to have activated the "working mechanism" at the diplomatic level - it was established during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure in 2012 and was signed by then Indian ambassador to Beijing, S Jaishankar, now External Affairs Minister. This mechanism has been activated, alongside the military-to-military conversation taking place at the field level, to "dis-engage" and "deescalate" the situation.

In the 'Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC)', Naveen Srivastava, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs, leads the Indian side. The Chinese are led by Hong Liang, Director General, Department of Boundary and Oceanic Affairs, Chinese Ministry of

increase in demand in all five

regions from April 27, during

the closing period of phase 1

of the lockdown. From May 4-

12, there is a slow increase

with the effect of weather

fluctuations clearly visible on

the electricity demand pat-

tern," an official involved with

the Central Electricity

Authority (CEA), which col-

sequence of depleting insurance coverage which is particularly a concern for patients with existing health conditions like cancer or co-morbidities," Aisola said.

Free treatment

news reports which said some hospitals had issued "inflated" bills for treating Covid-19 patients with the result that even insurance companies had started rejecting claims by up to 50 per cent.

"If such inflated billing by private hospitals can become a cause of concern for the insurance industry, what will be the plight of a common man who neither has a fat wallet nor an insurance cover to reimburse, in case, he requires hospitalisation in a private hospital," the PIL stated.

Jain contended that "it is a matter of grave concern that a large section of people in India still do not possess any insurance cover and are also not benefitted under any government health scheme" and sought the court's "urgent intervention... to determine as to what would be the fate of these citizens in case the pandemic grows and the public healthcare system reaches a saturation level".

Film, TV

The guidelines may seem good, but we will know how practical they are only when work resumes and they are implemented," said Bahl, adding that "intrusion of outsiders" on the sets is a worry-

For those working in the television industry, one of the biggest challenges is to shoot reality, game and talk shows, as they have an audience. The guild has said the audience count on such shows should be reduced by 50 per cent. It has been over two months since film and television shoots came to a standstill. "Our biggest concern right now is how soon we can resume production work and how we can approach it responsibly with proper precautions," said Nitin Vaidya of the Indian Film and TV Producers Council (IFTPC).

Shramik Special

The screening process took an hour or so. The heat was unbearable. From the screening centre, we were asked to board the bus again and taken to Udhna Junction. The 20-seater bus was packed-there were at least 40 passengers. Social distancing seemed to be a cruel joke. There were other

At the station, our driver got off, locked the bus and walked away. Each vehicle would be unlocked only when it was the turn of the passengers to be taken to the train. We waited for over two hours. The bus was a burning oven by then

A young mother travelling with her infant, who was crying because of the heat and exhaustion, tried to soothe the child by singing a lullaby in Telugu. I was surprised when I heard her – she sang about the troubles they were facing and cursed the authorities.

While the price on our tickets said Rs 520, I had paid Rs 700. These things make you angry, but what can you do? All of us were desperate to get home.

and we were made to rush out into the station and herded into the train waiting at the platform. There was no method in the way people boarded the coaches. There were officials and policemen on the platform but nobody kept a count of how many people were in each coach. It was around 8.30 pm when I finally managed to get into one of the coaches close to the engine.

– not the rexine seats you usually see. Also, there were no berths and no seat numbers. Fights broke out, and bags were shoved into each other's faces and under seats. There was dust lavered on the benches and the toilets were

foetid. But when the train started, there was a sense of relief. Eventually, everyone found whatever little space they could and settled in. I got a seat by the window and

my friends sat beside me. In front of us, a group was fighting over seats. They stopped only when we offered to share our seat. So now, there were 5-6 people on a seat meant for three. I began to get anxious. What if I fall ill? And test positive for Covid? Was I putting my family at risk by travelling in these conditions?

Soon, the smell of food filled the compartment. Our university had given us some snacks, but those were long over. One of the passengers, Ravi, a textile worker in Surat, offered to share his food. We were touched.

After dinner, people sat around and chatted. By now, the fights were forgotten and most people spoke about home and families. But almost all of us wondered what would happen once we reached Telangana. Will we be allowed to go home? Or will we be told to go in for institutional quarantine? (Those arriving by trains to the state are being tested and sent home and being advised to self-quarantine).

It was time to sleep and people lay down wherever they could - some between seats, some in the aisle, others on seats. My friends and I sat up chatting for a while. Later, we took turns to sleep on our seat. It was difficult, but the thought of getting to Hyderabad and meeting my brother and aunt was comforting. My parents live in a village

in Mahbubnagar district. The following morning, people began crowding around the two washrooms in our compartment, but both were unusable. The toilets were flooded and the

stench was unbearable. At 9 am, the train stopped at Akola station in Maharashtra. Authorities handed out bananas and threw bottles of water across the platform, Again, scuffles broke out. I wondered why the authorities were behaving this way. It felt

deeply insulting. Sometime later, the train stopped again. It was the day before Ramzan and local residents came up to our train and offered us packets of coloured rice and biscuits. Another person offered to fill our bottles. We were happy and grateful.

Around 12.30 in the afternoon, at Balharshah station, railway officials handed out lunch – about 100 grams of khichdi and bottles of water - through the windows of each coach. Again, fights broke out.

Around 6.30 pm, our train reached Warangal station. Until then, I had thought of myself as being different from the crowd I was travelling with mostly daily wagers. But this journey was a leveller. By the time we got off the train and stepped on to the platform, we all looked and felt the same disheveled and exhausted, with only the thought of home to keep us going.

The post-journey screening took a little over an hour, but felt much longer, after which I was given a home quarantine stamp on my arm and loaded into a state transport bus for Hyderabad.

I reached home around 10.30 pm. I had called my brother and told him the quarantine precautions he needed to take. The bags that I brought from Gandhinagar are still unpacked and lying outside the house. Once my quarantine ends, I plan to meet my parents in Mahbubnagar.

(As told to Kedar Deshpande. Anand, a Master's student at Central University in Gandhinagar, interned with The Indian Express) **FULL REPORTS ON**

The coach had hard benches www.indianexpress.com

At a uniform average of Rs 4500, the RT-PCR test for Covid is a small component in terms of the

For instance, a patient in his late '20s, admitted in a Covid ICU in Delhi, incurred just Rs 1,342 per day drug cost. Another, in his 60s, with comorbidities had to pay Rs 13,000 per day on drugs. Specifically, this patient paid Rs 40.548 for Tocilizumab, an experimental drug being used for Covid treatment.

Consider the key findings, calculated as an average of Covid bills from the three cities:

■ The cost of per day consultation of teams of doctors in Delhi would be in the range of Rs 3800 to Rs 7,700; however, in Kolkata and Mumbai, the per day consultation charge ranges between Rs 2000-3000.

GWh

■ Cost per day treatment for a positive patient, in a non-ICU set up, is in the range of Rs 14,000 to 32,000. For a 10-day stay that translates up to Rs 3.2 lakh. In a non-ICU set-up, the largest component of the expenditure are room rent and ward consum-

der no 40-3/2020-DM-I(A)

needed to cross last year's

number and go beyond to in-

dicate a return to the normal

trendline - given that the de-

mand figure was around 5 per

■ The cost of a room for noncritical patients starts from a range Rs 3200 per day and goes up to Rs 16,000 per day for a deluxe room. The per-day cost of consumables ranges from Rs 4000 to Rs 8000. An average of three to five PPE kits are used per day, the cost per kit ranges from Rs 700 to Rs 1100.

One key item is Covid investigations. The procalcitonin test to check for severe infection, and Interleukin-6 test for exam-

ining immunodeficiency disorder can cost Rs 9,000 per test. ■ In a non-ICU set-up, daily

cent higher since the begin-

ning of the year, and until the

doctor's consultation ranges from Rs 2100 to Rs 3800; and the per day pharmacy cost from Rs 300 to Rs 1000. Admission in the ICU more

than doubles most of these num-

ranges from Rs 7000 to Rs 16000. Patients end up paying more for the ventilator -- daily cost between Rs 1000 to Rs 2,500. Another major cost of the ICU is the arterial blood gas (ABG), a procedure to measure the levels of oxygen in the blood. This ranges from Rs 1000 to Rs 5500 per day.

rately charged as visiting charges for doctors from three specialisations internal medicine, critical care, and chest medicine.

Critical care patients pay an additional charge for Covid procedures: Rs 2000 to Rs 5000 per procedure. These include central venous line insertion and blood gas sampling procedure both done by emergency medicine doctors.

■ Malini Aisola, the Co-Convenor of the All India Drug Action Network, a group assisting Covid patients across the country, highlighted instances of depleting insurance cover due to prolonged admission.

There are times, she said, when hospitals, to play safe, admit mild Covid patients into special care or ICUs. "This has the con-

lates the data, said. "The demand is yet to catch up with last year. Normally, demand in a year is 5-6% higher corresponding to the same period last year.

Ever since the lockdown was imposed in mid-March, the grid load has been primarily on account of domestic load. The normal base load power demand of roughly 150 gigawatts had dropped by over 20 per cent after the lockdown. Domestic load is about 30-32 per cent of total load during normal times. Of India's total electricity demand load pattern, industrial and agricultural consumption accounts for 40 per cent and 20 per cent load respectively. while commercial electricity

From May 10 onwards there seems to be a more decisive increase in demand in all the five regions, but we will have to wait and watch to ascertain the trend," the official said.

consumption accounts for 8

lockdown announcement came in late March. "There is a slow and steady per cent of demand.

The daily ICU room rent

■ Per-day cost of ICU consultation ranges from Rs 2500 to Rs 6000; and this amount is sepa-

New Delhi

ing factor.

for the journey.

buses like ours, all packed.

Finally, our bus was unlocked



International Women's Health Day Special

www.gravittusfoundation.org



Mrs. Usha Kakade is a successful business woman, who used her vision to strengthen business with Gravittus Corp, a firm that enjoys a strong presence in Pune with its primary business being development of properties in the residential, commercial, retail, education and social sectors.

In her words, "Success gives Power and Freedom. Power and freedom bring huge responsibilities. Responsibility to follow commitments creates benchmarks, provide quality services and work towards the welfare of the society".

In the year 2011 she has started Gravittus Foundation (Formerly known as USK Foundation), with her mandate, the Group is involved in meaningful welfare driven activities that distinctively impact the quality of life of the weaker sections of the society, mainly woman and children. Gravittus Foundation aims at working towards a better future through health and education for children and women empowerment. Mrs. Usha Kakade brings to the Foundation a rare vision, deep sense of social responsibility and an untiring dedication to make a difference to the lives of those less fortunate.

Gravittus is also dedicated to imparting education, instruction and training in different branches of learning. Gravittus also conducts various awareness, training and scholarship programs, health check-up camps, etc. which benefit the marginalized and less fortunate.

Under her guidance -

Gravittus Foundation Initiatives:

Good Touch Bad Touch:

Objective of the project is to spread the awareness related to Good touch - Bad touch amongst school children studying from Balwadi to 8th std. and to understand issues related to the security of these children with the respective subject and act as a referral system. This project is launched on 6th January 2017 with the hands of our President Mrs. Usha Knkade.

Under this project, we are considering children studying in Corporation schools as well as Private aided and unaided schools of Pune and Pimpri chinchwad area. Good touch - Bad touch is an important issue for every children right from childhood to the onstage of teenage.

Under this project, we are creating awareness amongst children through various methods and understanding language according to their agegroup. We are conducting sessions with respect to Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary section.

For this project, our team searched for the private schools as well as for the resource persons who are experts in this subject. Initially we are conducting this project with private schools of Pune and PMC and PCMC schools accordingly. Now, we are conducting these sessions with Pune District (Rural) Schools. Girls and Boys who express their experiences to our experts' team, then our team acts as a referral agency. And, we refer them to Child line or any other NGO working on this delicate issue.

Good touch Bad touch project aims to cover total 6 lakh students from 1000 private as well as public schools all over Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and District area in coming two years. Till date, Gravittus Foundation has covered a total of 3,23,944 children from 746 schools of PMC, PCMC and now, Zilla Parishad private and public schools under this project.

Malnutrition Project:

Gravittus Foundation is running an year long project in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra.. To reduce the malnutrition in children in five remote villages of nandurbar district. In this project, training programs for Aunganwadi and Asha workers, pregnant and lactating mothers on the issue of good health practices; kitchen garden development etc.programs are taking place.

Dental Check-up Project:

Gravittus Foundation came to understand that, the Dental Health issues of PMC School Children are severe. These PMC School Children belongs to lowest socio-economic strata of the society and are having no means to diagnose their Dental Health issues. Based upon the need assessment of these children, Gravittus Foundation decided to organize Dental Check-up Camps for these needy Children. Gravittus Foundation in the year 2014-15 implemented this one year long project.

Gravittus Foundation successfully completed Dental check-up project of 72,823 children from 311 Pune Municipal Corporation schools. This is highly appreciated project, as no organization covered this huge number under one umbrella. Thus, we achieve our objective of organizing Dental Check-up Camp for all the PMC School students to orient each student about their Dental Health.

Eye Project

Gravittus Foundation is concerned about the health of the underprivileged children studying in Pune Municipal Corporation Schools, especially Eye healthcare. Thus, considering the need, Gravittus Foundation in the year 2015 to 2017, completed the Eye healthcare project. Under this project, all 307 schools of the Pune Municipality Corporation covered and not only eye check-up, but also further treatment of eye, uding providing spectacles also took The project agreement finalized and the project started from June 2015 onwards and ended on August 2017. All these services provided free of cost to the underprivileged children by Gravittus Foundation and K. K. Eye Institute. Thus, this project gives eye healthcare to those who cannot afford the treatment.

Under Eye Project, Eye screening of total 78,298 students from 307 PMC schools are completed. Spectacles are provided to 1003 needy students and Eye surgeries of 40 students were performed successfully.

Gravittus Foundation's Children's Day program:

On Children's Day 14th November 2013, Gravittus Foundation organized Health Checkup Camp for 152 underprivileged Children belonging to Tadiwala Road slum Area in Pune

Gravittus Foundation's

'Changemakers' program:

between the age groups 6-12 years.

On 11th February'2013, USK Foundation's 'Changemakers' project was launched with the hands of Mr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports. Mrs. Usha Kakade, President, Gravittus Foundation was also present on this occasion.

'Changemakers' is a program which leads to developing the ability of self-defense in young college going girls. As the safety issue of college going girls is becoming crucial day by day; expecting protection only from family and society is not enough. It is necessary to depend on own capacities and to learn this 'Selfdefense'; training of self-defense sessions were organized under 'Changemakers' program.

Gravittus Foundation organized this program in association with Pune City Police and Pune University's NSS scheme. 174 colleges were selected for this program. Under this program, it is not possible to go to every college and conduct the training session. So, the concept of Team-leader is implemented, 10-12 girls got selected from each college for the training session. Almost 2000 girls were trained under this program. Social Activist, Ms. Vidya Bal, Ms. Gitali V. M. were the guest speakers of the

Gravittus Foundation's 'Sanman Sevavratincha' porgram:

On 25th October 2013, Gravittus Foundation organized programme called 'Sanman Sevavratincha'. NGOs who are working for child development were invited for the programme. Padmaja Godbole of Prasanna Autism Centre, Ms. Renu Gavaskar of Eklavya Nyas and Ms. Mukta Puntambekar of Muktangan were the main speakers of the programme. Children of any kind only want love and no child is bad, was the opinion of all the present experts. Gravittus Foundation also felicitated some of the extraordinary NGO workers for all their contribution in social field. Mrs. Usha Kakade, Vice-Chairperson, NIPCCD (National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development), New Delhi and President, Gravittus Foundation was present for the programme. The total number of 280 who showed there interest in the program.

Gravittus Foundation organized Drawing Competitions in 20 private unaided schools. Total 4,232 children from 5th to 7th std. participated actively in these competitions. Gravittus Foundation organized competition on issues like Cleanliness drive, Environment protection, Sources of water pollution etc.

Gravittus Foundation's National Disable day program:

This event provided a platform for the handicapped children to develop their skills and talents in sports, reducing the inequality that exists between the handicapped and nonhandicapped children in our society. Along with this activity, children showing the placards with traffic awareness slogans at various chowk.

Gravittus Foundation's Mehendi

Programme:

Gravittus Foundation organized Mehendi program for Visually Challenged children. It was a once in a lifetime experience for the children. All the children enjoyed a lot.

Gravittus Foundation's Ek Diwali

'Ek Diwali Snehachi' with 100 children from various orphanages of Pune and 100 senior citizens of Nivara & Matoshri oldage homes at Gravittus Foundation. Everybody enjoyed the one minute games organized by Game show and won prizes. Delicious food along with sweets was served to all. Every single person enjoyed the day and returned back very happy.

Gravittus Foundation's Domestic Violence Act Awareness program:

On 5th December'2013, Gravittus Foundation organized awareness programme on Domestic Violence Act'2005. All the Community Development Program Officers, Supervisors and total 400 Aanganwadi Supervisors and Sevika's were attended the programme. Adv. Asunta Pardhe shared detailed information about Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Mr. Ravindra Patil gave information about the efforts government has taken with respect to implementation of Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Mrs. Usha Kakade felt the need of this important subject and thus, Gravittus Foundation organized this programme in the Fortnight against Domestic

Gravittus Foundation's helping hands for Aditi Gholap:

10 year old Aditi is from the dream city Mumbai, She is a versatile dancer and enjoys various dance forms like contemporary, lyrical hip hop, locking popping, Indian folk, jazz, salsa, flamenco and freestyle. Apart from her passion for dancing, Aditi is extremely tech savvy. As per Geeta Maa, at this tender age, she exudes the grace of a matured dancer. Gravittus Foundation decided to take all the educational expenses of Aditi into their hands and make sure that she receives proper education and achieve

Some of the other initiatives by Gravittus Foundation:

- 1. Gravittus Foundation arranged a program for women so that they can be aware of the various schemes that are beneficial for them and their family.

 2. Gravittus Foundation in collaboration with
- Sakal Social Foundation organized a program for small kids from the age group of 4 - 6 and created the awareness and importance of reading books.
- 3. Gravittus Foundation along with Femina India organized a run for cause to save girl child program.
- 4. Gravittus Foundation along with Green Thumb Society planted 12000 plants at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Udyan.

Key Responsible Positions

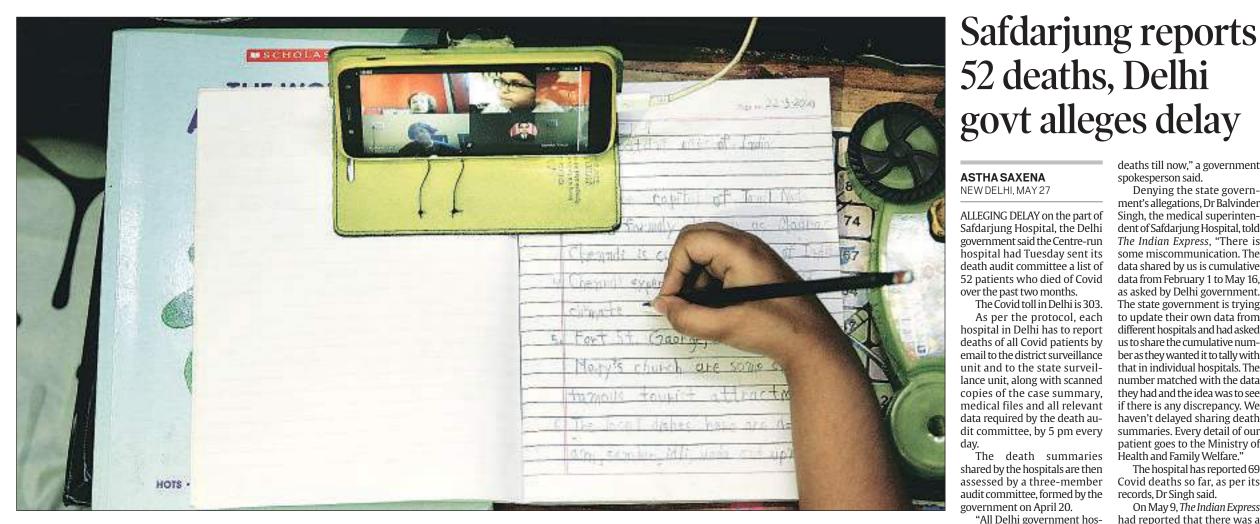
Gravittus Foundation Chairperson: Gravittus Corp Former Vice: Chairperson-NIPCCD, Women & Child Welfare Department, New Delhi Active Member: PIC (Pune International Centre) Advisory Board Member: Service Learning Centre of Symbiosis

Awards and Recognitions:

- Paul Harris Fellow recognition from
- Rotary International Giants International Awards for - Social
- Lokmat Style Award 2017 Maharashtra's
- Most Stylist Social Entrepreneur India Today Healthcare Award for – Social
- Contribution Economic Times Maharashtra Achievers
- Best CSR Award 2018
- Hall oF Fame Award for 'Good touch bad

Kakade Capital, 1205, Shirole Road, Opp. Sambhaji Garden, J.M. Road, Shivaji Nagar Pune -411005

HE OUTBREAK THE CITY



Home Work

A seven-year-old Delhi Public School student attends online classes at his home in Ghaziabad, Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

BRIEFLY —

Tiwari slams Delhi govt over lack of beds

New Delhi: Reacting to a purported video of a Delhi government hospital, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari alleged the common people are having trouble getting beds for treatment of Covid-19 in the city, saying, "It is shameful a patient is lving on the ground outside the hospital for hours and his family is moving him on their own on a stretcher." Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal responded that he would get the issue rectified. Thanks for telling us our shortcomings," said the

Firefighter injured

New Delhi: A fireman was injured during a fire-fighting operation at Delhi's Vikaspuri Tuesday night. The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) personnel suffered burns on his arms and legs, when an LPG cylinder burst at the office that caught fire at Vardhman market around 8 pm. DFS chief Atul Garg shared that on May 26, they received 145 fire calls — the highest so far in 2020.

Teachers write to St Stephen's principal

New Delhi: Thirteen teachers of St Stephen's College have written to the principal against "illegal activities" being undertaken by the administration by "trespassing" teachers' homes and destroying hedges and trees in the area, allegedly to construct a parking lot. They alleged the activities are being carried about without the governing body's approval. However, the governing body chairman, Bishop Waris K Masih said "the principal said all approvals are in", and the teachers could discuss the issue with him.

Self-styled godman held, granted bail

New Delhi: Self-styled godman Daati Maharaj was arrested Wednesday and granted bail, four days after a case was filed against him for offering prayers at a temple in violation of lockdown rules. **ENS**

HEADS OF SCHOOLS RECEIVE SETS OF QUESTIONS

Challenge for 1,040 govt schools: **Getting students back to class**

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, MAY 27

"How many students do we have no contact with at all?": "Given the need for social distancing, how many students can be there in each classroom?"; "What should be the mix, if any, between online and classroom teaching?" — these are some of the questions for government schools in Delhi to start planning for an eventual re-opening.

All schools in the capital have been closed since mid- son we are following an elabo-March, and have moved to on- rate planning process is because line learning for the duration of the lockdown. Government schools are currently in summer vacation till June 30, but the Directorate of Education (DoE) has not given a date for when children will start returning to school.

However, on Tuesday, heads of all these schools received a set of questions from the DoE to

SOMYA LAKHANI

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

A DAY after 20 chargesheets were

filed in the Saket court against 82

foreign nationals in the Tablighi

Iamaat case, the Delhi Police has

said it will file 15 more

chargesheets against 294 for-

eigners, who belong to 14 coun-

tries including Malaysia,

Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri

Lanka and some African nations.

S Randhawa said these foreign

nationals had "entered India on

tourist visas and participated in

the Markaz illegally". "These for-

eign nationals also led to a situa-

tion where a highly infectious

Delhi Police spokesperson M

15 more chargesheets to

be filed against Tablighis

initiate the process of planning for when they eventually reopen, so that this process can consider the individual challenges of the 1,040 schools run by the Delhi government. School heads have been asked to prepare a "micro plan" for their individual schools in consultation with teachers, parents and School Management Committee (SMC) members.

Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia also held a video meeting with heads of schools on Wednesday, asking them to formulate these plans. "The reawe need to keep many factors in mind before taking a decision. It is not just about maintaining social distancing or sanitisation alone, or calling one set of classes to school and not the others. Any decision will have far-reaching implications on children and their families because school is an integral part

of our social life. It is not just

disease spread and threatened

the lives of the inmates and the

general public at large," he said.

also said 15 more were being

filed. He said, "Accused persons

are being charged for violation of

visa rules, and the Centre has

cancelled their visas and black-

On Tuesday, Randhawa had

said that more than 900 foreign

nationals who are accused in this

case belong to 34 countries, and

that chargesheets are being pre-

under sections of The Epidemic

Diseases Act, DMA, the

Foreigners Act, and various IPC

On March 31, an FIR was filed

pared country-wise

listed them.'

Delhi Police PRO Anil Mittal

about learning a few lessons from the textbooks but the lessons of life itself. Therefore, any plan should keep in mind all possible situations," said Sisodia. The prime considerations

schools have been asked to account for are tracking all students and bringing them back to school; emotional and trauma support; maintaining social distancing; and sanitisation. The DoE also ordered all

teachers to call their students to enquire about their well-being, whereabouts, and ask for feedback on remote learning. Teachers The Indian Express

spoke to underlined that this is the most important step towards discussing re-opening, especially in the light of lakhs of migrant workers leaving Delhi for their home states during the lockdown

"In my class of 62 students, I have been able to contact 45 in the last week. Two of them are in their hometowns and they have told me that their families

intend to return, so they can return to school. But these are class XII students, and the surety of return is less likely among younger children and their families. Among the rest, there are 12-13 students whose phones have been unavailable or switched off, and those are the children I'm most worried about," said the teacher of a school in Northeast Delhi.

schools have been asked by the DoE are how many students they have no contact with at all, and how many students they estimate will show up if school re-opens in July. Schools have also been

Among the questions

asked to assess how many classrooms they have and how many students of the school can attend every day, keeping in mind the need for social distancing.

The Indian Express had reported that the HRD ministry is likely to recommend that students in classes IX to XII return to school first.

HC takes suo motu notice of viral

our infrastructure in terms of new needs. This will have to differ from school to school - some have 600 students, some have over 2.000. We have some districts in which students already attend schools on staggered days because there are too many students for the infrastructure to handle. We have double-shift schools. A lot of monitoring will be required even to maintain distance between just 100 children," said a senior teacher in another school.

"We will now need to look at

Another feature the DoE is looking at is making online JIGNASASINHA learning an integral part of teaching-learning even once schools start, something that Sisodia has emphasised on several occasions during the lockdown. Among the questions, schools have been asked to provide inputs on are how online teaching should continue to be used, and what the mix between online and offline teaching should be.

video, seeks status of helplines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 27

THE DELHI High Court has come across a video-clipping showing a man struggling to find a hospital bed for his Covid-19 positive mother due to unresponsive helpline numbers, which prompted it to direct the Centre and Delhi government to place before it the status of "arrangements made to deal with serious Covid-19 patients who need hospitalisation"

A bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar took suo motu notice of the video clipping and directed it be registered as a PIL on

the "Courts own Motion". It directed that the matter may be placed before the bench headed by the Chief Justice on June 3.

The bench said, "A person who, or whose family or friend, is found Covid-19 positive should be able to call the helplines to not only report such occurrence but to also seek assistance with regard to hospitals... If the experience of Mr... is anything to go by, it appears that this aspect has not been adequately addressed."

The court appointed advocate Om Prakash as an amicus curiae to assist in the matter.

Delhi government's Standing Counsel (Criminal) Rahul Mehra submitted that the state government has 10 helpline numbers sued to set them in order after the helplines were found not to be functioning efficiently.

Central Government Standing Counsel Kirtiman Singh submitted that the man was provided the number of the DSO, who is an officer of the GNCTD.

Mehra said a mobile app will be launched in the next few days to give live updates of hospital beds available in Delhi government and private hospitals.

The bench said, "The status of functional and responsive helpline numbers being operated by the GNCTD and the Central government should also be placed before the court".

deaths till now," a government spokesperson said.

Safdarjung Hospital, the Delhi

hospital had Tuesday sent its

death audit committee a list of

The Covid toll in Delhi is 303.

As per the protocol, each

data required by the death au-

The death summaries

audit committee, formed by the

ment's allegations, Dr Balvinder Singh, the medical superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, told The Indian Express, "There is some miscommunication. The data shared by us is cumulative data from February 1 to May 16, as asked by Delhi government. The state government is trying to update their own data from different hospitals and had asked us to share the cumulative number as they wanted it to tally with that in individual hospitals. The number matched with the data they had and the idea was to see if there is any discrepancy. We haven't delayed sharing death summaries. Every detail of our

Denying the state govern-

Health and Family Welfare.' The hospital has reported 69 Covid deaths so far, as per its records, Dr Singh said.

patient goes to the Ministry of

On May 9, The Indian Express government on April 20. "All Delhi government hoshad reported that there was a pitals are submitting their remismatch between the death ports to the committee daily. toll reported by four hospitals Safdarjung Hospital has submitand that shared by the Delhi government in its health bulted reports of 52 fatalities only today. It had reported only four

Ex-AIIMS staffer dies after Covid fears delay help



A health worker dresses up in PPE donated by a shopkeeper before taking away the unconscious man. Praveen Khanna

SHOPKEEPERS AND local residents struggled for around three hours to get an ambulance for a 60-year-old man in South Delhi on Wednesday after finding him lying unconscious on the road less than 500 metres from AIIMS.

After ambulances refused to take him, it took a constable's intervention to take him to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, where he died during treatment. He was later identified as Jaspal, a former AIIMS attendant, with senior health officials at the hospital saying the cause of death is being ascertained. "He had a head injury. We have sent his sample for Covid testing," said an official.

Around 1 pm, a few bikers saw the man lying near an electric pole on the roadside, as the temperature in the city crossed the 45 degree Celsius mark. However, unsure if he had coronavirus, passersby said they were apprehensive of going near him.

Gautam Garg, who works at a medical store nearby, said: "I took a lunch break around 2.30 pm when I noticed the old man. People stopped to look but nobody helped. I walked towards him, but people told me not to get too close. The man was there for almost an hour. We could see he was breathing, but he didn't look well - he wasn't moving and there was some liquid on his face."

Garg and his colleagues at Kuber Surgicals then made mul-

He said that after around an hour, a CATS ambulance came but the driver and helper refused to take the man because they did not have PPE kits. "We told them we can give them protective gear from our shop, but they refused. We called again and got the same response from another ambulance. Frustrated. I called the Hauz Khas police station," said Garg.

A beat constable came within few minutes and started making calls to get medical help. Another CATS ambulance came after 10-15 minutes. The beat constable, Vipin Kumar (29), said, "The ambulance had one helper and she was scared. Shopkeepers gave me a PPE kit and I, along with other health workers, picked him up. He was then taken to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital." He was admitted around 5 pm.

Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP South), confirmed Kumar had helped take the man to the hos-

When contacted, Dr Satyender Singh Dursawat, Special Secretary (health), said, "If the man was found near AIIMS, guards or authorities should have helped." He did not respond to queries about the delay in the ambulance or lack of PPE kits for staff.

PR Bhaati, Nodal Officer, CATS, said, "We have not received any such information about our ambulances."

AT DND FLYWAY

Quick thinking cops save man, help trace 2 who threw him off bridge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 27

AS TWO police personnel crossed the Yamuna bridge on the DND flyover on Tuesday afternoon, they saw two men throwing something in the river and quickly leaving the spot in their car. Suspecting something

amiss, sub-inspector Rekha and assistant sub-inspector KPSingh chased the vehicle but only managed to note down its registration number. When they returned to the spot on the bridge, they saw a man drowning in the river below. They immediately rescued him and rushed him to a A day later, the two men,

who allegedly threw the victim in the river, were arrested. DCP (Southeast) RPMeena said. "The accused have been identified as Sumit Kansal (23), who owns a jewellery shop in Delhi, and his relative Mohit (28), who was allegedly paid Rs 15,000 to kill the According to Meena, Kansal

claimed that the victim, who is

The accused took the victim to the spot and allegedly strangled him. They threw him in the river as they thought he was dead, said DCP Meena

his friend, was "harassing and blackmailing his girlfriend". "In a bid to take revenge, he made a plan to kill him with his relative Mohit," said DCP Meena.

On Tuesday, police said Kansal and Mohit took the victim to the spot in a car and allegedly strangled him. "The victim fell unconscious and the accused thought he was dead. So

New Delhi

they threw him in the river to dispose the body," said DCP Meena

When the victim was pulled out of the river by the police personnel, he had abrasions on his neck. A case of attempt to murder was registered at Sunlight Colony police station.

After police searched the vehicle registration number noted by Rekha and Singh, the car the accused used was traced to a location in Harvana's Kaithal.

DCP Meena said a team was sent to Kaithal and details of the vehicle, including the owner's mobile number, was obtained. "On the basis of call record details. the two men were tracked down to Mayur Vihar, from where they were arrested," he said.

In highest 24-hour spike, Delhi records 792 cases

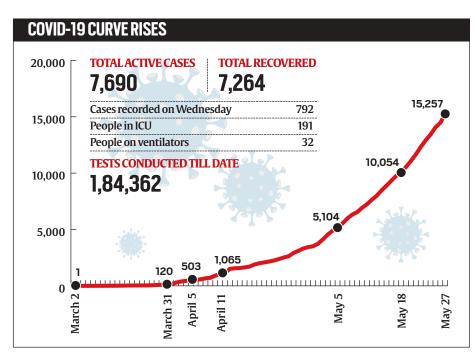
ASTHA SAXENA NEW DELHI, MAY 27

THE HIGHEST single-day jump in Covid cases was recorded in Delhi on Wednesday, with 792 cases being reported. So far, 15,257 people have contracted the disease. Of these, 7,264 have recovered. The death toll reached 303 as 15 more deaths were updated by the state health department after examining death summaries shared by hospitals.

About 34% of the cases have come up in the capital after relaxations in Lockdown 4.0 were announced. There were 10,054 cases and 160 deaths on May 18, which grew to 15,257 cases and 303 deaths on Wednesday.

The death rate in the city has also marginally increased from 1.59% on May 18 to 1.98% on Wednesday. "The continuous rise in the number of cases is a cause of worry. The focus should be on having a low mortality rate. With the change in lockdown rules, it is extremely crucial for people to follow social distancing and maintain hand hygiene. Considering the mortality rate is hovering around 1.5-1.9%, if a large part of Delhi population is infected, the number of deaths would be quite high," said Dr D K Tempe, former dean of Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC).

While announcing the lockdown relaxations, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the city and its health infrastructure were prepared to deal with a rise in



cases. Gearing up for more cases, beds in 117 more private hospitals/nursing homes and 1,500 beds with oxygen support in GTB Hospital are being added for treatment of Covid patients.

The city's recovery rate is 47.67%, higher than the national average which is around 42%. At present, there are 7,690 active cases in the city, of whom 2,118 are availing treatment in 13 Coviddesignated (seven private and six government) hospitals. The rest are either at Covid health centres, care centres or under home isolation. Among those admitted to hospitals, 191 are in the ICU and

32 are on ventilator support. "However, the recovery rate

in Delhi is still better than the national average. If more people are recovering from the disease, then gradually the recovery rate will also reach around 50%. This can only be done if people are aware of the dos and don'ts for the disease. With improving recovery rate, one hopes the net impact of the disease is minimised," added Dr Tempe.

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

In a meeting with the Lt-Governor Tuesday, Health Secretary Padmini Singla said there are 4,462 beds across the capital's hospitals for Covid patients. She also said there are 429 ICU beds, 343 ventilators and 2,632 oxygen-supported beds available in Covid-designated hospitals.

Meanwhile, in contact tracing that was initiated at AIIMS after a mess worker and a sanitation supervisor died after testing positive, over a dozen healthcare workers have tested positive.

IRS officer found hanging at Chanakyapuri home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI MAY 27

A 57-YEAR-OLD IRS officer allegedly committed suicide at his Chanakvapuri home Wednesday, Police said the inci-

dent took place around 7 am, and a suicide note was recovered. The officer, Keshav Saxena.

was found by his wife. She rushed him to Primus Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival by doctors, said police. DCP(New Delhi) Eish Singhal

said, "We received a call from the hospital about the incident. Saxena used a bedsheet to hang himself. We also found a suicide note at his home. His family said he was suffering from depression. We are probing the matter." Saxena was posted at ITO and

is survived by his wife, son and two daughters. The DCP said he committed suicide in the study room, which is used by his son. The family was home at the time. "We are probing the note and cannot reveal its contents." the





Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, ie. tcpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Signature Builders Private Limited
2. Project approval Licence No. 51 of 2019 dated 06-03-2019. Building Plan Approved on 08/08/2019. Memo No. ZP-1110/AD(RK)/2019/19109 Haryana RERA Registered No. 51 of 2019 dated 09.09.2019	
3. Location	Sector 93, Gurugram Haryana
4. Provisions Project Area	278 no. of apartments available out of total 720 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-creche of 2000 sq.ft.

5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms

- The time to be a supported by the support of the							
Apartment details							
Category(Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area sqft(approx)	Balcony Area sqft(approx)	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking amount 5%	On a ll otment (20% + 12.5%)**	
2 BHK TYPE -01	118	539.384	78.114	21,96,593.00	109,830.00	713,895.00	
2 BHK TYPE -02	7	603.677	76.058	24,52,737.00	122,637.00	797,140.50	
2 BHK TYPE -03	106	594.916	70.849	24,15,088.50	120,754.00	784,901.00	
2 BHK TYPE -04	47	577.112	79.029	23,47,962.50	117,398.00	763,087.00	

*Balance payable amount shall be equivalent to the amount payable, by other allottee(s) of the 1st draw in the project at each stage, in equated 6 monthly installments, in terms of the amendment in the Affordable Housing Policy 2013 by notification no. PF-27/15922 dated 05, July, 2019. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority

6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment				
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	• Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony AntiSkid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles, • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SESMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.				
8. Applications	(i) Application Forms & Facility of applying Online is available at www.signatureglobal.in by paying application fee of Rs 1,000/- starting from date				

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law 2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or depended children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.

3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be elicible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat. Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of color

2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.

3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tcpharyana.gov.in).







SIGNATURE BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U70101DL2011PTC220275 Regd. Office - 1309, 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 Corp. Office – Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City –1, Gurugram, Haryana–122001 | www.signatureglobal.in

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An initiative by R E D

Joining hands in the fight against COVID-19

Reflecting on the association with Steadfast MediShield, **Dr. Vineet V Mishra**, Director and HoD, M.D. & Ph.D., Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC), Ahmedabad, tells **Abhishek Pathak** that "the timely and coordinated support by Steadfast MediShield has provided immense boost to the IKDRC's initiative of setting up a COVID-19 testing lab to combat the deadly virus that has hit the world badly."

What precautions are you taking at the hospital for dialysis patients?

Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC), Ahmedabad, is the largest kidney transplanting institute in the country, conducting around 400-500 kidney transplants a year. The institute also conducts liver, pancreatic and uterine transplantations and has the facility of Robotic Kidney transplantation as well. We also have the facility of 'tissue banking' for the purposes of medical research, education and allograft transplantation. IKDRC is an autonomous institute funded by the government. The institute has a chain of 50 dialysis centres across Gujarat with close to 500+ dialysis machines at these centres. These centres are aided by government and are run by the institute. We do somewhere around 2,75,000 dialysis procedures a year, which comes under the government-aided Gujarat Dialysis

Whenever there's an organ failure in the body, the person becomes immunecompromised and this heightens the risk of infection in such an individual. At IK-DRC, we've made proper arrangements for dialysis patients by dividing the institute into separate zones/wards for different types of patients - non-infected serologically normal patient, HIV/HCV patient, Hepatorenal/CRS/ESRD, and COVID-19 positive patients. So, we've different isolation wards for different category of patients across the state. We do dialysis for the COVID-19 patients after taking everything into account to ensure a safe treatment for them. This is being followed across the state. We've also segregated 200 beds for COVID-19 patients and around 250 beds for non-COVID-19 patients, in which we take care of transplant cases. At our institute, we've dedicated dialysis machines in COVID-19 area, catering to our dialysis patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

How challenging is it to ensure the implementation of the government's COVID-19 safety guidelines in hospitals?

We're are following all the government guidelines stringently. All the doctors, nurses, paramedic staff and other staff are using protective gear and other equipment while treating a COVID-19 patient. As per the guidelines of ICMR, every protocol is being followed by the hospital staff and officials.

How helpful will the association with Steadfast MediShield be in combating COVID-19 effectively?

As it is said, "Extraordinary situations call for extraordinary measures." This association is also a part and parcel of the COVID-19 situation in the country. Yogesh Puri, CEO, Steadfast MediShield, has come forward to support our institute's initiative of setting up a COVID-19 testing lab to combat the deadly virus that has hit the world and is ruining the lives of many. This



support will provide a spur to our research activities at the institute in combating the virus. All the guidelines and precautions issued by ICMR regarding testing will be carried out in this COVID-19 Lab, which will lead to an expansion of the testing process in the city.

What's the situation in Ahmedabad?

Being a densely populated city, the chances of the virus multiplying fast are really high in Ahmedabad are high in cer-

tain areas. In such areas, it is difficult to maintain the norms of social distancing and self-isolation wherein people are staying at a hand's stretch from each other. The entire government machinery is involved in taking extraordinary efforts to ensure safety of citizens. Elderly people, especially with existing co-morbidities like hypertension, diabetes etc., are the ones succumbing to the disease. Further, people taking immunosuppressants for autoimmune diseases are also among the high-risk groups.

What precautions would you advise for kidney patients in times of COVID-19?

First, they should have their regular dialysis procedures done. Second, they should follow the government guidelines of social distancing, self-isolation, handwashing, using masks and sanitisers etc. to stay protected. Third, as kidney patients are already immunocompromised, I would advise them to stay at home and avoid going to public places at all. They can consult their doctors through video consultations, if and when required. Fourth, they should continue with their medication in appropriate dose and timely manner, and should consult their doctors if they want to change the dosage related to the medication for autoimmune disease. Fifth, they should avoid self-treating themselves and consult their treating doctors if they experience any kind of discomfort during these turbulent times. Finally, they should visit dialysis centres wherein all govern-

ment guidelines are being adhered to. In our dialysis centres, all the protocols of ICMR related to dialysis procedures are being followed. We've around 6,500 transplant patients in the population, of which 4,500+ are in Gujarat. So, we took up an initiative to provide door-to-door delivery of medicines to them. We're even supplying medicines to our patients as far away as in Patna and Punjab.

A message for our readers.... We should learn to live with the virus. The

New Delhi

Steadfast MediShield, a Specialty Pharmaceutical Company in

Renal Care in India. Mr. Yogesh Puri has a

longstanding association of more

than 25 years with our Institute,

and has always been of help.

This is one of the many efforts that the Steadfast MediShield is making to contribute to the fight that the entire country is struggling with. Steadfast much as they can both in terms of monetary as well as social

MediShield will continue to do as support for the betterment of Community and Country. 'fear' virus in our mind is more likely to get

to us than the coronavirus. The former is more potent in affecting our sanity and wellbeing. We should learn from this catastrophe and respect Nature and become 'sattvic' in our attitude towards life. In a nutshell, I would advise readers to take precaution and at the same time be positive in their attitude. Don't panic. Don't fear. Adhere to government guidelines and maintain social distancing and control your existing co-morbid diseases to remain safe and sound.

* 🔞 🖪 🖸 (READ. ENGAGE. DELIVER.) IS THE MARKETING SOLUTIONS TEAM OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

DCP tests positive, 3 police personnel under quarantine

SOMYA LAKHANI

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

Monika (NORTH) Bhardwaj tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday, and three of her close contacts in office were quarantined. So far, over 434 personnel in the Delhi Police have tested positive for the virus.

Joint CP (Central) Suvashis Choudhary told The Indian Express, "As per the doctor's advice, she is under home quarantine and doing well. As of now, three personnel, including her personal assistant and staff officer, have been quarantined. The contact tracing is on."

Bhardwaj had slight fever for two days and got herself tested Tuesday. "On Wednesday, her result came positive. She has no fever right now. We are closely monitoring her health," said a senior police officer. The DCP's So far, over 434 personnel in the Delhi Police have tested positive for the virus

office and vehicle have been sanitised. Additional DCP-I (north) has been given charge of the district till Bhardwaj recovers and joins.

Earlier this month, Delhi Police constable Amit Kumar (32), who was posted in the Northwest district, passed away. A day after his death, he tested positive for the virus.

Delhi Police chief S N Shrivastava has announced several measures for the force to fight the virus, and has tasked Special CP (Traffic) and Special CP (Women Safety) with overseeing the admission of Delhi Police personnel to hospitals in critical cases.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Trichy (Construction and Maintenance) Circle

TENDER NOTICE

T.N.No.04/2020-21/HDO/Dated: 23.05.2020.

will be received upto 30.06.2020 - 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer, (H) C&M,

Trichy Circle, TVS Tollgate, Pudukkottai Road, Trichy-20 for CRIDP 2020-21 works

and all other details are available from 01.06.2020 onwards in the Government website

https://tntenders.gov.in. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

COIMBATORE (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE TENDER NOTICE

T.N. No. 1/2020 - 21 / HDO, Dated 26.05.2020

only will be received up to 01.07.2020, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H)

C&M, Coimbatore Circle for CRIDP 2020-21 Works, (Package No.1 to 12) pertaining

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and

all other details are available in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in from

29.05.2020. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

CHENNAI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.02/2020-21/HDO/ Dated:23.05.2020

online only will be received upto 03.07.2020 - 2.00 P.M. by the Superintending

Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for works under CRIDP Scheme 2020-21

documents and all other details will be available from 01.06.2020 onwards in the

Government website https://tntenders.gov.in. If any Changes/ Corrections in

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender

(Package No.23 to 28) pertaining to Thiruvallur Division.

the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage Tender through online

(Package No.25) pertaining Trichy (H) (C&M) Division.

the above Government website only

DIPR/1918/Tender/2020

Government website only.

DIPR/1941/Tender/2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents

Superintending Engineer (H)

C&M, Circle, Trichy-20.

Superintending Engineer (H),

C&M, Coimbatore Circle,

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), C&M, CHENNAI CIRCLE

Noida will now seal single towers, not entire societies

AMIL BHATNAGAR NOIDA, MAY 27

THE NOIDA administration will seal a tower instead of an entire complex if a Covid-19 positive patient is found in a housing society. The decision was taken as per a state government order revising containment zone demarcations. Till Wednesday evening, Gautam Budh Nagar had reported 362 cases, with 234 recoveries and five deaths.

"After consulting the state government, containment zones in urban areas have been redefined. In the event there is one case in a multi-storey building, then the particular tower of the society will be sealed. If there is more than one case or a cluster, the previous order of marking a 500-metre containment zone, plus a 250-metre buffer zone, will stand. In case towers of housing societies where a cluster is present fall outside the 500-metre radius, they will not



Most housing societies in Gautam Budh Nagar's containment zone list have minimum 10,000 residents. Abhinav Saha

be part of containment zone," said Suhaas LY, DM Gautam

Budh Nagar, in an order. The move comes in the backdrop of several RWAs and citizens protesting against zones being contained for an extended period despite societies not hav-

ing reported more than one case. On Monday night, an argument had ensued between residents of Supertech Eco Village 1 and police after the administration reached the spot to seal the society after three positive cases were reported. Protesting at the gate, residents said the few cases should not impact their movement. Police convinced them

and sealed the society.

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Trichy (Construction and Maintenance) Circle

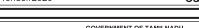
TENDER NOTICE

T.N.No.06/2020-21/HDO/Dated: 27.05.2020.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 04.07.2020 - 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer, (H) C&M, Trichy Circle, TVS Tollgate, Pudukkottai Road, Trichy-20 for CRIDP 2020-21 works, (Package No.38 to 41) pertaining Nagapattinam (H) C&M Division

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 01.06.2020 onwards in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in Superintending Engineer (H)

DIPR/1943/Tender/2020





HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE (online only) Tender Notice No.01/2020-21/SDO/Dated 26.5.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Circle, Trichy, for Five Bridge works under NABARD RIDF - XXV / 2019-20 (40 BRIDGE WORKS) Ioan Assistance scheme in respect of Trichy, Madurai & Nagapattinam (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Divisions upto 14.00 hours on 17.6.2020 through online only.

Details of work, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 05.6.2020 onwards in the Government website http://tntenders.gov.in If any changes / corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy

DIPR/1942/TENDER/2020



GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU **HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**

TIRUPUR (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE TENDER NOTICE T.N. No. 01/2020-21/HDO, dated 26.05.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 01.07.2020 - 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Tirupur Circle for CRIDP 2020-21 & NON PLAN 2020-21 Works, (Package No. 1 to 20) pertaining Erode (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/1946/TENDER/2020

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), C&M CIRCLE, TIRUPUR



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Trichy (Construction and Maintenance) Circle

TENDER NOTICE T.N.No.02/2020-21/HDO/Dated: 21.05.2020.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto **30.06.2020 - 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer, (H) C&M, Trichy Circle, TVS Tollgate, Pudukkottai Road, Trichy-20 for CRIDP 2020-21 works, (Package No.16 to 22) pertaining Trichy (H) (C&M) Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 01.06.2020 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/1917/Tender/2020

Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Circle, Trichy-20.



GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

CHENNAI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No.01/2020-21/HDO/ Dated:22.05.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 30.06.2020 - 12.00 Noon by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for works under CRIDP Scheme 2020-21 (Package No. 1 to 22 and 5 Single Works) pertaining to Chennai City Roads Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be 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/1926/TENDER/2020

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), **C&M, CHENNAI CIRCLE**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Tirunelveli (Construction & Maintenance) Circle **TENDER NOTICE** Tender Notice No. 3 / 2020-21 / HDO / Dated 27.05.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 03.07.2020 at 14.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Tirunelveli Circle for CRIDP 2020-21 Works, (Package No.8 to 20) pertaining Tenkasi (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 02.06.2020 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/1948/TENDER/2020

Superintending Engineer(H) C&M, Tirunelveli Circle.



GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Tirunelveli (Construction & Maintenance) Circle

TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No. 2 / 2020-21 / HDO / Dated 26.05.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 01.07.2020 at 14.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Tirunelveli Circle for CRIDP 2020-21 Works, (Package No.1 to 7) pertaining Virudhunagar (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD. availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 01.06.2020 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/1947/TENDER/2020

Superintending Engineer(H) C&M, Tirunelveli Circle.

SINCE END OF MARCH

Ghazipur abattoir shut, meat prices soar in city

ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, MAY 27

MEAT PRICES have gone up in the city as the only legal abattoir in Ghazipur has been closed for the past two months, with little clarity on when it can reopen. Mutton, earlier sold for around Rs 500 per kg, is now being sold for anything between Rs 700 to Rs 1,000 per kg in Delhi.

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation, which runs the 25acre facility near NH-24, had closed the slaughterhouse in the last week of March. In an order, it said this was being done to "restrict close proximity of human involvement in compliance with guidelines to contain Covid-19".

Fast MCD Commissioner Dilraj Kaur said the facility is also closed because the contract of the company that carries out slaughter has ended, and a proposal to extend the contract till the new tender is finalised is pending before the corporation.

The 10-year lease period of the firm running the plant,

Frigorifico Allana, had expired in 2019 but was extended twice. The slaughterhouse would deliver over 4 lakh kg of meat daily.

Kaur said: "The company initially agreed to continue operations by following social distancing norms during the lockdown but then didn't come forward. We will initiate a fresh contract and, in the meantime, try to work out an arrangement so the facility becomes functional."

The plant runs in three shifts, of which two are for local consumption and one for export purposes. There are around 2,000-2,500 people at any given time inside the slaughterhouse.

A senior official from Frigorifico Allana said: "At this time, there is very less demand. Financial viability should also be considered as it is a challenge to work in present conditions, where business is at its lowest and exports have been hit."

market to be opened," he said. A senior EDMC official said factors such as low demand and exports taking a hit would have af-

"We also expect the livestock

added that most animals were brought from neighbouring Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Raiasthan, which means encountering several restrictions: "Unlike vegetables, it is difficult to control the movement of animals and ensure social-distancing."

Gulfam Qureshi, president of the goat and sheep livestock market at Ghazipur, said thousands of people are associated with the trade, and because the slaughterhouse is closed, it has led to the buffalo, goat and sheep market to be closed. "People who are associated with the trade are becoming unemployed ... It is for the MCD to resolve issues with the company and open the slaughterhouse," he said.

EDMC standing committee head Sandeep Kapoor said, "I recently held a meeting with traders and have assured them that a solution will be found soon to open the market."

On reopening the slaughter house, he said it could take some time as "not many companies

5 more at NDMC building test positive for Covid-19

ANANYA TIWARI NEW DELHI, MAY 27

FOUR STAFF members working on the sixth floor of the New Delhi Municipal Council's (NDMC) Palika Kendra centre at Parliament Street have tested positive for Covid-19. On the fifth floor, a senior official, in his late 40s, in the estates department also tested positive for the virus on Wednesday. A total of seven staffers have contracted the virus so far. A 61-vear-old doctor working at the Palika dispensary tested positive last Friday and a 56-yearold civil engineer in April.

Among the new cases are a 32-year-old senior accounts assistant, a peon working in the computer billing section, and two personal assistants to two accounts officers. The sixth floor of the Palika Kendra centre was sealed Wednesday, with officials saying it will be sanitised over the next two days. A decision on the sealing of the fifth floor will be taken on Thursday, an NDMC



7 have tested positive so far

spokesperson said. The peon and the senior accounts assistant tested positive on Tuesday, and the results of the two PAs came on Wednesday. The peon is currently in isolation at the Naiafgarh quarantine centre. while the other three are in home quarantine

Sudhir Singh Bisht, director of accounts/finance at the NDMC, said many other staff on the same floor are showing symptoms such as fever and cough and have begun working from home starting Wednesday: "The staff were

coming to office in batches, so they were maintaining social distancing. The ones who were in close contact with the positive cases are getting their tests done. Nodal medical officer for the

district, Dr Amresh, said seven-

eight people have reported

symptoms: "Most of them will be tested Thursday." The 61-year-old doctor at the

Palika dispensary is in quarantine at her Janpath home. Dr Amresh, also a doctor at the

dispensary, said, "We are scanning how many patients she has seen in the last 10 days... and calling them to see if they are positive. Most patients are from the office complex and neighbourhood areas like Palika market and banks. People from the MHA office also come here. As far as people working in Palika Kendra are concerned, they are all low-risk contacts and had worn protective gear while visiting. Other than patients, we have traced 14-15 people - including the doctor's co-workers, peons and safai karamcharis and screened them.'

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-18

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.01/2020-2021/SDO, Dated: 27.05.2020 For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Item Rate tender through online only will be received upto 02.07.2020, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Chennai for One Bridge work in respect of Chennai (H) Projects Division Sanctioned in G.O. (Ms.) No.45 / Highways and Minor Ports (HQ2) Department / dated 24.02.2020 under Announcement made by Hon'ble Chief Minister during Budget Demand - 2016-2017.

Details of Name of work, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender document and all other details are available from 02.06.2020 onwards in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc. to the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

DIPR/1962/TENDER/2020

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H) PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-18.

🚵 TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD - MADURAI CIRCLE Sealed tenders with prequalification system duly super-scribed on the covers with Name of work

eference No., Due Date and Name of the Tenderer are invited for the following work so as to reach office of the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, Ellisnagar, Madurai-16 up to 11.00 A.M (as per office clock) on the date mentioned below. The tenders will be opened by the under signed at his office at 11.30 AM on the same day in the presence of the tenderer or their agent who choose to be

SI. No.		Description of Work	Approximate value (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD in Rs.	Tender due date	Available Up to
		Construction of 232 Nos. of MSB Flats (Stilt + 4, 5 Floors) TNGRHS at Kooraikundu Village, Master Plan Complex at Virudhunagar District.		27,19,500	19.06.2020	18.06.2020 up to 1.00 P.I
		Proposed Construction of 124 Nos. of TNGRHS Flats (Stilt + 4, 5 Floors) in Vadaveera Naickenpatty Village, Theni District.	2901.60	14,61,000	19.06.2020	18.06.2020 up to 1.00 P.f
		Proposed Construction of 72 Nos. of TNGRHS (B & C Type- 24, C Type-24, D-24) Flats (Stilt + 3, 4, 5 Floors) at Ariyalur Town, Ariyalur District.		8,46,000	19.06.2020	18.06.2020 up to 1.00 P.I
	4	Construction of Office Building (Slit + First Floor) for Uchapatti- Thoppur Satellite Town Division at Thoppur Village and Construction of Guest House (Ground Floor) at Uchpatti Village, Madurai District.		2,89,500	19.06.2020	18.06.2020 up to 1.00 P.I
		Construction of Office Building (Stilt + First Floor) for Tirunelveli Housing Unit at Anbu Nagar, Tirunelveli District.	423.94	2,22,000	19.06.2020	18.06.2020 up to 1.00 P.I
		Construction of Office Building (Stilt + First Floor) for Trichy Housing Unit, at K.K.Nagar, Trichy District.	853.90	4,37,000	19.06.2020	18.06.2020 up to 1.00 P.I
		Construction of Office Building (Stilt + 1 Floor) for Thanjavur Housing Unit at NHS, Thanjavur District.	272.90	1,47,000	19.06.2020	18.06.2020 up to 1.00 P.

Time for receipt and opening of tender on due date up to 11.00 AM & 11.30 AM respectively. Cost of Tender Schedule (Non refundable) is Rs.15,750/- (including Tax). Further particulars and tende ocuments can be had from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle Ellisnagar, Madurai-16. The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all the tende ocuments without assigning any reasons therefore. The tender schedule can also be down om the web site www.tenders.tn.gov.in at free of cost

Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Madurai Circle, Ellisnagar, Madurai - 16. Phone : 0452 - 2600901 IPR / 1961 / TENDER / 2020

New Delhi

Superintending Engineer

Man pushed, run over by truck New Delhi: A

39-year-old man has died after he was allegedly mowed down by a truck in West Delhi's Punjabi Bagh. The deceased, Naveen, was a vegetable seller and was with father. his Harirai (68). when the truck ran over him. The worked at

Azadpur

Mandi. Police said the incident occurred around 5 am on May 22. They said the two were on a bike when people on three bikes stopped them on the road. The men asked Naveen about a shop, and when Naveen said he didn't know. the men started arguing with the father-son duo. Deepak Purohit, DCP (West) said. "When Naveen was pushed to-

truck rammed into him." Police said the three men and the driver are on the run.

wards the road,

speeding



THE SAMARITANS

Helping the vulnerable in the Covid-19 Era



An initiative by R



Championing the cause with efficacy

Working with the government, the NGO sector has been tirelessly contributing to alleviate stress created by COVID-19 pandemic by providing relief services to marginalised section of our society

ABHISHEK PATHAK

ITH COVID-19 cases mounting in the country, the NGO sector has been relentlessly engaged in providing relief services to the impoverished section of our society. The problems are many as there's no industry or sector that is currently unaffected from the gravity of this lethal pandemic. From agriculture to tourism, from aviation to manufacturing, from retail to e-commerce, the whole spectrum of our economic activities seems suspended in the wake of the pandemic. In such a scenario, though the government has launched a massive rescue effort for the Indian Inc., the onus is nonetheless on the NGO sector to reach out the poorest of poor through their expansive network.

This unprecedented crisis has hit almost every organisation in the country, either directly or indirectly, generating a wave of panic and fear among workers and daily wage population. Much of the mitigation efforts required to minimise the effects of the pandemic hinges on the participation of the NGO sector. For them, preparedness is the key, meaning managing and minimising the financial implications of the crisis on their relief activities, taking stock of the situation and being realistic, and safeguarding the well-being of their staff, volunteers, donors, community and other stakeholders involved.

NGOs share a deep connect with spatial and sector issues and are fully aware of the magnitude of the crisis. Their response and commitment to the cause is heart-warming. The NGO sector has been actively engaged in providing relief in manifold manners, including setting up community kitchens, creating awareness about prevention and physical distancing, providing shelter to the homeless and the daily wage workers, supporting government efforts in setting up health camps and in deputing volunteers to deliver services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, children and others. Realising communication gap due to language problems among the masses, many NGOs developed communication strategies in different vernaculars to spread awareness down to the community level. This outstanding approach to the crisis has been very well-received in COVID-19 response management.

The work of the NGO sector is quite varied currently, given the circumstances. While some NGOs are directly working with beneficiaries, the others are working alongside government departments that are engaged in relief work, including distribution of dry rations and cooked food. In this regard, around 55 NGOs have partnered with the government to supply prepared food and food/dry rations in Bengaluru and its periphery alone.

Among other relief material that are being provided by the NGOs include, bed sheets and pillow covers, insulins, biscuit packets, sanitisers, soaps, N-95 masks, 3-ply masks, strips of peridol tablets, thermometers, air beds, wheel chairs, X ray viewer box, PPE kits, spectacles and hand gloves among many others.

It is thus evident that managing the impacts of this pandemic is a mammoth task for every stakeholder involved, whether government, NGO sector or private players, everyone from every field has to step in to help the society face its worst ever crisis together. However, the NGO sector has to take stock of their financial situation and create ample opportunities to raise funds in continuing their relief activities to support the marginalised society efficiently.

gies and commitment of funds for mentioned

Samta Foundation Creating changes where it matters most. Its forays into the fields of health care, cataract care, and education and works towards Prisoners' Transformation and many other Community Services. Making rural and tribal communities healthy, literate, and self-reliant and working with prisoners to improve their quality of life.

PURUSHOTTAM AGRAWAL

Founder of Ajanta Pharma and Samta Group And Hon. Consul of Zimbabwe in Mumbai and Principal Trustee of Samta Foundation.

Appreciation message for Indian NGOs

THE war against COVID-19 has been relentlessly fought throughout each of the 29 states of India; with tireless support from the central government. As elsewhere in the world, the pandemic continues to inflict agony and despair; with over five and half million people succumbing to its death globally. India too is counting the cost of the scourge with 83,000 actively infectious cases to-date; and over 4,300 of its citizens killed by the virus. Apart from governments, many institutions and officials have been hailed for the heroic effort that they

have put into the saving lives in this vast country. In appreciation of all those who have been at the frontlines of corona, it is fitting to acknowledge the critical role played by India's non-governmental organisations.

NGOs in India have stood shoulder to shoulder with government at the frontline of this grim battle. They have opened up shelters, fed people, made and donated masks, provided relief and advice during lockdown; and done many more things besides. In this way they put that gentle human touch to relieve the suffering of India.

HER EXCELLENCY MS. GRACE AKELLO

High Commissioner of Uganda to New Delhi

VISION without action is just a dream, action without vision just passes the time, and vision with action can change the world." This quote by Nelson Mandela is very relevant to current times and in line with our vision of playing critical role in making this world a better place for every human being. We believe entrepreneurs and corporates should use their business position, knowledge and resources for something more than their bottom line. Blue Aves E-Health Foundation's mis-

sion is to create a network of individuals and progressive organisations through public dialogue to bring about social change in the areas of preventive healthcare and make accessible quality preventive health care to marginalised segment of our society. We believe that early detection and prevention of non-communicable diseases is the only way to keep society healthy, productive and prosperous.

HARPINDER PAL, CEO, Blue Aves E-Health Foundation



THE coronavirus is posing a serious neverbefore challenge for the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. There are millions of people who are unable to protect themselves. So as a matter of basic human solidarity, this is the moment to step up for the vulnerable. A crucial time to fight against the

As responsible corporate citizens of the nation, Ajanta Pharma and Samta Foundation extend their support to fight this COVID-19 pandemic by distributing 2.5 lakh meals (8,000 per day), ration bags who are impacted amid the severe lockdown.

We have donated two swap collection

INTERVIEW | **Sony Thomas**, *Group Director* Resource Mobilisation, World Vision India

'Imperative to rework strategies, reintegrate

programmes in COVID-19 context'

booths at Nair Hospital and Cooper Hospital. Aligned with the health department and local Governing bodies and provided medical equipment such as PPE Kits, gloves, eyewear, and sanitizers to doctors, nurses, and Mumbai Municipal Corp staff.

> Moreover, Rs 2 Cr has been contributed to Prime minister CARES fund and Rs 4 cr spent for Govt of Maharashtra. Employees of Ajanta Pharma Contributed their ONE day salary thereby adding Rs 1 cr to the contribu-

> Our priority is to help the poor and struggling people who rely on humanitarian assistance hence we have deployed all our ener-

see uncertainties in commitments to the NGO sector in the fiscal year. Many of our

institutional donors may now pay in ar-

rears and only after long delays and au-

dits. So it is imperative for us to rework

From World Vision India's experience, what is the best way of sus-

The best way of sustainable giving for

every individual is to sponsor a child,



Together for children. For change. For life.

A DOUBLE CRISIS

HAS AFFECTED **THOUSANDS** OF FAMILIES!





Thousands of children and their families in parts of West Bengal and Odisha are facing the devastation of Cyclone Amphan on top of the COVID-19 pandemic - A double crisis! Tens of thousands evacuated to cyclone shelters, houses destroyed, livelihoods lost, and children and families continue to struggle for proper food. Social distancing and hygiene practices are understandably extremely challenging to enforce, putting people at a greater risk of contracting the deadly coronavirus.

World Vision India is already on the ground responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and is ready to respond to children and families affected by Cyclone Amphan too. But we need your help!

How are corporates and NGOs joining hands in the fight against **COVID-19?**

What are the challenges in re-

sponding to the pandemic of

World Vision India has been working in

the country for almost 6 decades and has

disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic is a

public health disaster, which requires a unique response while coping with re-

strictions on travel, lockdown require-

ments and health concerns. COVID 19

disrupted the supply chains, which dis-

turbed our procurement of relief materi-

als. In all the disasters, World Vision In-

dia is usually the first responder

however, in the case of COVID-19,

ground realities hampered our immedi-

COVID-19?

ate response.

Most of the corporates have stepped in to support the nationwide COVID-19 response. Either they have donated to PM CARES Fund, chief ministers' relief funds or relief agencies. The Corporates with whom we are already collaborating have requested us to prioritize regular CSR funding to Covid19 response.

How has COVID-19 affected fund-

We understand that COVID-19 will have a massive impact on businesses and com-



panies. Companies will not be able to generate profits like previous years. Therefore, we expect significant reduction in CSR budgets. So, funding for NGOs will also see a down trend.

Has COVID-19 affected World Vision India's funding?

Covid-19 has taken a huge hit on the global economy and has impacted some of our corporate sponsors who fall under sectors like travel and tourism, automobile industry, freight and logistics, construction and real estate and consumer retail and many more. Several companies have already started to retrench staff and are going in for pay cuts to remain afloat. All this is certainly going to affect individual and corporate giving. We may

which will cost Rs. 26 a day or Rs 800 per month. This giving will help a vulnerable

in the COVID-19 context.

tainable giving?

child through our sustainable development interventions that we do in our communities through our sponsorship programs. We are happy to say that thousands of World Vision India sponsors have helped to bring a difference in the lives of children, and we want to see growth in this type of giving.

How is World Vision India responding to cyclone Amphan?

Cyclone Amphan has brought massive destruction to homes and livelihoods in many of the locations where we work. Together with partner organisations, World Vision India is rapidly assessing the situation on ground and is preparing a swift emergency assistance to support the communities we serve in West Bengal and Orissa.



WORLD VISION INDIA'S RESPONSE WILL FOCUS ON PROVIDING











RUSH YOUR SUPPORT NOW worldvision.in/togetherwithchildren

WORLD VISION INDIA IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED ACROSS OUR AREAS OF OPERATION, PROVIDING RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

8 THE OUTBREAK MIGRANTS ON THE ROAD



Prabhu (37), a construction worker from UP's Gorakhpur, waits to return home with his family, in Chandigarh. Jasbir Malh



Migrant workers from UP on their way to Kalupur railway station in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. Javed Raja

On The Move



Kalingwati (30), along with her children and husband Birender (30), reached Guru Nanak Dev stadium in Ludhiana on a bus from Amritsar to board a special train on Wednesday. Birender, who is from UP's Ambedkar Nagar, lost his job as a painter in Amritsar where he used to earn around Rs 350 a day. Gurmeet Singh



A special train at the Charbagh railway station in Lucknow



Versha Dawadi and Dev Pradhan from Nepal settled in Delhi. Out of work, they want to return home via Bihar. Abhinav Saha

Mamata slams Rlys, its 'politics' of sending Shramik trains without informing state govt

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR, SANTANU CHOWDHURY & **VISHWAS WAGHMODE** NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, MUMBAI, MAY 27

EVEN AS the Centre has been gunning for the Maharashtra government over the state's alleged inability to bring more migrant workers to board Shramik Special trains from Mumbai, the West Bengal government jumped into the fray on Wednesday and took on the Centre for sending trains to the state supposedly without keeping them in the loop.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee alleged that the Railways on its own was sending 36 Shramik trains from Maharashtra, and her government had not been informed about it. She alleged that even the Maharashtra government had been informed about

Urging the Prime Minister to (Railways) are acting according to their whims and fancies. I appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to look seriously into the situation to stop spread of the infection. I request the PM and the Union Home Minister to look into the matter and intervene."

"Due to Cyclone Amphan, the West Bengal government had requested Maharashtra to send only two trains a day. We had demanded 48 trains until May 30 but they scheduled 43 on a single day for West Bengal. This was done deliberately so that migrants should not go home and the Maharashtra government is blamed for it," Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab told the media.

"I don't know why the Railways Ministry has done this. How will I screen 2 lakh migrants," she asked. "It seems politics has overtaken everything. Am I to fight the cyclone and coronavirus, or politics? We had given a list and a schedule for (Shramik) trains but were suddenly told yesterday that 36 trains are now leaving for Bengal. Maharashtra said even they had no idea about it." Railways sources at various

locations confirmed to The Indian Express that the number quoted by Banerjee was not off the mark. "We are running the trains at the behest of the sending states. As per new MHA guidelines, we are informing destination states and not seek ing permission. In the case of West Bengal too, it was done," a senior official said.

The Railways Ministry did not respond on the matter, and minister Piyush Goyal, engaged in a war of words with the Uddhav Thackeray government for the past few days, remained silent as **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

5 DEATHS IN UP, 4 IN BIHAR; 1 DEAD DAY AFTER FALLING ILL

On way home, nine dead in Shramik Specials in 48 hrs

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR, SANTOSH SINGH & ASAD **REHMAN**

NEW DELHI, PATNA LUCKNOW, MAY 27

AT LEAST nine passengers on board Shramik Special trains to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were found dead in the last 48 hours, officials and relatives of the deceased said on Wednesday.

Five people died during their journey home to UP, and four died on way to Bihar.

A tenth person, Shobhan Kumar, 28, from Janakpur in Nepal, who had reached UP's Ballia on a Madgaon-Darbangha train Tuesday evening and was admitted to the district hospital after falling ill during journey, died on Wednesday, Additional SP, Ballia, Sanjay Yadav said.

Railways officials said many of them were patients returning home after treatment.

On Wednesday, a secondsng clin showing a toddler trying to wake her mother on a platform in Bihar's Muzaffarpur station went viral on social media, inviting outrage at the plight of passengers in Shramik Specials. The clip showed the child trying to pull the sheet off her mother's body in a bid to wake her up.

His mother, Arvina Khatoon, 26, had died on a train back home.

Khatoon, a resident of Katihar, had boarded the train from Ahmedabad on May 23 with her two sons aged three and one, and was accompanied by her brotherin-law Mohammad Wazir and

Although Arvina had no previous illness, she was anaemic, Wazir said. "We were about to reach Chhapra when she fainted. We sprinkled water on her face, but she died as we crossed



Chhapra. We got off at Muzaffarpur. As there was no stretcher available, I carried Arvina's body and kept it on platno food or water shortage on train, - "she died all of a sudden…"

Another passenger from Bihar Uresh Khatun from Katihar reportedly died in her sleep on a Surat-Purnia train. The body was deboarded at Mansi, Bihar.

A third death was reported at Bihar's Danapur. Body of Basisth Mahato, 70, was taken out of the Mumbai-Darbhanga Shramik Special. A heart patient, he was returning with family after treatment in Mumbai, officials said.

Two men were found dead in a train from Mumbai that pulled into Varanasi's Manduadih station at 8.20 am on Wednesday. According to Government Railway Police (GRP) in Varanasi, the two have been identified as Dasarath Prajapati, 30, from Jaunpur, and Ramratan

Raghunath, 55, from Azamgarh. Prajapati was physically challenged, the police said. Railways officials said he suffered from kid-"battling many illnesses"

Bhushan Singh, 58, of Saran, Bihar, was found dead in a train that reached Ballia from Surat, SP Devendra Nath said.

Two people were found dead when a Jhansi-Gorakhpur train reached Kanpur on Wednesday. Officials said one of the them was identified as Ram Awadh Chauhan (45); identity of the second person is not established yet.

Railways sources said trains to both Bihar and UP had meal serv-

ice on route. In another case, a four-year-old boy. Mohammed Irshaad, died on Monday reportedly because of heat and hunger during the 39hour journey from Delhi to Muzaffarpur. WITH PTI INPUTS **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

HC seeks Centre's assurance on Shramik trains after May 31

JOHNSONTA BENGALURU, MAY 27

THE KARNATAKA High Court has sought an assurance from the Government of India on continuance of Shramik Special trains beyond May 31 on account of hundreds of migrants still waiting to be transported to their homes.

The court has also sought details of arrangement being made to provide food to migrants on their long train journeys to homes in north India.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Sreenivas Oka and Justice BV Nagarathna sought a categorical assurance by the Union government after state and central authorities indicated that the train services for migrants may continue beyond May 31.

"It will be appropriate if the Central government places on record its assurance that even after 31st May 2020, if request comes from the state government for arranging Shramik special trains from state of Karnataka, the same will be favourably considered by the railways," the bench said while hearing a PIL on the plight of migrant workers stranded in Karnataka.

In a hearing on Tuesday on the issue of migrants, Karnataka Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar and other senior officials appeared through video conferencing to explain the state's policy on bearing the cost of travel of migrants on Shramik Special trains.

"The Chief Secretary stated that a decision has been taken by the state government to bear the train fare and bus fare of migrant workers who wish to travel back to their respective states. He states that it will apply to those migrant workers who will travel up to and inclusive of 31st May, 2020," the high court observed following the video conference hearing.

The high court has sought details of all migrants who have sought to return home. "It will be appropriate if both the State Government and Central Government place on record the details of the arrangements..."

SC to hear Cong leader's plea on migrant worker issue

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear an application filed by Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala on the plight of migrant workers stranded due to the lockdown, or travelling back home.

The application, filed through Advocate Sunil Fernandes, will be heard along with the main matter on the issue on Thursday.

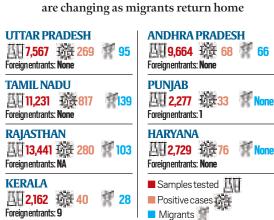
A railway official provides drinking water to migrants, at a railway station in Jabalpur. PTI

On way to station, Odisha man falls ill, dies in hospital

Surat: A 32-year-old worker from Odisha died at a hospital in Surat on Tuesday, hours after he fell unconscious in a bus that was carrying migrant workers to the city railway station to catch a train to Odisha. The deceased was identified as Sillu Iena, a native of Odisha's Ganjam district. He was working at a powerloom factory in Surat's Pandesara for the last nearly 10 years, officials said. His postmortem report is awaited and doctors said he might have got a heat stroke, police

CASE COUNT: THE CHANGING PICTURE

A look at how Covid-19 case counts in states



States' data for last 24 hours, updated up to 9 pm on May 27

OPENING UP

Face shields to oximeter checks: Bengaluru salons get new protocol

AMRITA DUTTA BENGALURU, MAY 27

"IT'S FUNNY but I sometimes feel like I am doctor doing a procedure." Amey L said with a laugh. A manager and stylist at a B-Blunt salon in Bengaluru, Amey resumed work about four days ago and has adapted to the new She always wears a mask, a

shoe cover, a head cover and a cape while in the salon — other than the mask, all of those are disposed of after every dealing with a customer. Before the start of a service.

whether a haircut or waxing, a face shield is clicked on, which is sanitised right after. "Our customers are happy we are taking this much care. But we are also doing this for our own safety," said

From face shields to shoe cov-



A salon in Bengaluru. Express

ers, temperature checks to oxime-Amey and other staff in the sa-

ter assessments, a temporary halt on facials and manicures to a compulsory hairwash before a haircut – salons in Bengaluru are putting in place a new post-lockdown protocol to draw back customers.

lon have been split into a shift of

15 members each to avoid "crosscontamination," said Gauri Spratt. partner and director, B-Blunt. "Once they enter, they change into a fresh set of clothes and footwear that they wear only in the salon. After every service, all the equipment used is sterilised and disinfected, as are the workstations. We stagger the appointments so that we have time for this," said Spratt. Facials, manicures, threading of evebrows and lips have been discontinued.

At the YLG chain of salons in the city, once a customer walks in, she is checked for both temperature and oxygen levels. "We use oximeters to check oxygen levels, which have to be above 92%," said Balachandran, Vaijayanthi spokesperson.

"Every customer has to fill a self-declaration form that asks them their travel history, whether they have a cold or cough or if they have been exposed to the virus.

We encourage an Aarogya Setu app compliance," she added.

The staff in some salons are being nudged to come in personal vehicles and avoid public transport. There are also new rules that demand social distancing at all times inside the salon. While salon chains are in a bet-

ter position to follow such protocols, even single-person-run barbershops are doing their best. "I am quite scared about getting infected," said Raju, who runs a barbershop in north Bengaluru. He opened for business a week ago after two months of zero earnings. While he does not have thermal guns to check the temperature of customers who come in, he insists they wear a mask, and sanitise their hands. "If I feel doubtful that they have fever or if they are ill, I send them back," he said.

He does only haircuts for now. "I am not doing any shaves or facials for now. It is too risky.'

SRINATH RAO NANDED, MAY 27

HAIR SALONS and spas reopened over the weekend in Maharashtra's Nanded district, but with a catch — bring your own towel if you want a haircut.

Guidelines issued by Nanded Collector Vipin Itankar include wearing face masks, booking prior appointments, sterilising and sanitising scissors, combs and brushes before and after use and maintaining a distance of three feet between customers.

At Ankush Men's Parlour in Vazirabad, proprietor Ankush Waghmare spent all of Saturday evening sanitising his premises before opening the next morning. Representatives of the district's Nabhik community, who run more than 350 hair salons in the city, had petitioned the Collector several times since the lockdown



Salons in Nanded reopen but with

a catch - bring your own towel

Guidelines include booking prior appointments

was eased, before finally being granted permission to open.

In line with other commercial and business activities resuming in orange districts, getting a haircut also comes with conditions in Nanded. "We do not let anyone enter if he isn't wearing a mask. If a customer hasn't brought a towel along, we tell him to either

go home and bring one or buy one," said Waghmare. The salon next to Waghmare's has been selling large napkins for Rs 10 each to customers who walk in without one. Ganesh Bahadure, who runs

a pharmacy next door and is one of Waghmare's oldest clients, is among those who brought his own towel. "I have been coming here for 18 years but feel safer using my own towel," he said.

Salons have invested heavily to purchase large quantities of disinfectant and sanitiser. Their newest tools are plastic gloves, mask and extra plastic spray canisters filled with sanitiser. Before a haircut, Waghmare and his colleagues sanitise the chair's cushion, backrests, armrests, their hands, scissors, combs, brushes and the customer's hands.

Business has been slow. Waghmare said customers are afraid to visit salons. "People be-

New Delhi

came very scared after watching news last month of a barber who had unknowingly infected his customers in Bhopal. Before the lockdown, we never had time to rest," said Waghmare.

At Vinay Men's Parlour down road, owner Anil Sanjeevanikar has spent the last three days "repairing haircuts". "Lots of men have grown so irritated with hair growing over their faces in the last two months that they have cut off the fringe clumsily. That has spoiled their whole look. Some men come with uneven lengths," he said.

"I am down from 10-15 customers a day before the lockdown to 2-3 now." he said

Ordered by the district administration to enforce the presence of no more than four customers at a time, salons have started to cut down on all forms of entertainment that made them a social clubhouse before the lockdown.

Express Network



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



HISTORICAL LINKS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar, who has been in the thick of managing diplomatic channels following the India-China tension along the border, took the time on Wednesday to applaud an archaeological find in a conservation project in Vietnam. A 9th-century monolithic sandstone Shiv Linga was found in the ongoing project at Cham Temple Complex, My Son. The Archaeological Survey of India found it, and it was part of the Indian government's development partnership project in that country. Jaishankar had visited the temple complex in 2011.

Online Push

FROM MAKING short video clips of top leaders -- including party chief Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others - to lining up live interactions, preparing interviews of migrant workers and others affected by the lockdown, the Congress's social media department is going all out to make the party's first online campaign, 'Speak Up India', a success. This will be the Congress's first organised campaign since the imposition of lockdown. The party has mapped workers up to booth level and directed them to post content on Facebook and Twitter on Thursday demanding free travel for migrants, direct cash transfer of Rs 10,000 to India's poorest families and relief and financial assistance to MSMEs. The party believes 80 per cent of its workers have Facebook accounts.

FAST FILES

THE SUPREME Court's hearing of cases via video-conferencing has not been without amusing moments. On Tuesday, Justice D Y Chandrachud was seen conducting proceedings using an iPad, while other judges on the bench were handling paper files. During the hearing, Justice Chandrachud, who also heads the Supreme Court's e-committee, quipped, "Brothers... your files are moving faster than files on my device. Manual transfer looks quicker than electronic form.'

Punjab chief secy apologises to ministers in cabinet meet

SC asks PCI on action against

'communalisation' by media

KANCHAN VASDEV CHANDIGARH, MAY 27

THE 18-DAY stand-off between Punjab Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh and Cabinet ministers ended Wednesday with the Chief isters and the latter accepting the apology at a Cabinet meeting specifically called for this.

The development came a day after Chief Minister Amarinder Singh hosted Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Technical Education Minister Charanjeet Singh Channi for a lunch meet aimed at thawing the tension be-

NIZAMUDDIN MARKAZ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE SUPREME Court on Wedn-

esday sought to know whether

the Press Council of India (PCI) has

initiated any action on allegations

that certain sections of print and

electronic media had commu-

nalised the Nizamuddin Markaz

issue involving members of

court also asked the Centre to re-

spond to a plea seeking a probe

into the circumstances leading to

 $the \, holding \, of \, the \, Tablighi \, Jama at$

In a separate matter, the top

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

Tablighi Jamaat

tween the ministers and the top bureaucrat. Before this, he had ress chief Sunil Jakhar and three

to the ministers. Manpreet Badal and Channi accepted the apology. Later, the Chief Minister is learnt to have said the issue now stands resolved. Manpreet Badal was the first one to walk out on the Chief Secretary during a meeting on excise, accusing him of impudence and misbehaviour. Later, the Cabinet had decided to boycott any meeting where the Chief Secretary was present.

hosted Cabinet Minister Sukhiinder Singh Randhawa, state Cong-MLAs to discuss the same issue.

The Chief Secretary apologised



The Indian Air Force on Wednesday operationalised its no. 18 Squadron, the Flying Bullets, at Sulur near Coimbatore. The squadron is equipped with the fourth generation Mk1 Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, manufactured by HAL. In his address, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria, urged the industry to work together to fulfill the requirements of IAF. PTI

'OFB and Defence PSUs have made 15 lakh masks, 1.2 lakh litres of hand sanitisers'

THE EXPRESS

INTERVIEW

KUMAR

DEFENCE PRODUCTION

SECRETARY

30,000 ventilators by July 2020.

Additionally, OFB has repaired

67 ventilators and handed them

to the Telangana government.

What is the likely impact of

As on date there is no budget

cut of the Ministry of Defence.

However, there has been some

ing the first quarter of 2020-21.

Sitharaman said there would

Finance Minister Nirmala

be a list of equipment and

platforms that will not be

allowed to be imported. Do

you think the country has

enough domestic players to

fulfil the forces' demands and

budget cuts due to the

production industry?

pandemic on the defence

Sitharaman recently announced reforms for the defence industry as part of the government's package for a self-reliant India. RAJ KUMAR, Defence Production Secretary, speaks to KRISHN KAUSHIK about how the proposed policy changes could affect production of defence equipment in India, and about the role played by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and Defence Public Sector Units (DPSU) in the fight against Covid-19.

DPSUs, DRDO and OFB have been involved to assist in the fight against Covid-19. How many PPEs have been manufactured and handed over? Which companies are helping DPSUs make ventilators?

OFB and DPSUs have manufactured 15,09,000 masks, of which 1,074,668 have been handed over. They have produced 1,27,350 litres of hand sanitisers and 1,08,935 litres has been handed over. Similarly, of the 44,625 coveralls manufactured by them, 39,167 have been delivered.

Beyond these, the OFB and DPSUs have manufactured 340 tents and 240 have been given out. They have manufactured 10,833 bed linens, handing over 5,353 of them. They have produced and delivered 80 face shields and 400 blanket covers.

DPSUs are also making ventilators, and are being helped by private companies. Skanray Technologies, Mysore and Nice Neotech are helping Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), and Nocca Robotics Limited is helping Bharat Dynamics Limited. BEL will supply



industry, with the help of DRDO and in-house R&D, has gradually come of age and is capable of manufacturing certain family of platforms and equipment such as a range of field guns, missiles, radars. The Department of Military Affairs has been requested to look into all such indigenously manufactured range of platforms/ equipment of which a negative list could be prepared so that our forces may not have to depend on these imported items, without compromising the security of our nation.

The Army has continuously raised the issue of sub-par quality products produced by OFB that is leading to a higher number of accidents. Has the Army or other services raised any issue with the ministry? What is the government doing to ensure that OFB products match the quality

demanded? The government is keeping track on "Transformation of Ammunition and Explosive Manufacturing in Ordnance Factories". In this regard, the OFB has developed a Customer Complaint Monitoring System, where factories resolve comolution is certified by QAG (an independent Quality Audit Group). A special drive was initiated by OFB to resolve long-pending complaints and take measures to avoid them in future, which helped reduction of pendency of

complaints to a great extent. **FULL INTERVIEW ON** www.indianexpress.com

Army chief, commanders review security situation in Ladakh, Kashmir

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, MAY 27

ARMY CHIEF General M M Ladakh where tensions have es-

The presentation, sources said, included not just the situation in Ladakh, but also operational challenges in other parts of the coun-

The Army commanders are 29 for the first phase of their biannual conference — they will meet

Northern Army Commander

While there have been continued incidents of ceasefire violations and infiltration attempts on the Line of Control with Pakistan, the Line of Actual Control with China in eastern Ladakh has been

Indian and Chinese troop along the LAC

Defence Minister Rajnath

Naravane and his commanders were presented Wednesday an operational review of the situation on the ground in eastern calated between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control.

try including Kashmir.

meeting in New Delhi until May again towards the end of June to discuss emerging security issues.

Lt General Y K Joshi is also participating in the conference. Until October last year, Joshi was heading the XIV Corps — Fire and Fury Corps — which is responsible for eastern Ladakh.

unusually active this summer.

came to blows on the banks of the Pangong Tso on May 5-6 and matters came to a head when Chinese incursions into Indian territory were detected at three locations

Singh is likely to address the Army commanders in the second phase of the conference in June.

had contracted the virus. After

consistent demands, Joint Munic-

ipal Commissioner (General Adm-

inistration Department) Milin

Sawant issued a circular on May

20, asking heads of departments

to maintain a database of employ-

ees who have been infected or

ments have now started prepar-

ing data on their affected staffers.

According to the civic body,

Mumbai Fire Brigade and the se-

curity department are the worst

fected and one person has died.

BMC officials said all depart-

have died due to Covid-19.

House panel to study lockdown move next week

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, MAY 27

THE IMPLEMENTATION of the lockdown and aspects related to it, such as movement of migrant workers and the Centre's coordination with states, will be scrutinised by a key Parliamentary committee next week.

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs has been convened by chairman of the panel Anand Sharma on June 3.

This will be the first regular meeting of a Parliamentary committee ever since the nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25. Sharma's attempts to convene a virtual meeting of the panel earlier did not meet with success after the Rajya Sabha secretariat did not clear his proposal to hold a meeting over video-conference citing security concerns.

Sharmatold The Indian Express: "I have convened a regular meeting of the Standing Committee on Iune 3. I hope all members will be allowed to participate — all those who are able to travel since air travel has been resumed, or travel by road; and those who are constrained because of circumstances and situations. I have requested Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to facilitate their joining in the meeting and their participation through video-conferencing, as is being done elsewhere."

Sources said Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla is likely to brief the committee on various aspects of the lockdown and its handling by his ministry.

Sharma, as also the Congress, had been critical of the government for not allowing meetings of the Parliamentary panels to take place to ensure oversight. The views were echoed by leaders of the 22 opposition parties when they met last week.

"It is important that the Government of India reaches out and engages in a dialogue with all political parties in a systematic manner, listens seriously to the suggestions that we have to make, activate Parliamentary institutions like Standing Committees and be genuine in helping the states financially and otherwise," the parties had said in a joint statement last week.

Picking holes in the Rs 20-lakh crore financial package announced by the Union government, former Finance minister P Chidambaram had demanded that Parliamentary Standing committees on finance, industry and commerce and labour ministries should be convened at the earliest to discuss it.

Sources said the panel headed by Sharma will look into all aspects related to the lockdown since the Home Ministry is the nodal ministry implementing it. From implementation of the lockdown to coordination with states, opening up of business establishments and factories, movement of migrant labour, all issues related to the lockdown will come up, a

DAY AFTER SC TAKES UP MIGRANT CRISIS

Prasad says Centre, states doing their best, targets Rahul

LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, MAY 27

A DAY after the Supreme Court sought answers from the Centre and the state governments over workers, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday said the governments are doing their best and if anyone has better solutions to offer, they will be taken into account.

Asked about the court's observation that "effective concentrated efforts are required to redeem the situation", the senior BJP leader told the media, "The Supreme Court has always got its jurisdiction to take these type of subjects, or any subjects for that matter. But as Law minister of India, it is not proper for me to make any comment on the observations. The Supreme Court has issued notice and the government of India and the state governments will respond on what steps they have taken."

"I can only state in all the humility that all the states are doing their best. These are very challenging times. If someone has any better solutions to offer, they will be taken into account," he said. Prasad said results of the efforts made by the governments were visible. "The results, India in comparison to the world as far as the death is concerned, speak aloud on our initiatives." Last week, the Gujarat High

Court pulled up the BJP-led gov-



Union Minister Shankar

a state-run hospital in Ahmedabad. Asked about what kind of assistance the Centre would be extending to the state. Prasad said. 'The AIIMS director was sent there to guide... Whatever further is needed will be done. We don't want to see the political colour of the state government. The country needs to work in unison and we have to overcome and Lam quite sure we shall overcome."

ernment for the poor facilities at

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Prasad said his recent public statements were "utterly irresponsible". He alleged that Rahul "was trying to weaken the resolve" of the country to fight against the pandemic and that his criticism was "based upon falsehood".

"The first state to announce a lockdown was Punjab followed by Rajasthan. And now Maharashtra and Punjab were the first ones to extend the lockdown till May 31, even before the meeting of chief ministers with the Prime Minister...You say lockdown is not the solution, then don't you explain this to your chief ministers?Or don't they listen to you, or they don't give your opinions any weightage?," he said.

CBSE to let students appear for boards from current location

New Delhi: The CBSE has decided to allow students, who are not present in the same area as their school during the lockdown, to write their remaining board exams from their current location.

After the board's exams for Class X and XII were paused in March as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus, CBSE has decided to conduct exams for 29 remaining papers between July 1 and 15. The board has now announced that it has decided to shift exam centres to districts where the students are presently located and said it will issue a notification in the first week of June.

convention in Nizamuddin in the

national capital in March this year. A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde was hearing a plea by Iamiat-Ulama-I-Hind which alleged that the convention was being reported in such a manner as to spread communal hatred. At the previous hearing, the court had said it "will not gag the press" and asked the petitioner to implead PCI. On Wednesday, the court issued notice to the respondents including the Centre, with the CJI observing "don't let people instigate law and order issues... These are the things that later become law and order issues".

ABANTIKA GHOSH

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE MAY

have been temporarily knocked

off the multi-country Solidarity

Trial by WHO, but will continue to

be tested on patients of Novel

Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) in

the United Kingdom, Recruitment

will continue for the HCO arm of

RECOVERY Trial being carried out

rently the largest randomised

controlled trial of HCQ for Covid-

19. Prof Peter Horby, professor of

Emerging Infectious Diseases and

Global Health in the Nuffield

The RECOVERY trial is cur-

by the University of Oxford.

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

LAXMAN SINGH MUMBAI, MAY 27

OVER 1,500 frontline Brihan-Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Chahal added, "Despite large number of frontline civic

mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) workers are infected with Covid-19 and 25 have succumbed to the virus so far, Municipal Commissioner Igbal Singh Chahal has said. This is the first time since the Covid-19 outbreak that the civic administration has officially come out with the number of BMC frontline workers who have either been infected or have died.

staffers getting infected. I am

proud to say that they are work-

Department of Medicine, Univer-

sity of Oxford, said in a statement,

"The WHO decision to temporar-

ily suspend hydroxychloroquine

in their trial is based on data from

a study that has looked at routinely

collected data from hospitalised

patients, and which reports an in-

creased risk of death in patients

who were given hydroxychloro-

quine. However, these types of

studies are difficult to interpret be-

cause the decision to give the drug

will be based on the severity of dis-

ease in the patient. It's a bit like giv-

ing diabetic drugs to diabetics: the

drug doesn't cause the disease, you

are given the drug because of the

disease. The authors have tried to

control for this "indication bias" in

Oxford University continues HCQ trial

1,529 frontline BMC workers infected, 25 dead

For two months, employees' unions were demanding that BMC come clean on how many civic staffers were infected. File

ing tirelessly in such an adverse

The most recent casualty was a 56-year-old fireman posted at Gowalia Tank Fire Station on Grant

the study but it is very hard to do it

that paper we looked very carefully

at our data over the weekend, to

make sure we are not putting patients at risk, Since RECOVERY pa-

tients are randomised, our data are

much less vulnerable to the biases

that plague studies that use routine

health care data. An independent

committee has looked at our data

and did not see any safety concerns.

We discussed our findings with

Medicines and Healthcare prod-

ucts Regulatory Authority, who

have agreed with our interpreta-

tion that the data provide reassur-

ance that continued enrolment

into the hydroxychloroquine arm

Horby added: "In response to

For the past two months, municipal employees' unions have been demanding that BMC come clean on how many civic staffers

is safe and that we should press

ahead with getting a reliable an-

swer on hydroxychloroquine

The Nuffield Department of

Population Health, after receiv-

ing a notice from the Medicines

and Healthcare products

Regulatory Authority of the UK,

had given a detailed response fol-

lowing which the department

Meanwhile in India, the total

number of cases reached

1,51,767 with 6,387 cases being

reported in the last 24 hours.

There have been 4.337 deaths –

170 in the last 24 hours – and

64,425 recoveries so far.

has obtained clearance for con-

tinuing with the HCO arm.

through the RECOVERY trial."

Road, who died Sunday evening.

affected. About 35 staffers from the fire brigade have tested positive and one has died, and more than 80 employees from the security department have been in-

RAHUL IN CONVERSATION WITH GLOBAL EXPERTS

'India should adopt soft lockdown, pandemic to stay here until year-end'

MANOJCG

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

INDIA SHOULD adopt a "soft lockdown", as severe curbs can cause more deaths than coronavirus and ruin the economy, a global health expert said Friday, and suggested that it is better to take care of the "old and the frail" and let the others have the infection, as the disease is "very mild" and most people infected will not even be sick.

Another expert said herd immunity is a "terrible idea", and

New Delhi

said that Covid-19 is here to stay at least until the end of this year.

During a conversation with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Prof Johan Giesecke, a member of WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Infectious Hazards, also said India should lift the lockdown in steps.

In a separate conversation with Rahul, Prof Ashish Jha, faculty director at Harvard Global Health Institute, said some are suggesting that "in places like India we will just let herd immunity happen and let hundreds of

millions of people get infected". But, Jha said, "I think that is a terrible idea...(because) it will lead to millions and millions of people dying, including a lot of young...

Across the globe, Giesecke said almost everyone will be infected by coronavirus. "But it is a very mild disease – 99 per cent people infected will have very little symptoms, or no symptoms at all."

Rahul said he is sceptical of a full lockdown. "I do think one has to move to a partial lockdown." **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

WORDLY WISE

FACTS DO NOT CEASE TO EXIST BECAUSE THEY ARE IGNORED.

— Aldous Huxley

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ FOUNDED By ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LOSING THE PLOT

Maharashtra's political din threatens to distract from the task for government and Opposition, of combating surging infections

TTH OVER 54,000 COVID-19 patients, 1,800 deaths, and still counting, Maharashtra is the epicentre of the pandemic in India. Mumbai, India's financial capital, has seen an exodus of its workforce as the city's health infrastructure creaks under the weight of the surging infections. Other cities in the state, such as Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad and Thane, have also reported a large number of cases and hotspots. The crisis facing Maharashtra is grave and its social and economic impact is, and will be, national, not confined to the state. This difficult time calls for everyone to come together and work with each other to defeat the virus. However, the political din that appears to be growing louder in the state suggests the opposite -- it would appear that the main political actors are fishing for short-term gains, working at cross purposes. This is unfortunate.

Over the last few days, meetings between Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and between Pawar and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, and statements from BJP and Congress leaders have triggered speculation about the stability of the government amid the coronavirus crisis. By all accounts, Governor Koshyari and CM Thackeray have had an uneasy relationship ever since the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was formed in November last year in unedifying circumstances. Subsequently, Koshyari's apparent reluctance to nominate Thackeray to the legislative council had sharpened uncertainties even as the pandemic was unfolding, which ended only after the Election Commission held elections to the council just before the deadline for the CM to get elected to the House ended. Now, Pawar's meeting with the governor fuelled speculation that the NCP and Shiv Sena disagreed on important administrative decisions. Some BJP leaders have demanded President's Rule citing rising infections while disgruntled sections in the MVA, especially in the Congress, have spoken out against Thackeray's administrative capabilities and style of functioning. BJP leader and former CM Devendra Fadnavis further stirred the pot by claiming the Aghadi will soon implode. In the midst of all this, Rahul Gandhi said the Congress was neither running the government (in Maharashtra) nor was a key decision-maker in it. Gandhi's description of his party's role in Maharashtra, or rather his disavowal of its responsibility, presumably aimed at distancing the Congress from blame for the handling of the COVID-19 crisis, struck a jarring note.

Both the ruling coalition in Maharashtra and the Opposition need to focus on the pandemic and join hands to contain and overcome its impact. Too many lives and livelihoods have already been lost. This is the time for a politics that connects with the people, not one that plays upon rivalries and antagonisms between parties and leaders.

THE MISSING DATA

Informed policymaking requires continuous data generation — COVID crisis is compounding the challenge

OR A COUNTRY already short of recent large sample survey-based data - nobody knows whether and how much poverty has fallen in the last decade or if consumption of vegetables and protein-rich foods is growing at the same rate as before — the COVID crisis makes matters worse. The National Statistical Office $(NSO)\,was\,to\,undertake\,its\,household\,consumer\,expenditure\,(HCE)\,survey\,for\,2020-21$ from July, which is now practically ruled out. The houselisting phase of the Census, crucial for carving out and assigning "blocks" to field enumerators tasked with collecting household/individual-level information, was scheduled during April-September. Its postponing could have a bearing on the main census slated for February-March 2020. Since the houselisting and enumeration blocks are also used for the rural development ministry's Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), it points to serious data challenges ahead.

The novel coronavirus has, no doubt, created a war-like situation. The census and other surveys being put off by even a year shouldn't, to that extent, be held against the government. This argument, however, lacks justification when there has been no officiallyreleased HCE survey, normally conducted every five years, after 2011-12. Nor is there a single field survey-based government study capturing the impact of demonetisation, goods and services tax or even programmes such as Mudra and Jan Dhan Yojana on household incomes, consumption and poverty. Contrast this to the 2011-12 period, when there was a surfeit of information from the census, SECC and the NSO's HCE and employment-andunemployment surveys. The NSO carried out an HCE survey for 2017-18, but its report was withheld, apparently for showing a decline in real rural consumption on the back of rising farm distress. Any survey now or even in 2021-22 may throw up similar, if not worse, results. Will that, then, act as a deterrent to not release them as well?

The time has come for the government to move to a continuous mode (annually and quarterly, as opposed to five-yearly) of doing large sample surveys. Technology (use of handheld GPS-enabled devices) and rotational panel sampling design can easily enable this. If a private data analytics company like the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy can, through its Consumer Pyramids Household Surveys, cover over 1.74 lakh households annually, there's no reason why the NSO cannot. It has, in fact, made a beginning through its periodic labour force surveys from 2017-18. Informed policymaking requires continuous data generation, for which one shouldn't wait for a "normal" year that also suits the government.

VIRUS ALERT

Donald Trump has become collateral damage to Twitter's factchecking initiative for COVID-19

ONALD TRUMP HAS fallen victim to COVID-19 - not because of his failure to contain its spread in the US, which faces the figure of 1,00,000 deaths. The electorate will, or will not, address executive bungling during the pandemic in November. But unreliable medical advice during the public health emergency had goaded Twitter into alerting users to fake news and outlandish claims with a blue exclamation mark. Now, for the first time ever, that damning mark has appeared beneath a tweet from a president who won office partly by leveraging Twitter. In response to a poll which found that two out of three Americans would avoid polling booths in the elections later this year, he had tweeted that postal ballots would be "substantially fraudulent". Since he offered no evidence to back this charge, his tweet was flagged by Twitter as "unsubstantiated".

A querulous Trump has shot back that Twitter is stifling free speech, and that he, as president, "will not allow it to happen". This face-off is unprecedented, because social media platforms and Trump enjoy a symbiotic relationship, like oaks and mistletoe, or mistletoe and Getafix. The commotion raised by Trump and trumpery drives traffic to the platforms, which pay back the favour by serving as power amplifiers. It is also a dilemma, because the internet business model is based on free speech, but fake news hurts the credibility of platforms. The cost-benefit analysis is fairly delicate and not completely logical. As a matter of business caution, the bombastopithecuses have been allowed to roam free.

But the coronavirus pandemic clarified the issue, because fake medical advice is lethal. Facebook committed to deleting misleading information on the pandemic, while Twitter played it intelligently — don't delete nothing, but flag weird claims and point readers to more reliable sources. This is the post-censorship route to information management.

The monetisation question



If government crosses Rubicon, markets will fear that constraints on fiscal policy are being abandoned

Duvvuri Subbarao

IN HER INTERVIEW to this newspaper last week, the finance minister said that she is keeping her options open on monetisation of the deficit by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). How the government and the RBI decide on this will have significant implications for India's economic prospects in the short-term, and indeed in the long-term.

First off, two clarifications. Monetisation of the deficit does not mean the government is getting free money from the RBI. If one works through the combined balance sheet of the government and the RBI, it will turn out that the government does not get a free lunch, but it does get a heavily subsidised lunch. That subsidy is forced out of the banks. And, as in the case of all invisible subsidies, they don't even know.

Second, it is not as if the RBI is not monetising the deficit now; it is doing so, but indirectly by buying government bonds in the secondary market through what are called open market operations (OMOs). Note that both monetisation and OMOs involve printing of money by the RBI. But there are important differences between the two options that make shifting over to monetisation a non-trivial decision.

To understand the issue, some historical context will help. In the pre-reform era, the RBI used to directly monetise the government's deficit almost automatically. That practice ended in 1997 with a landmark agreement between the government and the RBI. It was agreed that henceforth, the RBI would operate only in the secondary market through the OMO route. The implied understanding also was that the RBI would use the OMO route not so much to support government borrowing but as a liquidity instrument to manage the balance between the policy objectives of supporting growth, checking inflation and preserving financial stability.

In hindsight, the outcomes of that agreement were historic. Since the government started borrowing in the open market, interest rates went up which incentivised saving and thereby spurred investment and India is inflation prone. Note that after the global financial crisis when inflation "died" everywhere, we were hit with a high and stubborn bout of inflation. In hindsight, it is clear that the RBI, on my watch, failed to tighten policy in good time. Since then we have embraced a monetary policy framework and the RBI has earned credibility for delivering on inflation within the target. Forsaking that credibility

can be costly.

growth. Also, the interest rate that the government commanded in the open market acted as a critical market signal of fiscal sustainability. Importantly, the agreement shifted control over money supply, and hence over inflation, from the government's fiscal policy to the RBI's monetary policy. The India growth story that unfolded in the years before the global financial crisis in 2008 when the economy clocked growth rates in the range of 9 per cent was at least in part a consequence of the high savings rate and low inflation which in turn were a consequence of this agreement.

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act as amended in 2017 contains an escape clause which permits monetisation of the deficit under special circumstances. What is the case for invoking this escape clause now even if it means potentially jeopardising the hard won gains of the government-RBI agreement?

The case is made on the grounds that there just aren't enough savings in the economy to finance government borrowing of such a large size. Bond yields would spike so high that financial stability will be threatened. The RBI must therefore step in and finance the government directly to prevent this from happening.

But there is no reason to believe that we are anywhere close to that situation. Through its OMOs, the RBI has injected such an extraordinary amount of systemic liquidity that bond yields are still relatively soft. In fact the yield on the benchmark 10 year bond which was ruling at 8 per cent in September last year has since dropped to just around 6 per cent. Even on the day the government announced its additional borrowing to the extent of 2.1 per cent of GDP, the yield settled at 6.17 per cent. That should, if anything, be evidence that the market feels quite comfortable about financing the enhanced government borrowing.

Both monetisation and OMOs involve expansion of money supply which can potentially stoke inflation. If so, why should we be so wary of monetisation? Because although they are both potentially inflationary, the inflation risk they carry is different. OMOs are a monetary policy tool with the RBI in the driver's seat, deciding on how much liquidity to inject and when. In contrast, monetisation is, and is seen, as a way of financing the fiscal deficit with the quantum and timing of money supply determined by the government's borrowing rather than the RBI's monetary policy. If RBI is seen as losing control over monetary policy, it will raise concerns about inflation. That can be a more se-

rious problem than it seems. India is inflation prone. Note that after the global financial crisis when inflation "died" everywhere, we were hit with a high and stubborn bout of inflation. In hindsight, it is clear that the RBI, on my watch, failed to tighten policy in good time. Since then we have embraced a monetary policy framework and the RBI has earned credibility for delivering on inflation within the target. Forsaking that credibility can be costly.

If, in spite of all this, the government decides to cross the Rubicon, markets will fear that the constraints on fiscal policy are being abandoned and that the government is planning to solve its fiscal problems by inflating away its debt. If that occurs, yields on government bonds will shoot up, the opposite of what is sought to be achieved.

Finally, the biggest question is this: What is the problem that monetisation is trying to solve? There are cases when monetisation -- despite its costs -- is inevitable. If the government cannot finance its deficit at reasonable rates, then it really doesn't have much choice. But right now, it is able to borrow at around the same rate as inflation, implying a real rate (at current inflation) of 0 per cent. If in fact bond yields shoot up in real terms, there might be a case for monetisation, strictly as a one-time measure. We are not there yet.

> The writer is a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India

A NATION OF MIGRANTS

Some must take barefoot to the highway, others make privileged journeys

OF LATE, I have asked all the friends and relatives I speak to: Who is our Labour Minister? So far, no one has been able to recall a name or a face. That we heard very little directly from our health minister, Harsh Vardhan, during the worst pandemic of a century was curious enough. But the complete and virtual (pun intended) obliteration of Santosh Gangwar is curiouser still. It is a sign of labour's beleaguered status that we have of late only a gaping void, after such greats as B R Ambedkar, Jagjivan Ram and V V Giri who served as labour ministers. All of them, especially the last, were closely associated with the Indian labour movement.

In a health crisis that has turned India into

a home ministry-managed police-state, the chief function of the government has been to instil fear, not of the disease so much as of each other, especially of the poor and the minorities, despite clear evidence of COVID-19's elite, international origins. As the policeman who beat the doctor on his way to surgery in Srinagar said, "This is the battle of police". Therefore, what has been left unsaid by our political masters is far more important than the vapid statements in which we are drowned. Thus, we have seen a civil aviation minister, who, while announcing the "national priority" of opening up domestic air travel, invoked the long suffering "tax-payer". We have heard from the railway minister, who as early as March 27, 2020 had a video conference with e-commerce giants to ensure smooth movement of "essential goods" throughout the country. His tearful anguish

Article 19(1)(d) allows each of us the freedom to move throughout the territory of India with a sense of security assured by the state. We don't yet have a Right to Work, but this freedom of movement ensured that we can seek work where it is found, or leave it at will.

about migrant movement came nearly two months later. We have seen perhaps a little too much of the glowering finance minister. But from Gangwar, Minister of State of Labour and Employment with independent charge, we have not had a word.

The paradoxical invisibility of migrantsas-workers until now, and their hyper-visibility on the highway today, has now been compounded by those state governments -UP, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh — that have exercised their freedom to suspend labour laws for 1,200 days. Comfortably protected by the suspension of all politics as we knew it in these extraordinary times, state governments have seized the crisis as an opportunity. Gangwar silently presides over this dismantling, given the impossibility of protest from those whose forebears fought for these protections over the past century. Is it mere coincidence that the Kerala labour minister TP Ramakrishnan alone has stood firmly in support of worker rights and against bringing back forms of bonded

The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh has revealed his administrative genius once again. Let us recall that unblinking claim during his campaign in Kerala in 2017 that the little southern state should learn from the UP healthcare model. (That the little southern state has today triumphed in its exemplary treatment of COVID-19 has been barely acknowledged by the Centre). Today, faced with the incontrovertible evidence that UP's chief export, its labour force, can also return to its roots, however impoverished, the chief minister thought it fit to announce that other states will have to take his permission to employ people from UP. He backtracked from his statement two days later.

Article 19(1)(d) allows each of us the freedom to move throughout the territory of India with a sense of security assured by the state. We don't vet have a Right to Work, but this freedom of movement ensured that we can seek work where it is found, or leave it at will. Reading this news reminded me not only of the suffering millions whose images have only just been replaced by the woes of airline travellers. It reminded me of the legions of migrants that make up my family. My father, who migrated from Palghat to Madras and then Bangalore, via Salem, Erode, Colombo. My mother, who migrated from Ooty to Bangalore via Palghat following her marriage. Uncles streamed into our little house from the village, to find jobs, homes, brides, in that order. I too migrated between cities, from Bangalore to Madras, Calcutta, and finally Delhi. We were drawn to the city, not chased from the villages. The Constitution ensured that we needed no permission from any chief minister to make those moves. Nor have I — at least so far needed to seek refuge from the city or flee the terrors of unemployment and hunger. What flashes up in this moment of danger is the migrant in ourselves, well masked by our privileged citizenship.

The writer teaches history at JNU

INDIAN EXPRESS Assam Assembly when the government seeks Parliament's approval to continue central rule in the state

May 28, 1980, Forty Years Ago

THE UNION GOVERNMENT is likely to dissolve the Assam Legislative Assembly, which has been under suspended animation since President's rule was imposed in the troubled state last December, it is reliably learnt. The dissolution of the Assam Assembly is likely to come in the form of an amendment to the presidential proclamation under Article 356

Manipur Movement THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, opposing the

for another six months.

launching of army operations against the communist guerillas of Manipur, has fanned out into the rural areas compelling the government to defer the action. Several hundred girls and women from Naoriya Pakhangalakpa assembly constituency, located outside the town, held a rally in Imphal vesterday and submitted a memorandum to the chief minister. They carried banners saying, "Stop Army Operations" and "Operation is Against Human Rights".

SIMPLIFY TAX

A BILL SEEKING to simplify procedures and streamline tax laws is likely to be introduced in Parliament during the budget session. The

New Delhi

Bill — which will give effect to some of the recommendations of the Choksi committee on direct taxes — is being drafted. It is proposed to simplify procedures that currently come under the Income Tax Act, Wealth Tax Act and Gift Tax Act to ensure efficient enforcement and to plug loopholes used to evade taxes. The Bill is proposed to have a common code and guidelines for the administration of the three laws. The finance minister, R Venkataraman, in his speeches recently, had emphasised the immediate need to simplify tax legislation to avoid harassment to small assessees. A recent conference of income tax commissioners had also discussed the issue and formulated its view.



— THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

THE IDEAS PAGE

The fortune of others

Society needs to regain moral compass, address plight of people in cities whose precarious livelihoods keep them steps away from destitution



Sanjib Baruah

EPIDEMICS ARE "NOT random events that afflict societies capriciously and without warning," says historian Frank Snowden in his book *Epidemics and Society: From the Black Death to the Present.* "On the contrary, every society produces its own specific vulnerabilities."

The critical vulnerabilities of Indian society that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed are undoubtedly those laid bare by the humanitarian crisis that unfolded as the nationwide lockdown took effect. The searing images of the endless ordeal of tens of thousands of famished and exhausted "migrant workers" trying to make their way back to their home villages to escape starvation in cities where they work, will endure long after the pandemic is over.

The world's severest lockdown dealt a body blow to their insecure and fragile urban livelihoods, and many of them also faced imminent eviction. With public transportation shut down, many began their long journeys on foot over distances that could span hundreds of miles. A large number of them died of heat, exhaustion and starvation; and quite a few were killed in horrific accidents.

Reverse migration of this kind is not how epidemics and migration have historically been linked together. This history is mostly of the fortunate few fleeing urban contagion to places where the chances of survival are better. This happened at the time of the Black Death in Europe in 1348; and in more recent years, during the SARS outbreak in China, and in New York City during the current pandemic.

To be sure, reverse migration to villages by the working poor is not new to the history of epidemics in India. During the plague panic in colonial Bombay - which gave us the infamous Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 – more than half the city's population left for the countryside fleeing the disease as much as the colonial state's authoritarian response to it. But they were caught between the plagueridden city and the famine-stricken countryside, and the flow of migrants soon became a two-way process. It produced a crisis of labour supply in the city's important cotton textile industry that led to a shift in the balance between capital and labour which worked to the advantage of workers - albeit

The multitudes escaping Indian cities more than a century later, however, are mostly employed in an informal labour regime in industries and service sectors increasingly characterised by outsourcing and contracting-out arrangements. Without the moral imagination and political will to launch a massive social intervention, it is unlikely that the shock to the labour supply will yield even modest wage or welfare gains for these workers.

A report by the Stranded Workers Action Network, which its authors describe as "distress-biased" because it draws on data collected from those who made distress calls to the network, found the majority of them to be factory or construction workers on a daily wage. The rest earned their daily wages as drivers, domestic workers, and self-employed workers — among them were street vendors and those engaged in zari embroidery work. It is not a representative sample, but the fig-





R Sasikumar

ures convey some idea of the circumstances that pushed them to the brink; only about 6 per cent of those who reached out to the network received full wages during the lockdown and about 78 per cent received no payments. Ninety-nine per cent of the self-employed — among them, street vendors and rickshaw pullers — earned no money at all during the lockdown.

That such important segments of India's urban workforce are "migrant workers"—and the fact that we refer to these poor fellow citizens as migrants — is itself quite telling. They are not all migrants in a strict sense. It is their precarious employment and the high cost of permanent relocation in cities that make them oscillate between urban India and their home villages. Many male seasonal migrants leave their families behind and return to their villages when old age or illness makes them unemployable.

A 2012 volume of essays on internal migration in India published by the UNESCO distinguishes three types of rural to urban migrants: (a) permanent, (b) semi-permanent or long-term circular and (c) seasonal and temporary or circular migrants. Significant segments of India's informal or unorganised economy escape official statistical recording. Seasonal or circular rural-to-urban migrants, for example, are a major segment of the workforce in India's formidable construction industry. Yet neither the Census nor the National Sample Survey, says Ravi Srivastava, who has studied internal migration extensively, "adequately capture seasonal and/or short-term circular migration". He and his research team have tried to get a handle on the phenomenon with a number of micro-level field surveys to complement macro data.

The difficulties encountered by Srivastava and Rajib Sutradhar in surveying construction workers in Delhi and its satellite towns are revealing. First, the gruelling work schedule of construction workers — long hours and seven days a week with no rest day — made access to them difficult. Second, the construction sites that included the living areas for workers are guarded by private security guards creating another set of hurdles. Several interviews "had to be abandoned half-way due to the hostility of security staff and/or contractors".

When the term informal sector began to

be used in development studies in the 1970s it was thought of as a residual — even temporary — niche peculiar to the urban economies of developing countries. As Dutch sociologist Jan Breman puts it, informal economy activities were expected to "fade away with the expansion of the formal economy". But during the successive decades "informality turned out to be not a waiting room but an end station for the swelling workforce locked up in it".

The informal or the unorganised sector now accounts for nearly half of India's GDP and 80 to 90 per cent of the labour force (including non-plantation agriculture). Outsourcing of work to smaller firms and contractors has informalised even many organised sector industries. With the erosion of labour rights and social protection associated with formal sector jobs, it is not surprising that our cities now host thousands of people whose precarious livelihoods keep them steps away from destitution.

But a far more deleterious effect of infor-

malisation is that we now seem to be on the verge of abandoning even the aspiration for an inclusive future. With informal employment dominating the economy, laws regulating working conditions are now nothing more than aspirational. Still, it boggles the moral imagination that soon after the historic exodus, in the middle of the pandemic, a number of state governments decided to dilute labour laws turning the clock back on legal working hours from eight-hour days to 12-hour days (six-days a week). And this with the half-baked intention of attracting businesses that might leave China.

One can only hope that our society will regain its moral compass and re-discover the quality that Adam Smith — popularly thought of as the high priest of capitalist individualism — called sympathy. No matter how selfish we suppose human beings to be, he said, "there are evidently some principles in his nature, which interest him in the fortune of others, and render their happiness necessary to him, though he derives nothing from it, except the pleasure of seeing it."

The writer is professor of political studies, Bard College, New York. He is the author of In the Name of the Nation: India and its Northeast

Misunderstood revolutionary

"If we are going to get through this global crisis, we need to hear more than just what we're doing wrong, or should be doing better. We need to hear, if only

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

now and then, what we are doing right."

On his 137th birth anniversary, it's time to revisit facets of Savarkar's life and work which can guide us today



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR is amongst those rare individuals who have the potential to emerge like a phoenix from the dusty annals of history despite unparalleled advocacy against him by a segment of his ideological rivals. It is imperative to understand the ideals of this unsung hero in a nuanced and comprehensive manner as the nation witnesses his 137th birth anniversary.

From a historical point of view, it is striking to note that though Savarkar, a Chitpavan Brahmin, and B R Ambedkar had represented the two opposite extremes of the Indian societal setup, there was proximity between some of their views which remains unexplored. Savarkar was impressed with the insights and meticulous approach of Ambedkar. Savarkar had quoted Ambedkar several times while advocating social reforms, harmony, and the upliftment of the downtrodden. In his book, Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past, 1883–1924, Vikram Sampath documents how Savarkar appealed that "every true Indian needs to resolve in his or her mind to absolve oneself of... seven fetters", that is, Vedoktabandi (exclusivity of access to Vedic literature), Vyavasayabandi (continuation of a profession by virtue of one's birth), Sparshabandi (practices of untouchability), Samudrabandi (forbidding the crossing of the seas to go to foreign lands), Shuddhibandi (disallowing reconversions to Hinduism), Rotibandi (the practice of inter-caste dining), Betibandi (rigidity in abolishing inter-caste marriage). These reformist ideas subsequently became provisions under the Indian Constitution. Savarkar also wrote how, "In what is construed as a 'low caste' — the Mahars — we have had such illustrious saints as Chokha Mela and such brilliant thinkers such as Dr Ambedkar, whose piety and intellect far surpasses many a Brahmin's."

Savarkar preferred scientific reasoning to religious customs. In a letter to his brother Narayanrao in 1920, he described his thoughts on caste-based discrimination: "I feel the need to rebel against caste discrimination and untouchability as much as I feel the need to fight against foreign occupation of India."

Savarkar was also the first political leader to set independence as India's goal in the 1900s. Almost immediately after joining college, he had started organising and spreading his anti-British and revolutionary ideas through his efficient oratory and writing skills — the Congress accepted this goal much later in its Lahore session in 1929. His courage and commitment are evident from the fact that he tried to escape to France by jumping off a British ship near the French coast in 1910. It is also interesting to note that more than a century ago, it was Savarkar who caused the two colonial powers, Britain and France, to ap-

proach the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which shares space with the International Court of Justice at the Hague. And, through his extraordinary efforts, he provided leadership to several other young bravehearts in London and across Europe to garner support for India's freedom.

He was a proponent of a united India, which was inclusive and diverse — an India that was an organic result of all its diverse cultures. He believed in the idea of inclusivity for mobilising the Indian masses. Some oppositional forces have, generally, made skewed arguments by terming him as the proponent of the two-nation theory, by referring to parts of his presidential address of the 19th Hindu Mahasabha session in Karnavati (Ahmedabad) in 1937. This is far from the truth. During the 21st annual session of the Hindu Mahasabha held in Calcutta in 1939, Savarkar, in his presidential address, spoke about how the Hindus and Muslims could bury their historical differences in a common Hindustani constitu-

It was not Savarkar but Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, who propagated the two-nation theory, which was adopted by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. At this juncture, it is essential to recall the March 14, 1888 speech by Khan at Meerut. In this public address, Khan said: "In whose hands shall the administration and the Empire of India rest? Now, suppose that all English, and the whole English army, were to leave India, taking with them all their cannon and their splendid weapons and everything, then who would-be rulers of India? Is it possible that under these circumstances, two nations - the Mahomedans and the Hindus – could sit on the same throne and remain equal in power? Most certainly not. It is necessary that one of them should conquer the other and thrust it down. To hope that both could remain equal is to desire the impossible and the inconceivable.'

Savarkar also openly embraced the "Era of Machines" and warned the Indian leaders to learn from Europe's mistakes. His futuristic approach to Indian cinema, too, was commendable. He believed in the innovative spirit of the human mind. He was a multidimensional personality and wore many hats: A freedom fighter, social reformer, writer, poet, historian, political leader and philosopher. Biased historiography has led to the building of a controversial narrative with a superficial understanding of Savarkar.

Savarkar's ideas of modernity, social and religious reforms, cultivation of scientific temper and embracing technological tools continue to be relevant for building a new India in the post COVID-19 era. The central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is proactively taking measures for the building of "Ek Bharat-Shrestha Bharat" — following the contemporary relevance of the ideas of such eminent personalities. On his birth anniversary, remembering Savarkar's patriotic zeal and notable contributions will be a humble tribute to the revolutionary conscience of Indian history.

The writer is Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, heavy industries and public enterprises, Government of India, and represents Bikaner in Lok Sabha

A sobering comparison

India's Covid trajectory should be measured against that of its neighbours

The informal or the

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Deepankar Basu and Priyanka Srivastava

A COMPARISON OF India's situation with its neighbours is much more meaningful than the comparisons regularly put out by the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, where India is almost always compared to countries in North America or Europe. It is well known that the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic has varied enormously across countries. While there are no conclusive explanations for this variation yet, age-structure, genetic make-up, universal BCG vaccination, and climate might play important roles. In all these respects, India is similar to its neighbours in South Asia. Hence, a meaningful comparison of India with its largest neighbours – Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — is a much better way to understand the spread of the pandemic and assess the effectiveness of responses to contain it.

The pandemic came to south Asian countries at very different times. Sri Lanka was the first to report a COVID-19 case, on January 27. The first case was reported within three days in India, on January 30. Pakistan reported its first case on February 26, and Bangladesh on March 8.

angladesh on March 8.
The progression of COVID-19 has varied

across these four nation-states. Hence, from today's vantage point, the duration of the pandemic varies in these countries. To assess the pandemic at the same stage of its life cycle, we will identify its beginning in a country on the date total number of cases crossed 50 for the first time. Using this method, we see that, on May 24, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were 54, 75, 69 and 66 days into the pandemic. To make our data comparable, we will, therefore, take the 54th day of the pandemic in the four countries as the point of comparison.

A first indicator to understand the spread of the pandemic is the total number of reported cases. On the day 54 of the pandemic, the total number of reported cases were 39,980 in India, 32,078 in Bangladesh, 27,474 in Pakistan and 869 in Sri Lanka. These countries are very different in terms of population size. If we look at the total number of reported cases per million population on the 54th day of the pandemic, we get quite a different picture. Bangladesh has 195, Pakistan has 124, Sri Lanka has 41 and India has 29

cases per million population.

One of the most direct impacts of the pandemic can be measured in terms of lives

lost. Dividing the total number of reported deaths by the total number of reported cases, we get what epidemiologists call the case fatality rate. On the 54th day, the case fatality rate was highest in India, at 3.25 per cent, and lowest in Sri Lanka at 1.04 per cent. Pakistan and Bangladesh fell in between, with 2.25 per cent and 1.41 per cent respectively.

In terms of total cases per million population, India has done better than most of its neighbouring countries — especially during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. When we look at the impact of the pandemic in terms of direct deaths, the picture is completely reversed. India has lagged behind its neighbours in reducing the fatal impact of the pandemic on the lives of its citizens.

India, and more so Sri Lanka, have ramped up COVID-19 testing to adequate levels. This is suggested by the fact that the test-positive rate, that is, the number of positive cases per 100 persons tested, has been low and stable over the past several weeks — at around 2 per cent for Sri Lanka and 4 per cent for India. The situation in Bangladesh and Pakistan vis-avis COVID-19 testing is very different. Not only do these countries have much higher test pos-

itive rates, at over 10 per cent, but it has been increasing over the past weeks. Thus, Bangladesh and Pakistan have yet to reach adequate testing levels.

adequate testing levels.

This has an important implication regarding the relative magnitudes of case fatality rates across these countries. Since Bangladesh and Pakistan are not testing at adequate levels, many positive cases are not being reported in these two countries. If they had been reported, the case fatality rates would have been even lower than what we now see. Hence, the "true" gap of Bangladesh and Pakistan vis-a-vis India, concerning the case fatality rate, is higher than currently reported.

The daily press briefings of the health ministry paint rosy pictures of the situation in India only because of the largely meaningless comparisons with European and North American countries. Looking at our neighbours will have a much-needed sobering effect.

Basu is associate professor, department of economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Srivastava is associate professor, department of history, University of Massachusetts Amherst

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SHORE UP HOSPITALS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Tackling

the surge' (IE, May 27). In the last week, there has been a surge in the number of seriously ill COVID-19 patients in Delhi. This worrying development was further reflected in the pressure on ICU beds in private and government hospitals. If this trend continues, Delhi could go the way of Mumbai, which is struggling to manage the crisis. The surge could be handled better if hospital resources are pooled and the patient load is shared equitably. This requires networking amongst all hospitals and nursing homes in the city and mutually agreed patient transfer protocols. This will free up the scarce ICU beds for critically ill patients.

LR Murmu, Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, Tackling the surge' (IE, May 27). The raison d'être for a complete nationwide lockdown was to prevent overwhelming the already stretched medical facilities in the country. In a bid to balance lives and livelihood the government is now attempting a calibrated lifting of the lockdown. But it must not compromise on the safety of people. Even a minor error can lead to a reversal of the gains made in the past two months.

New Delhi

ontns. **Anirudh Parashar,** Solan

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

SELF-RELIANT INDIA:
 ROHIT KUMAR

 BANKING ON INFORMAL SECTOR: DHANMANJARI SATHE AND PARAG WAKNIS

www.indianexpress.com

BEYOND CLASSROOMS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The importance of campus' (IE, May 27). It brings out the problems with online education such as inequity, digital-divide and market monopoly. However, it would be wrong to conflate the campus with academics. The campus plays an important part in the overall wellness of a student. Sports and recreation events on the campus are an important part of student life. Extra-curricular activities play a significant role in the development of a student's world view and inculcate respect for the country's

Abhishek Kumar Anshu, Patna

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that my client Shri Kamal Nayan Naithani S/o Late Shri

Maya Ram Naithani R/o House No. 173, Ground Floor, Anukampa

Apartment, Abhay Khand-4, Inderapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 have disowned and

namely Shri Virat Naithani and his wife Mrs. Supriya Riyal Naithani and their son Shaurya due to his

misbehavior and bad intentions Anybody dealing with them in civi

and criminal matter shall be doing at

is/her/their own risk, cost and

Ms. Lata Nautiyal, Advocate Ch. No. 63, Patiala House Court, New Delhi, Mob. 9818385659

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ine General public is nereby informed that my client Ashok Kumar S/o Late U.N.Mandal,R/o Qr. No. 273,R.K. Puram, Sector-9, New Delhi-110022 being fed up with derogatory behavior and mal-treatment of their son namely Abhijeet Kumar,Age 21years and thus severe/and all their relationshin from

severe/end all their relationship from their son from this day onward and

nereby disown their son from their

above said property and also from all other movable and immovable

for the act of their son, shall be doing so at

nis/her own risk/responsibility and my

lients shall not be responsible in any

SANDEEP DEDHA, Advocate

Ch No. K-28, Tis Hazari Courts New Delhi-54, Mobile:8006500100

To whomsoever it may concern That we on behalf of our client Mr. Chetan Kishore aged 79 years S/o

Sh Rai Kishore allias Sh Mahara

Kishore R/o House No. 868, Gal

No. 2, Arjun Nagar, Patti Afgan Kaithal, Haryana revoke the Power of Attorney done in favour

of Mr. Pankai Bhatnagar aged 30

years S/o Sh. Ramesh Kumar R/o House No. 1077, Chawla Colony,

Near Reliance Tower, R. K Publi

School, Kutani Road, Panipa

Haryana, executed against my wi

for any sale or transfer done, by Mr. Pankaj Bhatnagar using said Power of Attorney, purchaser and

Pankai Bhatnagar will be solely

responsible for it and we will not

accept any claim on the basis of hid Power of Attorney.
A.K. Sharma - Advocate
Registered No. P/634/1995

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mahender Singh S/o Jugal Kishore R/o H.No. 38, Ahir Mohalla, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 has

severed all his relations with his son

Akhil Yadav and his wife Shweta Yadav

n account of his misbehaviour and

misconducts. My client has debarred and disowned them from his all move -able and immovable properties and

shall not be accountable or answerable

to any act or omission done by all of them. My client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Param Hansh Yadav (Advocate) E.No. D/2103/2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client SHRI TRILOK CHAND SON (SHRI SURAJ BHAN & SMT. SUDESH WII

misconduct, bad behavior, bad company, and intentions, Any person dealing w 4ARISH KUMAR or severally shall be do at their own risk. My client shall not sponsible in any manner for any kind gal-illegal act, deed done by him.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A-3773, Wittan Puri, Diehi- 11008¢ disowned and severe all relationshi with his son namely Sunii Gupta am his wife Sugandhi and debarred then from all their movable and immovable properties acquired or to be acquired because of their mis-behaviour & conduct and their nature are being disobedient and they are abusing and quarrelling with my client so my client have broken all relations from them. Any person dealing and having relation with them in any manner shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk, cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their own risk cost to consequences and my client shall be at their ow

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Smt. Krishna Devi, W Sh. Lal Singh Sikri and Sh. Lal Sing Sikri, S/o Late Nathu Ram, R/o A 2

Sikri, So Late Nathu Ham, Rio A 27, Desu Wali Galii, Mahipalpur, New Delhi-110037, do hereby disown their son Yogesh Kumar and his wife Angela from all their movable and immovable properties and also broken all relations from them. My clients have no control over them and whosoever conduct business with them will bear his/her own cost and risk from today itself:

Y.K. Sikri (Advocat

Ch. 838, patiala house courts New Delhi-11000

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to general public at large that my Client Smt. Santra Devi W/o Late Sh.

antram Shokeen R/o- H. No. 105, Village

Kamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, New Delhi-41

Shokeen and his wife Alka Dahiva from

all her movable & immovable properties due

to their misconduct and bad activities. My

client and his family members shall not be

sponsible for any wrongful and illegal act

n future. Any person(s) deal with them

S.K. Gupta (Advocate) Ch. No. D-209, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

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District & Session Cour

Gurugram-122001

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I. Puneet Kharbanda S/o Hariit Singh R/o H.No.179, Mundka Delhi-110041, confirm that in my educational Documents my father name wrongly mentioned as Harjeet Kharbanda instead of Harjit Singh. Correct name of my father is Harjit Singh.

0040538239-1

I, Varsha D/o-Manohar Lal W/o-Champak Kumar, H.No.820, New Housing-Board Colony Karnal(Harvana)-132001, Have changed my name to Varsha

0040538227-3 l Firdaus Nisar Alias Firdos Nisar Alias Firdaus D/o Late Nisar Ahmad and W/o Late Sabir Ali R/o H.No-B-124, Gali No-6, Chand Bagh. Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Firdaus

0070705555-1

I Luxmi D/o Surender Kumar R/o Mangali Akalan, Hisar Mangali, Harvana-125001. have changed my name to

0070705582-1

I Natasha D/o Sh. Surjit Singh W/o Sh.Navdeep Chopra R/o B-11, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 have changed my name after marriage to Jiya Chopra for all purposes.

Singh R/o C-26/2, Yadav Nagar, Samay Pur, Badli, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Harmeet Singh

I Paras Singh S/o Sukhvinder

I Poonam W/o Nirmal Singh R/o Gram-Tikkampur, Post-Sultanpur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand-247663, have changed my name to Poonam Kaur

0070705584-1

0070705586-1

ISahej D/o Jagjeet Singh R/o-J-6/45,Third Floor, Rajouri Garden New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Sahejpreet Kaur. 0040538227-2

I Sawan Kumar S/o Parmeshwar Lal R/o 93, Pocket-13, Rohini Sector-20 Extn., Begumpur, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to 0070705580-1

I Tinku Sharma S/o Suresh Sharma R/o Gav-Gowali. Tahsil-Chirawa Gowli, Rajasthan-333031, have changed my name to Aryan Sharma

0070705577-1

I, Sunita Kataria W/o Dalip Kumar R/o-K-1/96, Mohan Garden, DK Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Kamlesh 0040538222-

I. Shilpa D/o-Roop Kumar R/o RZF-1/336-337, Sampark

Apartment, Mahavir Enclave Palam-Village, New Delhi-45 Have Changed My Name to Shilpa Bhatt. 0040538222-2

SINGH, H.NO-C-24,A/2, SANJAY-GRAM, GURGAON. HARYANA-122001, changed my name to SANITA SINGH.

0040538227-1 **I,** Raj Kumar S/o Late Sh.

Chander Lal Lalwani, born on 9th July 1957 R/o 80/78, 1st Floor, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017; have changed my name to Raj Kumar Lalwnai, vide affidavit dated 27th May 2020, at New Delhi. 0040538208-1 I. NISHANT KUMAR S/O-

SUBHASH CHAND R/o-EA-186/1 TAGORE-GARDEN NEAR COMMUNITY-CENTRE N. DELHI-110027, have changed my name to NISHANT KUMAR

I, Mukesh Yadav S/o Om Parkash R/o 519A/20, Anand Pura, Rohtak, Harvana-124001. have changed my minor daughter's name from Varnika Yadav aged 4 years to Varnika Devi forever

I, Bhawna Vyas D/o-Shirish Balkishan Vyas, H.No.EC-162, Maya-Enclave, Hari-Nagar, N. Delhi-110064, changed my name to Bhavana Vyas permanently. 0040538227-6

I. MAHENDRA KAPOOR AGRAWAL S/O-JAGDISH PRASAD R/O-606/13, KRISHNA GALI.NO.9, ADARSH-MOHALLA MOUJPUR. DELHI-110053.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHENDRA KAPOOR, FOR ALL, PURPOSES. 0040538227-7

L JAGSHORAN S/O SHRI KAMAL

SINGH, R/O KC -16, KAVI NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, U.P. have changed my name to JAGSHORAN SINGH

0070705574-1

I, DALGEET KAUR W/O LSHWINDER PAL SINGH, H.NO-583 SECTOR-14 FARIDABAD ESCORTSNAGAR-121007, have changed my name to DALJEET KAUR.

0040538227-4

I. BHAWAN SINGH S/O HIRA SINGH BISHT R/o-D-113/B NEW ASHOK-NAGAR EAST/DELHI-110096, have changed my name to BHAWAN SINGH 0040538227-5

MVA puts up united front, says BJP acting against Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MAY 27

FOLLOWING SPECULATION over the stability of the Uddhav Thackeray government and differences between the three ruling allies, Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders on Wednesday put up a united front, saying that Opposition BJP has undermined the efforts of frontline health workers through its protests, and was working against the interests of the state.

"The 'Maharashtra Bachao' protest by BJP has not only demoralised the state government's efforts but also the doctors, police personnel and other staffers involved in fighting Covid-19," said Jayant Patil, NCP leader and Irrigation Minister.

Patil. Shiv Sena leader and Transport Minister Anil Parab and Congress leader and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat addressed the media jointly a day after former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis claimed that state has received Rs 28.104 crore assistance from the Union government.

The decision to hold a joint press conference also came a day after speculations of discord within the MVA, fueled by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark that the party was not a "key decision maker" in Maharashtra.

Sources said that on Tuesday night, Rahul Gandhi had a telephonic conversation with Sena leader and Minister Aaditya Thackeray, in which he explained his remark and ex-



MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER UDDHAV THACKERAY IS SPECIAL GUEST AT LOKSATTA'S **WEBSERIES 'SATHICHA GAZHAL** MAHARASHTRACHA' **TODAY AT 12.30 PM.**

tended support to the Uddhav government.

Thorat said the three alliance partners are working together and that there are no differences between them.

MP govt to probe 'irregularities' in Kamal Nath's 'Chhindwara package'

Bhopal: Alleging that former CM Kamal Nath spent a large amount of money in Chhindwara in the last few months of the Congress government, the BJP government is probing alleged irregularities in the "Chhindwara package".

Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel alleged several projects worth hundreds of crores were sanctioned in Chhindwara at the

Kamal Nath is an MLA from

outbreak, the country is faced with a formidable new challenge –"active swarms of immature locusts" that have now reached 15 districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. According to the Locust Warn-

ing Organisation (LWO), which monitors locust swarms, there is no immediate danger of the swarms heading towards Delhi.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

In a statement, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare said on Wednesday, "As of today, there are active swarms of immature locust in Barmer, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Sikar, Jaipur districts in Rajasthan and Satna, Gwalior, Seedhi, Rajgarh, Baitul, Devas, Agar Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh."

The statement said that "since 11th April 2020, locust hoppers and from 30th April, 2020, the incursion of pink immature adults has been reported in bordering districts of Rajasthan and Punjab, which are being controlled."

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has stepped up locust control operations in Raiasthan, Puniab, Guiarat, and Madhya Pradesh, the Ministry said. "At present 200 Locust Circle Offices (LCO) are conducting survey & control operations in close



A locust swarm in Jaipur on Monday. PTI/File

coordination with district administration and agriculture field machinery of the affected states... In Rajasthan 21 districts, in Madhya Pradesh 18 districts, in Punjabone district and in Guiarat 2 districts have undertaken locust control till now," it said.

Locust cloud over 15

Speaking to The Indian Express, LWO Deputy Director K L Gurjar said, "We are controlling the locust swarms on a daily basis but they cannot be controlled in one go because they are escaping. They are going forward." However, Gurjar said, there is no possibility of the insects moving towards Delhi as of now, because the "wind current is different"

The Ministry said that temporary locust control camps had been established in Ajmer, Chittorgarh and Dausa in Rajasthan, Mandsaur, Ujjain and Ihansi in Uttar Pradesh. "There is no report of crop damage due to locust attack in Rajasthan, MP & Gujarat," the Ministry said. The Centre has, meanwhile.

Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh, and

approved assistance of Rs 68.65 crore for Rajasthan to fight the

Sources said the assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of "pest(locust)attack" during 2019-20, was approved by the High Level Committee headed by Home Minister Amit Shah on May 15. An order was issued on May 23, asking the Department of Expenditure to release the assistance to the Raiasthan government.

Earlier this month, as locusts threatened the region. India had reached out to both Pakistan and

Industries set to employ 7.5 lakh workers, says UP govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW MAY 27

THE UTTAR Pradesh govern-

ment Wednesday said that it would soon be able to provide employment to 7.5 lakh workers in the state as it is preparing to sign an MoU with Indian Industries Association (IIA) and National Real Development Council (NAREDCO). While the MoU with IIA will help in giving jobs to about 5 lakh migrant workers in different MSME units, the MoU with NAREDCO will pave the way for 2-5 lakh people to be employed in real estate.

Notably, NAREDCO had written to the UP government earlier this week, saying that it could offer jobs to migrant workers if the state government formulates a law to provide assistance to the sector and help restart stalled

AUP government spokesperson on Wednesday said that the government would enter into an agreement with these two agencies to help identify the places of job demand and categorise the workers. These agencies would also ensure that labourers get employment as per the requirement, the spokesperson said. adding that the agencies would also ensure short-term training of the workers and arrange apprenticeship or training to unskilled labourers in industries.

Chhattisgarh shifts 20 DCs, BJP says will cause chaos

GARGIVERMA

RAIPUR, MAY 27

INA major bureaucratic reshuffle, the Chhattisgarh government on Wednesday transferred 50 IAS and state administrative officers, including 20 district collectors. While the government termed the transfers routine, it later released a circular informing of a moratorium on more transfers.

The Opposition BJP said the government had taken a "drastic" decision that has created "chaos" amid of a pandemic.

Senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister Raman Singh said: "The government has created a scene of chaos because the new officers are going to take time to adjust. At a time when numbers are increasing rapidly, this could have been avoided." Leader of the Opposition in the

Assembly Dharamlal Kaushik said:"It's almost like a business deal by the state government."

There were murmurs in the bureaucratic circles too. "For any official to get used to the district administration, the work force takes time. The logistic challenges of shifting cities in the middle of the pandemic would be huge," a senior officer said. "Since the collectors are handling all Covid-related activities in their districts, the

transfers raise questions on the preparedness of the districts," another officer said.

Government spokesperson Taran Sinha said the transfers were "routine" and won't pose challenges. "Today it was decided to slowly lift the lockdown, a lot has opened up. There is no problem as such for the state."

Chhattisgarh has reported a total of 361 Covid-19 cases, of whom 79 have recovered



Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation Ltd Pant Krishi Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur Ph. 0141-2227513 E-mail rajseedsmktg@gmail.com CIN-U75132RJ19785GC001781

E- Procurement NIB /2020-21 Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation Limited, Jaipur invites E-Procurement NIB from terested seed production companies/organizers/supplier to supply FS/CS of Soyabea

or Kharif -2020. Bid documents are available on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.rajseeds.org/ agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in om 26-05-2020 to 01-06-2020 . Last date and time of online submission of Bid is 6.00

m on 01-06-2020. RSSC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid. The UBN is: SDS2021GLOB00007 SDS2021GLOB00008

Raj.Samwad/C/20/388

NORTHERN RAILWAY

The Chief Administrative Officer/Const/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System fo 1. Full Name

Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of L-xing No. 49/C at

Km. 82/5-7, L-xing No. 58/C at Km.95/23-25 & L-xing No. 73/C

at Km. 127/19-21 on Delhi-Ambala section of Delhi Division and

Construction of 01 No. Limited Height Sub Way (LHS) in lieu of

1			3 , , ,			
		L-xing No.9 at Km.12/1-2 near Maman Halt station & Balance				
		work of road app	roaches of LHS in lieu of L-xing No.14 at			
		Km.24/1-2 near I	Bulandshahar Railway Station on Khurja-			
		Meerut section of N	Moradabad Division of Northern Railway.			
2.	Approx. Cost of work:		Rs.2288.52 lakh			
3.	Completion period of the work;		18 (Eighteen) months.			
4.	Earnest Money to be deposited:		Rs. 12,94,300/- only			

Sale/availability of Tender documents will be available on IREPS web tender document on Rly. Website: site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 02.06.2020 to 22.06.2020 upto 11.30 hrs. Tender document car be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site

Date and time of

w.e.f. 08.06.2020 to 22.06.2020. 22.06.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system. Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also car be seen on the Notice Board of the above office

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Tender Notice No.74-W-1-2-372-WA-CSB-1 Dated: 26.05.2020 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



strative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P. Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC

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

(A) 1. 26/GM-(K)/SM-WC-07/e-tender/2019-20, Name of Work:-M/o Road (Repairing of 45m wide road between Sector-140A and Village Shahdra in Sector-140A) Noida Cost-Rs. 65.35 Lacs

2. 27/GM-(K)/SM-WC-07/e-tender/2019-20, Name of Work: D/o Village (M/o drain infront of Nayagaon and Illabans) Noida

12/GM-(K)/SM-WC-08/2019-20, Name of Work:- Outer Development work (C/o U-Turn on road between Sector-82 & 110) Noida Cost-Rs. 42.66 Lacs Which can be uploaded by date 05.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-

General Manager NOIDA CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

qualification shall be opened /downloaded on date 06.06.2020 at

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 NIT NO. SE/PRJ/05/2020-21

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmi Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDCL, Jammu invites online e-bid rom original Govt. registered manufacturers for supply of material as under for NIT No. Description of Material

No.	MIT NO.	Description of Material	(In Numbers)					
1.	SE/PRJ/ 05/2020-21	PURCHASE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF EEL-II OF RATING:						
dated		400 KVA Copper wound	20					
	25.05.2020	630 KVA Copper Wound	10					
Th	The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in							

nterested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifi ation and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table selow. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities. Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details 1 Date and Time of Downloading/Sale 26.05.2020: 12.00 Hrs

ı	1.	(Start) of Tender Document	20.03.2020, 12.00 1115
	2.	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	05.06.2020; 14.00Hrs
l	3.	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ Clarifications	28.05.2020; 12.00 to 16.00 Hrs.
	4.	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	From 28.05.2020 18.00 Hrs. to 05.06.2020 14.00 Hrs.
-			

DIP/J-289-P/20

Date: 28.05.2020

Roc.No. 6209/2018/S1/SR-Ph-4

Tender document availability and

For Contact: 0416 - 2220578

other details

Superintending Engine Procurement, JPDCL, Jammu

KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION e-Tender Notice Bid submission E-Tender ID Items end date 15.06.2020 COMPUTER PAPER 06:00 PM 89 COLOUMN I PART

2020 KSRTC_356008_1 For more details visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.keralarte.com/tenders/purchase Ph.No.8471-2471011 Extn: 303

VELLORE CORPORATION CORPORATION OFFICE, VELLORE

OPEN TENDER NOTICE The Commissioner. Vellore Corporation invites tenders in two cover system for the following works as per the conditions laid down in the tender notice published in website https://tntenders.gov.ir

(Sd/-) Chairman & Munaging Director

	1	Name of the V	Estimate Amount in Lakhs	EMD Rs.	Period of the work Completion		
	1	Providing Smart roads at Sathuva street, 5th street, 51th street, 52th street, 52th cross street, 52th - 2th Cross street Vellore City Municipal Corporation	1351.00	13,51,000/-	12 Months		
	2	street, 59th street, 60th street, 61st street, Guruthoppu 1st and 2nd street	Providing smart roads at Sathuvachary 57 th street, 58 th street, 59 th street, 60 th street, 61 th street, 62 th street, 63 th street, Guruthoppu 1 th and 2 th street, Guruthoppu 1 th cross street, 1 th main road and 3 th main road in the ABD Area of Vellore City Municipal Corporation.				
	3	Providing Smart roads at Sathuv Guruthoppu street, Guruthoppu 1' street, Guruthoppu 4" street, Guruthoppu 6" street, Guruthoppu the ABD Area of Vellore City Municip	907.00	9,07,000/-	12 Months		
	4	Providing Smart roads at Sathuva street, 12 th cross road, 17 th cross r Vellore City Municipal Corporation.	1009.00	10,09,000/-	12 Months		
	2	Pre-Bid Conference	020 at 11.00 an	n			
Ш	3	Date of Tender	07.07.2020 Tuesday 3	3.00 pm	•		
- [4	Date, Time and Venue of opening	07.07.2020 Tuesday 3	3.30 pm at Vello	ore Corporation	Office	

DIPR/1954/Tender/2020

Telangana, anticipating case spike, plans 30k beds

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD MAY 27

TELANGANA GOVERNMENT. facing criticism from the high court for underwhelming Covid testing numbers, is readying up to 30,000 beds in a phased manner anticipating a spike.

The state government has identified 12 government hospitals, 23 private hospitals, and 21 private medical colleges, apart from converting a sports village into Covid-19 hospital. The 12 government hospitals have a combined capacity of 4,777 isolation beds, including 325 ICU beds and 275 ICU beds with ventilators. The medical colleges can provide up to 15,500 beds, including 1.100 ICU beds and 200 ventilators.

As the majority of Covid-19 cases since May 8 are from Hyderabad and surrounding areas, the government is focusing on scaling up treatment facilities in and around Hyderabad, Till May 26, there were 1,991 corona positive cases in the state, of which 650 are under treatment and 57 died. Health Department officials said that 24 of the 31 districts are free of

Date: 26.05.202

In Hyderabad, working on a

war-footing, the Telangana State Medical Services Infrastructure Development Corporation converted a 14-storey building near Gachibowli stadium into a 1,500-bed Covid hospital, including 50 ICU beds with ventilators. The building was in disuse after hosting sportspersons participating in World Military Games in 2007. "We refurbished the building in 20 days. We outfitted each floor with beds, furnishings, bathrooms, oxygen supply lines, water supply and plumbing, and medical facilities.

The government later intends to expand this facility into Telangana Institute of Medical Science and Research on the lines of AIIMS. "This new facility has been kept ready in case existing facilities are overwhelmed." Telangana Health Minister Etela Rajender said.

Facilities for 400 doctors and

1,000 staff have also been set up,"

a TSMSIDC official said.

The government has also directed 23 private super-specialty hospitals in Hyderabad to keep isolation wards ready but barred them from conducting tests. Officials said that about 5.000 beds would be made available by these private hospitals.

Do more tests instead of celebrating fewer cases, HC tells Telangana govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD, MAY 27

THE TELANGANA High Court Tuesday set aside a government circular issued on April 24 directing not to test bodies and said bodies of all those who die should be tested before being released for funerals as a precautionary measure. It directed the state government to provide data on Covid-19 tests, including the number of migrants who have returned to the state and those who tested positive. It also sought clarification on the government's de-

cision to classify affected areas as green zones. A bench of Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice N Vijaysen Reddy was hearing five PILs filed by activists. "Rather than congratulating ourselves for having fewer coronavirus cases, the state should take up more tests. Ignoring the presence of coronavirus by not testing in large numbers is almost like inviting the Trojan horse," Justice Chauhan noted.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on June 4.

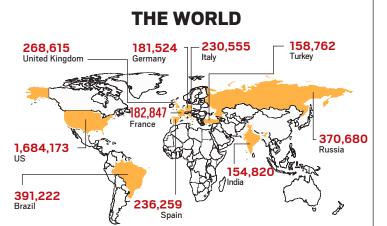
New Delhi

Other Details can be obtained from the tender notice published in

website https://tntenders.gov.in or from Vellore Corporation Office

Engineering section during working hours on all working days.

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 5,626,047

DEATH COUNT: 351,815

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on May 27. **JHU's India tally and Health** Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.

In review, what Covid-19 does to central nervous system

AS A respiratory disease, Covid-19 primarily attacks the lungs, but other effects too have been emerging, including in the abdomen, the skin and the brain. A new study has reviewed the existing evidence about the last: the virus's impact on the central nervous system. Researchers from the University of Cincinnati and three Italian institutions have reviewed

neuroimaging and neurological symptoms in patients with Covid-19 and published their findings in the journal Radiology.

Altered mental status and stroke have been found to be the most common neurological symptoms in Covid-19 patients. The authors say this could help physicians notice red flags earlier.

"Studies have described the spectrum of chest imaging features of COVID-19, but only a few case reports have described COVID-19 associated neuroimaging findings," lead author Abdelkader Mahammedi, assistant professor of radiology at the University of Cincinnati, said in a statement. "To date, this is the largest and first study in literature that characterizes the neurological symptoms and neuroimaging features in COVID-

19 patients. These newly discovered patterns could help doctors better and sooner recognize associations with COVID-19 and possibly provide earlier interventions."

Researchers investigated neurological symptoms and imaging findings in patients from three major institutions in Italy: University of Brescia; University of Eastern

Piedmont (Novara); and University of Sassari. The study included images from 725 hospitalised patients with confirmed Covid-19 infection between February 29 and April 4. Of these, 108 (15%) had serious neurological symptoms and underwent brain or spine imaging. Most patients (99%) had

brain CT scans, while 16% had head and neck CT imaging and 18% had brain MRI.

Investigators found that 59% of patients reported an altered mental state and 31% experienced stroke, which were the most common neurological symptoms. Patients also experienced headache (12%), seizure (9%) and dizziness (4%), among other symptoms. Altered mental status was more common in older adults.

Source: University of Cincinnati

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Why this summer is unusual

The last several days have brought heatwaves in parts of the country, but the preceding weeks had seen no such conditions. A look at how this breaks trends, cyclone Amphan's role, and what is expected to follow

ANJALI MARAR PUNE, MAY 27

What is a heatwave and when is it declared?

Heatwaves occur over India between March and June. Meteorologists attempt to declare a heatwave event when the maximum day temperature for a location in the plains crosses 40°C. Over the hills, the threshold temperature is 30°C. When the day temperature jumps by 4 to 5 degrees above the normal maximum temperature of a location, it is declared a heatwave. For example, if the normal maximum temperature for a location in the plains on a given day should be 40°C but is recorded at 45°C, then that location is experiencing a heatwave. Alternatively, when any location where the maximum temperature crosses 45°C or shows a departure of over 6°C from normal, it is a severe heatwave condition.

What is different this summer, and why?

The summer season reaches its peak by May 15 in India, when the day temperatures across north, west and central India cross 40°C and, from then on, hover close to 45°C. This year, north India did not experience such temperatures until May 21. It is only over the last six days that parts of Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been experiencing heatwave conditions.

The absence of heatwave conditions until then was mainly because of the continued influence of western disturbances in the north until as late as April. Originating in the Mediterranean Sea, western disturbances are eastward-moving winds that blow in lower atmospheric levels. They affect the local weather of a region during its onward journey. When western disturbances interact with weather systems heading from the two southern seas — warm winds blowing in from the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea - they cause snowfall or rainfall over the Indian north. Western disturbances influence the weather significantly during December to February.

Since last winter, western disturbances have been very frequent in the north, appearing after every five to seven days. Between January and March this year, about 20 western disturbances have passed by. This year, the influence persisted until early May. The recent western disturbances got support from easterly winds blowing over from the Bay of Bengal. It resulted in rainfall and thunderstorms over parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, north Madhya Pradesh and Delhi un-



Over 48°C in New Delhi on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

til mid-May, keeping atmospheric conditions cooler than what is usual by summer standards. As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the all-India average temperature has remained below normal for most months in 2020 so far — January (-0.6°C from normal), February (+ 0.2°C), March (-0.8°C) and April (-0.1 $^{\circ}$ C). A similar trend is expected over the month of May.

How long is the present heatwave spell expected to last?

As per the IMD's latest weather forecast, the intensity of heat will begin to subside from Thursday. A fast approaching western disturbance, which is currently lying over northeast Afghanistan, is forecast to cause thunderstorms and rainfall over north India between May 28 and May 30. The heat load will reduce substantially from May 29 onwards. Favourable wind conditions would also help in reduction of the prevailing heatwave conditions over central India from May 29.

In general, how long can a heatwave spell last?

It generally lasts for a minimum of four days. On some occasions, it can extend up to seven or ten days. The longest recorded heatwave spell in recent years was during May 18-31, 2015. This spell severely affected parts of West Bengal along with Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. A similar spell was reported during June 2-11, 2014. The current heatwave spell began on May 22 and is expected to continue until May 29. Heatwave conditions occurring in May have been observed to last longer, as the season reaches its peak this month, compared to those in June, which often die down sooner due to the onset of the southwest monsoon over the location or in its neighbourhood.

Do heatwave conditions happen in all parts of India?

No. Heatwaves are common over the Core Heatwave Zone (CHZ) — Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, parts of Gangetic West Bengal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as categorised by the IMD. Several recent studies indicate that the CHZ experiences more than six heatwave days per year during the summer months. Many places in the northwest and cities along the southeastern coast report eight heatwave days per season. However, the regions in the extreme north, the Northeast and southwestern India are less prone to heatwaves.

Has Cyclone Amphan influenced the current heatwave?

Since the event of severe heat has emerged immediately after the passing of Cyclone Amphan, experts have concluded that it has had a role in the circumstances leading to the present heatwave spell. Cyclone Amphan, which was a massive super storm covering 700 km, managed to drag a large amount of moisture from over the Bay of Bengal, the entire South Peninsula, parts of Central India and to some extent even from the Arabian Sea. All the moisture that was built up during the thunderstorm and rainfall got gradually depleted from over vast areas as the storm advanced towards West Bengal and Bangladesh between May 16 and May 20. It has now triggered dry northwesterly winds to blow over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, causing severe heatwaves.

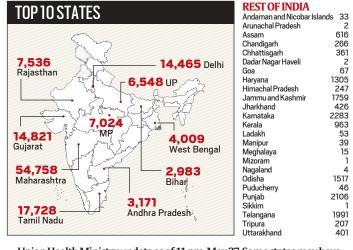
What is the status of the southwest monsoon?

Although Cyclone Amphan aided in early advancement of the southwest monsoon over the Andaman Sea, it caused a stagnation of further advancement by at least a week. That is why the IMD has said that the monsoon onset over Kerala would be delayed this year.

On Wednesday, the southwest monsoon made some advancement into more parts of south Bay of Bengal, having covered most parts of the Andaman Sea, and Andaman and Nicobar islands. The Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) passed through Post Blair. Enhanced cloud cover, strengthening of southwesterly winds and other favourable conditions are building up, enabling the further progress of the monsoon over south and central Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours. The monsoon is likely to hit Kerala on June 5.

INDIA COUNT: 151,767 (4,337 DEATHS)

NEW RESEARCH



Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, May 27. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. 64,426 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 making Aarogya Setu open-source means

AASHISH ARYAN NEW DELHI, MAY 27

ON TUESDAY, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced that it has released the source code of Aarogya Setu app to promote transparency and collaboration with the software developer community. The IT Ministry's move came in the wake of demands from cyber law experts and critics who had said the app was too closed in nature and without adequate data protection measures.

What does an open-source software

Software can be divided into two broad categories, proprietary and open source.

Any software that has to be bought or licensed from the creator of the software is called a proprietary or closed-source software. Examples include Microsoft Windows, Google Earth and Adobe Photoshop. The intellectual property rights of the software, even if bought or licensed, remains with the

Open-source software requires no licensing and need not be bought. Its source code is open for everyone to download, examine, redistribute, and improve upon if they can, with an acknowledgment to the original software coder or the company. Examples of such software are WordPress, VLC Media Player, and the Mozilla browser.

Why has the source code of Aarogya Setu been made public?

When launching the app on April 2, the IT ministry had explicitly mentioned in the terms of use that no one was allowed to reverse-engineer the app or alter with the coding of the app. This led to critics questioning whether the app could be used for surveillance and go beyond its mandate of contact tracing. Cyber law experts and the software developer community called upon the government to allow reverse engineering and also publish the source code of the app so that it could be seen by anyone. While releasing the source

code on Tuesday, the government said it was doing so to promote transparency and ensure security and integrity of the app. The source code, the government said, was released in line with its "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software Government of India".

Does that address security and privacy

It is too early to tell, say experts. Now that the source code has been released, software developers from around the world will be able to go through the code and point out

vulnerabilities or fix loopholes, if any, by writing fresh codes and suggesting these to the government, Udbhav Tiwari, Public Policy Advisor at Mozilla said.

Besides, the government has not yet released the server-side code of the app. Kazim Rizvi, founder of policy think-tank The Dialogue, said the server-side code must be released to further assuage privacy and security concerns.

What purpose will open-sourcing the server-side code serve?

Any applications or functionalities on mobile phones and other handheld devices need Internet connectivity to run. Sending and processing of such data is done on the server. By having access to the server-side data, individuals can check whether the data provided to the app is flowing directly to the dedicated servers or not. If not, either the discrepancy can be reported or clarifications can be sought from the government.

Why do some Covid-19 patients lose their sense of smell?

KABIR FIRAQUE NEW DELHI, MAY 27

LOSS OF the sense of smell (and taste), one of the more recently identified symptoms of Covid-19, is now recognised as such by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the health authorities of some countries, including the US. A new study in mice has sought to explore why this symptom appears in some Covid-19 patients. They have reported their findings in the American Chemical Society's journal ACS Chemical Neuroscience.

Tracking the proteins

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, hijacks two human proteins to invade cells. One is the ACE2 "receptor" on the cell surface (it opens the door for the virus) while the other is called TMPRSS2, which the virus uses to replicate its genetic material.

In mice, the researchers found, these two proteins are produced by certain cells of the nasal cavity that contribute to the mice's

sense of smell (and ours). Within the olfactory epithelium, which is a tissue lining the nasal cavity that is involved in smell, the "sustentacular cells" had the highest level of SARS-CoV-2 receptors, researcher Rafal Butowt of Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland, told The Indian Express by email. The sustentacular cells help transfer

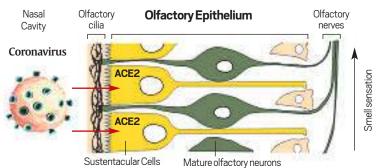
odours from the air to neurons. Butowt and colleagues first used various methods to measure the levels of expres-

sion of the two proteins. They found that the mature olfactory neurons do not express ACE2, while the sustentacular cells do.

"The sense of smell in Covid-19 patients appears to be lost, because the sustentacular cells assist neurons in sensing odours, probably by processing odour-binding proteins," Butowt said.

Identifying these cells could help in the development of more accurate diagnostic tests, the researchers said. They have called for future studies should examine whether sustentacular cells can pass the virus to neurons, which could provide SARS-CoV-2 a route to infect the brain.

THE VIRUS, THE PROTEIN, AND THE MECHANISM OF SMELL



The novel coronavirus uses ACE2 receptors to enter sustentacular cells in the olfactory epithelium. The mature olfactory neurons do not express ACE2. Source: Butowt et al, ACS Chemical Neuroscience

Age is a factor

The researchers also found that larger amounts of the proteins are made in older

mice than in younger ones. "These are significant findings, because the more entry proteins a host cell has, the easier it is for the virus to bind, enter and infect that cell. The high levels of entry proteins in the nasal epithelium may explain why older humans are more likely to become infected with the novel coronavirus than younger humans," Butowt said.

The question is whether what was observed in mice happens in humans too. "It is known that the entry proteins have similar expression patterns among mammalian species - meaning that the mouse appears to be suitable model for the human condition," Butowt said.

Why the nose matters

Earlier research (The Indian Express, April 29) had identified two kinds of cells in the nose as the likely first entry points for the virus. These are goblet cells (which produce mucus) and ciliated cells (which help sweep mucus to the throat so it can be swallowed).

That study, too, had drawn its conclusions from the expression of the two entry proteins. Using the Human Cell Atlas database, it looked at data from different tissues of noninfected people. It found that these two proteins had the highest presence in goblet and ciliated cells.

There is a key difference in what the two studies looked at. The previous study, by researchers of UK's Wellcome Sangner Institute, looked at all human cells and identified goblet and ciliated cells as the likely first points of entry. These occur in the respiratory epithelium, while the new study looked specifically at the olfactory epithelium.

Asked if the findings are in conflict, Butowt said all studies depend on the method used. "However what is sure is that sustentacular cells in the olfactory epithelium have highest level of SARS-CoV-2 receptors as compared to other cells in olfactory epithelium, and ciliary and goblet cells I may say the same as compared to other cells in the respiratory epithelium. But direct comparison between respiratory and olfactory epithelium requires further studies with more techniques," Butowt said.

.. There are few studies now, and some require further examinations to resolve inconsistencies between the results. That is how real science works I think."

lease visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tantransco.gov.in, ww.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app,

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि. ta men a men) ज कार्राक्य : बीटा तट मोमती वैदान, मोमती जमर, अवस्ता-220s to 652-230865, ई-सिंग .upgclho@gmail.com, Websits : upgrejects or

पत्राकः ३०९/पी०सी०एल०/कृष्य कार्पालय/ई--टेण्डर विनांक: 27.05.2020 ई-निविदा सूचना

जनमद गाजियाबाद रिवत ग्राम कलकीना के जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय में 0.50 यूनिट बालक ऑरमेट्री तथा 2 नग वार्तन निवास निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना स० 04/GM(T&C)/UPPCL/2020-21 दिनांक 27.05,2020 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा http://etender.up.nic.in की येवसाइट पर दिनांक 28.05.2020 से दिनाक 15.06.2020 के पूर्वान्ह 11:00 वर्ज तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से राष्ट्रनिवत अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्टे कारपोरेशन की वेबलाहर www.upprojects.org पर दिनांक 28.05.2020 से देखी जा सकती है। महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी एवं परिवाद)



जनपद गीतमबुद्ध नगर रिवत तहसील दादरी के जवाहर नवोदद विद्यालय, धूप मानिकपुर में बालक एवं बालिका डॉरमेटी , वार्डन तथा प्रधानाचार्य निवास के निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं० 05/GM(T&C)/UPPCL/2020-21 विनोक 27.05.2020 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उस्त निविदा http://etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 28.05.2020 से दिनांक 15.06.2020 के पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य दिवरण, निवम एवं शर्ते कारपोरेशन की वेबसाहट www.upprojects.org पर विनांक 28.05.2020 से वेकी जा सकती है। महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी एवं परिवाद)

UJVN LTD. (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
.0. "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com **Tender Notice**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders for following work. Tender No: CH(Maint.)- 05/2020-21 Annual Maintenance contract fo

he works of transport & Central Store, Chibro Power Station **Estimated cost** : ₹12.61.375/-GST extra Earnest money deposit ₹ 37.900/-Tender Fee : ₹1180/-Last date of availability of bid on website: 17.06.2020 up to 12:00 hrs. Last date for submission of tender : 17.06.2020 up to 14:00 hrs. Date of opening of tender 19.06.2020 at 12:00 hrs.

For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" पत्र स. 337, दिनांकः 27.05.2020 (Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY" NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through E-Tendering)					
Name of work with its location Hiring of 3 Nos. Truck for period of 3 years for SSE/Sig/DG, The HNZM of Delhi Division.					
Approximate	Cost of Work (in ₹)	₹57,5	50,754.00 only		
Tender Inviting Officer Address		Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055			
Tender docu	ment fee (in ₹)	₹5,900.00 only			
Earnest Mon	ey to be deposited (in	n ₹)	₹1,15,000.00 on l y		
Date & Time for Closed of tender			er uploaded date & time 17.06.2020 15:00 hrs.		
Website Particular & notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.		See the N.Rly. website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice Board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055			

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd

1186/20

Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/1342 Dated 26.05.2020

Bonn transport infractional Bevelopment Corporation Eta.							
An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi.							
	<u>ISBT Sarai r</u>	vale	e Khan Delhi-110013				
	NOTICE	IN	VITING TENDER				
The Exe	ecutive Engineer, DTIDC invite to	ender	s on behalf of MD, DTIDC Ltd for the following works				
through	e procurement solution only.						
1. NIT	Γ No.	:	01/DTIDC/2020-21				
	nder ID No.	:	2020_DTIDC_190990_1				
Na	me of work	:	Maintenance of HQ Building at 5/9, Under Hill Road.				
SH		:	Annual Operation Contract of 320 KVA capacity D.G.				
l			Set				
	timated Cost	:	Rs. 7,16,106/-				
	rnest Money	:	Rs. 14,322/-				
	ne Allowed	:	12 Months				
	st date of receipt of Tenders	:	08/06/2020				
	Γ No.	:	02/DTIDC/2020-21				
	nder ID No.	:	2020_DTIDC_190997_1				
Na:	me of work	:	Maintenance of Zonal Offices Under Transport				
l sh	1		Department Repairing, maintenance & Servicing of existing Air				
ОП	I		conditioners and water Coolers in zonal offices at				
l			Surajmal Vihar, Mayur VIhar, Loni Road, Rohini, Raja				
l			Garden, Mall Road, Wazirpur, Vasant Vihar, IDTR, IP				
l			Depot, Sarai Kale Kha, Janakpuri, Dwarka, Jhuljhuli				
l			& ARU/VIU/Impounding unit Burari				
l Est	timated Cost		Rs. 18,21,399/-				
	rnest Money		Rs. 36.428/-				

Sd/-**Executive Enginee** Dip/Shabdarth/0052/20-21 DTIDC Ltd ISBT Sarai Kale Khan Delhi

Time Allowed

Last date of receipt of Tenders
Tender forms and other

Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd.

06 Months

05/06/2020

(CIN U45203MH2002SGC136979) 8th Floor, World Trade Centre -1, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400005

Tel No.: 022-49212121, Fax No. 022-22163814 Email - vcmd@madcindia.org

TENDER NOTICE

MADC invites tenders for following works

Request for Proposal for Setting Up of Flying Training Institute at Dhule and Karad Airports.

Consultancy Service for Setting up Air Cargo Facility at Shirdi International Airport, Shirdi Dist: Ahmednagar.

Providing Comprehensive Maintenance & Operational Support for entire CCTV, FIDS & PA Installation at Shirdi International Airport, Shirdi Dist: Ahmednagar.

Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Pneumatic Tubeless Tyres for Crash Fire Tender at Shirdi International Airport, Shirdi.

The tender documents and other details can be downloaded from e-tender portal https://mahatenders.gov.in from 1300 Hrs onwards on 28/05/2020. Further clarifications/ corrigendum in

this regard, if any will be put only one-tender portal. Vice Chairman and Managing Director



Sealed Tenders are invited by The Managing Director & Commissioner, Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation from the Registered Contractors E- submission is also permitted for the following works upto 3.00 PM on 30.06.2020. The Tenders will be opened by the Corporation Commissioner (or) his authorized official in the Corporation Office on the same day at 3.30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may down load the Tender documents through https://tntenders.gov.in by using E.Token / Digital Signature Cards on or before 29.06.2020 up to 3.00 P.M. Any other information's may be obtained from the Corporation Executive Engineer, Thanjavur at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director & Corporation Commissioner has every right to cancel/ postpone the Tender in view of Administrative reasons.

SI. No.	Name of the Work	Cost (Rs.in Crore)	Earnest Money (Rs.in Lakhs)	tractor Class
1.	Development of Internal Roads Phase I, Package I	12.93	12.93	
2.	Development of Internal Roads Phase I, Package II	12.85	12.85	Ι
3.	Development of Internal Roads Phase I, Package III	12.85	12.85	_
			Managing Dire	ctor,

DIPR/1955/Tender/2020 Thanjavur Smart City Ltd.

website: www.kotamc.org, email:nnkota@gmail.com, Tel Pho: 0744-2502293 दिनांक 27.5.2020 ननिको/निर्माण/2020/1465-72 संशोधित निविदा सूचना-5

कार्यालय नगर निगम (उत्तर/दक्षिण), कोटा (राज.)

नगर निगम कोटा द्वारा संशोधित निविदा सूचना क्रमांक निनको/ निर्माण/ 2020/6586-94 दिनांव 31.03.2020 से पूर्व में जारी की गई ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 50/2019–20 दिनांव 11.03.2020 की तारीखों में COVID-19 के कारण निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में तिथि	संशोधित तारीख						
1	निविदा डाउनलोड व अपलोड करने की तिथि (वेबसाईट से)	11.03.20 से 02.06.20 (दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक)	11.03.20 से 08.06.20 (सांय 06.00 बजे तक)						
2	डी.डी. एवं दस्तावेज जमा करने की तिथि	11.03.20 से 02.06.20 (दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक)	11.03.20 से 08.06.20 (दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक)						
3	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	02.06.20 को सांय 6.00 बजे	09.06.20 को सायं 4.00 बजे						
_									

शेष शर्ते यथावत रहेंगी।

BSE

Sealed tende

NIT No.

CMC/BR/20-21

सार्वजनिक सूचना जनसाधारण को सूचित किया

जाता है कि ग्राम पंचायत खूँटपुरी खण्ड सोहना जिला गुरूग्राम की 54 एकड पंचायत भॅमि को दिनांक 12.06.2020 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे ग्राम सचिवालय, खूँटपुरी पर मिट्टी उठवाने हेतु पट्टे पर छोड़ा जाएगा। इच्छुक व्यक्ति नीलामी में हिस्सा ले सकते है। नियम व शर्ते मौके पर बता दिये जाएगे। सरपंच

खूँटपुरी पुरूग्राम)

17/06/2020

17/06/2020

Distl:Mandi (HP)-175019 Tel, Fax 01907-262596

	प्राधिव नगर निगम, कोत	कारी एवं आयु टा (उत्तर∕दक्षिण			ायत खूटपु ना (गुरूग्राग
Ξ	S	BSES R	ajdhani P	ower Limited,	New Delhi
	TENDER NO	TICE		Date: 2	28.05.2020
ers	under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for	or fo ll owing job	from all bid	ders	
	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening

2,05,05,778/- 4,10,116/-

(BACK UP PLAN OF 220KV BUDELLA GRID) Cost of each Tender Document except for Insurance: ₹1180/-

Stay Home -- Stay Safe

PROVIDING TWO NOS 66 KV CIRCUITS FROM

220 KV PPK-3 TO BUDELLA-2 AND PASCHIM VIHAI

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission ments etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials

on No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527 Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 I Corporate
Telephone No.: +91 11 3999 7235 I E-mail: brpl.eauction@relianceada.com I Web

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Govt, Undertaking) NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-tendering Mode only)

Online bids in two part bidding system are hereby invited on behalf of HPSEB Ltd., by the Superintending Engineer (Designs), Power House Electrical, H.P.S.E.B. Ltd., Sunder Nagar, Distl. Mandi (H.P.) - 175109 for Supply and Installation Services of "Mobile Centrifuge Type Lubrication Oil Purifying Plant" (1300 LPHs for (4x 16.5 MW) Bassi Power House, HPSEBL, Jogindemagar, District Mandi (H.P.) and (2x11.25 MW) Ghanvi-Power House, Jeori, Distt. Shimla (HP) from manufacturers or authorized supplier of OEM who regularly manufacture/provide the equipment of the type specified and have adequate technical knowledge and experience in respect of all items covered under Scope of Supply and Services in Bid Specification No. BID SPECIFICATION NO. HPSEBL, PHE/Bassi & Gharwi Oi Purifying Plant 2020-1 as partitle following:

of con toxino indirect, included the	vicet united tantacec respective cooling.
Request of online bid documents:	From 01/06/2020(10:00 Hrs.) to 20/06/2020(12:30 Hrs).
 Issue of online tender documents (bid sheets): 	From 01/06/2020(10:00 Hrs.) to 20/06/2020(12:30 Hrs.).
Date of pre-bid meeting :	24/06/2020 (11.00 Hrs.)
 Last date of submission of online bid : 	Up to 30/06/2020 (11:00 Hrs.)
 Date of opening of Techno-commercial bid (Part-I): 	30/06/2020 (15:00 Hrs.)
Cost of Bid Specification Document : (Non-refundable including GST @18%):	Rs. 5000 +18%GST) = Rs. 5900/-
	The Country of the Co

 Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 1,76,000/ detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from website https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB and tender document can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/amendment shall be uploaded on the above web site. For other details on e-tendering, please

contact on Mobile Nos.:- 82619 22200, 82610-33300 and 96250 33300. Superintending Engineer (Designs) Email: smallhydel@rediffmall.com, sedphel@gmall.com Power House Electrical, HP5EB Ltd., SUNDERNAGAR



NOTICE INVITING TENDERS E-NIT S. No. 07/PHEP of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Turn Key Basis are invited on Turn Key basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Two Years from reputed and resourceful contractors /Firms/companies/joint venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement worth portal http://jktenders.gov.in for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal http://jktenders.gov.in. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama. Estimated Cost of Earnest Time of Tender Class of

No.		Cost	Tender Document	Money Deposit	Completion	Call	Opening Authority	Contract
1	Design, construction, testing and successful commissioning of 0.70 lac gallons capacity RCC Over Head Tank (shell type) in single compartment with 21 mtrs staging height including providing, laying and fixing of supply main, rising main, washout connecting with supply system with 12mm thick flanged joints cost of nuts, bolts, washers, M/S lid with frame and cover including construction of hand railing around the stair, sluice valves, covels, heavy duty of VAGE make or Kirloskar make, boulder filling inside the tank upto ground level. Levelling of ground including disposal of excavated material from premises upto 5 Kms lead. Angle iron door with frame including construction of sulice chamber with M/S Lid and ladder and construction of pump operator quarter including laying & fitting of pipes for mains, sub-mains, distribution system including carriage all leads, lifts complete including construction of electrical and mechanical works as required including that un for six months and maintenance period of three years after completion of project. The advertised cost includes the maintenance cost of the scheme for three years. Adopt bearing capacity of soil 7.80M. Ton /Sqm (report enclosed,) Architectural aesthetics shall be kept in consideration to make the structures appealing for WSS Khillen Gundi Mussa under Languishing Programme JKIDFC Ltd) LUP 2405	₹ 116.64 lacs	₹ 5000/. (Favoring Executive Ergineer PHE Division, Pulwama under MH 0215)	₹ 233280/- (Pledged to the Executive Engineer PHE Division, Pulwarna)	10 Months	1st	Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama	"A" Class- Reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute of PWD or Equivalent in CPWID/Pataways and other State Government

	Programme JKIDFC Ltd) LUP 2405							QΦ
1	sition of Funds: Available; Major Head The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, spec ails can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Por		s, bill of quanti				ns of contrac	ct and othe
01	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	27.0	5.2020	from 1	000 Hours			
02	Download start date	27.0	5.2020	from 1	000 Hours			
03	Date of Pre-bid meeting		e Office of t 6.2020 at 103		ive Engineer	, PHE C	ivision, Pu	lwama or
04	Last date of submission bid Queries	0.80	5.2020	upto 1	400 Hours			
05	Bid submission start date	27.0	5.2020	from 1	000 Hours			
06	Bid Submission end date	22.0	6.2020	upto 10	600 Hours			
07	Date & time of opening Bids (Technical Cover)	23.0	6.2020	at 1000	Hours)			

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kasl Sd/-Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti Department) PHE Division, Pulwar OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI **ENGINEERING SECTION KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, PIN – 834001**

NOTICE INVITING F-TENDER

e-mail:-support@ranchimunicipal.com Tender Notice:- 24(S&D)/Eng Dated: - 26-05-2020

	NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER							
1.	Name of Work	Balance Work for partially completed work "Development of Sewerage Collection system for Zone-01, Construction, Erection, testing and commissioning of Sewerage treatment Plant based on modern technology						
		at Lame Basti. Construction, Erection, testing and commissioning of						
		Sewerage Pumping Station at Kanke Road reservoir providing lowering laying, jointing and testing raising main DI pipe laying for Ranchi City'.						
2.	Estimated cost	Rs 209.05 Crore						
3.	Earnest Money	Rs. 2.10 Crore in the form of demand draft/Fixed Deposit/bank guarantee						
٥.	Earnest Money	issued by a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in India having a branch in						
		Ranchi, in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Ranchi Municipal						
		Corporation, Payable at Ranchi ("Bid Security")						
4.	Tender Cost	Rs. 25000 (twenty five thousand only) by way of non-refundable demand						
		draft issued by a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in India having a branch in						
		Ranchi in favour of "Municipal commissioner, Ranchi Municipal						
		Corporation, Payable at Ranchi.						
	Security Deposit (5%)	Rs 10.46 Crore						
5.	Work Completion Time	24 Months						
6.	Date of Publication of Bid on Website	04.06.2020						
7.	Bid Document download start date	04.06.2020						
8.	Receiving of Queries	12.06.2020 upto5:00 PM						
9.	Pre-Bid Meeting	19.06.2020 at 3:00 PM (IST)						
10.	Uploading of Response	27.06.2020						
11.	Last Date of Submission of Technical &	By 08.07.2020						
	Financial Bid	TIV 00 0F 2020 II . 4 00 DV						
12.	Submission of Hard Copy of EMD/Tender	Till 09.07.2020 Upto4:00 PM						
1.0	Fee etc.	10.07.2020 + 2.00 PM						
13.	Opening of Technical Bid	10.07.2020 at 3:00 PM						
14.	Publication of Technically Qualified	Shall be Communicated Later						

Interested bidders should acquaint themselves by visiting the work site of partially completed work so that they can take the cost components of any rectification required for continuation of further work. It should also be inclusive of replacement of damaged work if any.

16. Name & address of Office inviting tender Municipal Commissioner, Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi-834001

Opening of Financial Bid

Shall be Communicated Later

As preparation and submission of design and drawing is in the scope of agency and its approval is required from the project management consultant, agency will have to coordinate with the consultant for the approval of the same. Bidders can find the pending drawing status from RMC.

Interested bidders are advised to go through the Tender document for information pertaining to Eligibility Criteria and Project related information. The estimated cost as mentioned above is exclusive of operation and maintenance

Detailed tender notice with terms and conditions is available on the notice board of

RMC as per above key dates. Interested Bidder shall submit the Proposal electronically through the website www/jharkhandtender.gov.in other important/relevant documents, bank draft, Fixed Deposit, bank guarantee etc. should be scanned and enclosed with the e-tender as per the guidelines given in the Tender document.

RMC reserves the right to cancel or modify the bidding process without assigning

any reasons and any liability.
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in Sd-Chief Engineer PR 228680(Ranchi Municipal Corporation)20-21*D Ranchi Municipal Corporation



आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (INDIA) LIMITED. (पूर्व में इंडियन रेअर अर्थ्स लिमिट्ड Formerly known as Indian Rare Earths Ltd.) उद्योगमंडल Udyogamandal, कोची Kochi - 683 501 CIN:U15100MH1950G0I008187

CIN:013100Wif1930601008187 5, ISO 14001:2015 & OHSAS 18001:2007 Certified Company) les: +91 484 2545062 - 65 Fax: +91 484 2545269 Tender Notice

"IREL RED invites e-tenders for the following item/job description using e-procurement portal of M/s MSTC Limited

ITEM	SUPPLY OF MCC/PCC Panels	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 60 KWP SOLAR POWER PLANT
Tender (Public) No.	IREL/ Udyogamandal/ 20-21/ ET/7	IREL/ Udyogamandal/ 20-21/ ET/8
ansaction Fee to MSTC	₹ 1,950/- (Exclusive of GST)	₹ 2,250 /- (Exclusive of GST)
OC to IREL	₹560/- (inclusive of taxes)	₹ 560/- (inclusive of taxes)
MD to IREL	₹ 39,000/-	₹ 45,000/-
nder starting date & time	28/05/2020 - 15.00 hrs	28/05/2020 - 15.00 hrs
nder closing date & time	22/06/2020 - 17.00 hrs	22/06/2020 - 17.00 hrs
nder opening start date & time	23/06/2020 - 10.00 hrs	23/06/2020 - 10.00 hrs
inimum validity of tender	9	0

विवरण के लिए वेबसाइट देखे For details, visit websites http://www.mstcecommerce com/eprochome/irel, https://eprocure.gov.in, http://irel.co.in. परिशिष्ट / शुद्धि केवल वेबसाइटों में होस्ट की जाएगी. Addendum/Corrigendum shall be hosted in the websites स्पष्टीकरण के लिए For clarification contact 0484 2545199, purchase-red@irel

महाप्रबंधक एवं प्रधान (आरईडी) G.M & HEAD (RED)



RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (E-TENDER) Dy, Chief Plant Engineer-It, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala on behalf of President o ndia Invites E-Tenders against [1] Tender No. RCF-EL-MTC-33A-ET-19-20. Closing Date/Time 23.05.2020 at 15:30 hrs. & (2) Tender No. RCF-EL-MTC-34-ET-19-20 Dissing Date/Time 24.05.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Tenderer will be able to submit their moinal/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allower against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractor are allowed to make payments against this tender towards lender document cost and arriest money only through payment modes available ON IREPS portal LIKE no banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque. Depositreceipts, FOR etc. are not allowed

Tender No. : (1) RCF-EL-WTC-33A-ET-19-20 (2) RCF-EL-WTC-34-ET-19-20 Name of Work : (1) Replacement of old, defective ACB of Sub-stations in Workshop Area RCF KXH, (2) Shifting of pole mounted In. Box of periphery poles toward outside of periphery and replacement of defective cable in Workshop Area RCF KXH App: Cost : (1) Rs. 464566: (Four Lakh, Sixty Four Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty Six only), (2) Rs. 6171341-(Six Lakh: Seventeen Thousand, One Hundred Thirty Four only) Earnest Money : (1) Rs. 9300 - (2) Rs. 12350 - Tender Cost : (1) Rs. 1180.00 (2) Rs 2360.00 Completion Period of work: (1) 45 days (2) 90 days Availability of Tender Documents for view and download: (1) From 26.05.2020 to 23.06.2020 at 15.30 hrs. (2) From 28.05.2020 to 24.06.2020 at 16.30 hrs.) on website www.ireps.gov.in. Tender Closing Date & Time: [1] 23.06.2020 at 15.30 hrs. (2) 24.06.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Tender Opening Date & Time: (1) 23:06-2000 at 15:35 frs. (2) 24:06-2000 at 15:35 frs. Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in Eligibility Criteria : Technical Eligibility Criteria : enderer(s) have to submit a copy of valid Electrical Contractor License for carrying out installation work of voltage class involved, issued by any State/Central Governmen along with the lender documents, failing which the offers is liable to be rejected NOTE: 1) For Submission of Electronic Otters, Bidders will have to get themselve registered one time on IREPS Website, on line without any payment. 2) Bidders are required to obtain class II digital signature certificate with C name from certifying authorities, as per list available on website www.cca.gov.in 3) Helpdosk details Phone: 011-241045 Dy. Chief Plant Engineer-I

Notice No. G-122-01/Plant/16/2020-21



S. No:- NNK/2020/GARAGE/360-373 Date: 27.05.2020 **CORRIGENDUM-VI**

E-tender Notice No. 41/2019-20 and e-tender corrigendum nnk/Garage/2020/292-395 was issued by Municipal Corporation Kota or 18.05.2020 on behalf of Kota Smart City Ltd. Revised E-Tender time Schedule are as follows which can be kindly seen for reference on www.sppp.raj.nic.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.kotamc.org.

ı	S. No.	Particular	Before	After
	1	Period of on line availability/ receiving of bidding Documents (Start/End Date)		28.02.2020 to 04.06.2020 (upto 6.00 PM)
	2	Submission of Original Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft for Bid Document cost, Bid Security, Bid Processing Fee & other documents listed herein after	(upto 2.00 PM)	05.06.2020 (upto 2.00 PM)
	3	Date & Time opening of tender Technical bid	29.05.2020 (4.00 PM)	05.06.2020 (4.00 PM)

The remaining conditions will remain the same

Sd/ Municipal Corporation, Kota

Dated 27.05.2020

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY **E-TENDER NOTICE**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SHIVNATH CIRCLE DURG (C.G.) e-Procurement Tender Notice

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

(1st Call)

SYSTEM TENDER No.64182/NIT No:01/SAC/2020-21. Chhuikhadan, Dated:22.05.2020 Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 12.06.2020 at 17.30 Hour

Name of Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF RUPTA AT R.D. 4140 M. R.D. 7680 M. AND R.D. 14350 M. OF MAIN CANAL OF MUTEDA DIVERSION SCHEME OF KHAIRAGARH BLOCK AND DISTRICT RAJNANDGAON..

Probable amount of Contract- Rs. 102.50 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 29/05/2020, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

Note:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-Executive Engineer Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan For, Superintending Engineer Shivnath Circle, Durg C.G.)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President o India, Chief Administrative Office Construction), North Western Railwa Jaipur invites e-tender under "SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM" from the agencies fulfilling the eligibility criteria for the following work - (1) E-Tender No.: UNIT3/T-4 (2) Name of the work with its location: provision of mud pumps with hut and dewatering in water logging prone LHS between Mavli to Badisadri in the jurisdiction of Dy/CE/C-III/UDZ in connection with MAVLI-BADISADR Gauge conversion project. (3) Approximate cost of work: ₹59,83,751.30/-(4) Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹1,19,700/- (5) Date of submission of e tenders: 12.06.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. (6) Details and particular of website where e-tender can be seen & filled up: www.ireps.gov.in (7) Office e mail address: dycec3udz@railnet.in 524-DK/2

Contact helpline no. 182 for railway security complaints

कार्यातय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जल निगम योजिक खण्ड, उ०प्रध्यक्ष निगम 220, शिविल लाइन्स-गेरत। कल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना पत्रांक : 371 (निविदा / 57 दिनाक: 22.05.2020

२०५० करा निगम की ओर से नासक निर्माण में अनुस्वी यहाँ से जनवं सहारतपुर में नेगर निगन सहारतपुर के निर्माणाजीन नलकुर्यो पर लालकुञ सहयान की 1.65 एमकएनक से 4.8 एमक्एमक साईक की 455 पन मीटर पी-पेविल की आपूर्वि हेतु ई-शिविदार ਗ਼ਮਤਿਨ ਹੀ। ਕਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਸ਼ਾਦ ਨਿਊਟਾਸ਼ੀ ਕ Perio 10.06.2020 oil activity अभियन्ता, यान्यिक सम्बं २०४० जर निगम भरत से सार्यात्मय ने निविदा समिति द्वारा अनेस्थित हेर्नादारों के सुमक्ष **पूर्वा**न 15:00 बच्चे खोली जायेगी। मिहिदानो ह 3090 জী E-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in दिनांक 29.05.2020 से 08.06.2020 लक प्रावनकोड किया वा शकता है। विविध परत्र का गूटा का 3000.00 (+18%) GST है। विविध जूबना से मन्तियतं जिवस्य जल सियम् की वैदलड jn.upsdc.gov.in पर एवं कार्यों व विपरण E-prosuremen website http://etender.up.nic.in

🝘 NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No.: Sr.DEE-TRD-BSB-2020-21-T03 Date 20-05-2020

Sr. Divisional Electrical Enginee ΓRD,/North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "OPEN" E-tender for the following work:-

SI. No.-01, Name of work: Tree trimming/Pruning of branches of Various types of trees dangerous to OHE line in electrified section CHPG (Incl.)-GKC (Excl.), SV-THE, CPR-ALY, GKC-VKNR, CPJ-THE-RPV & ARJ-JNU in Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway., Tender reference no. Sr.DEE-TRD-BSB-2020-21-T03 Approx. Cost (in Rs.): ₹ 25,39,161.18 Earnest Money: (Rs.): ₹ 50,800/-, Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.) ₹ 3,000/-, E-Tender closing date and time: 12-06-2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. Completion period: 03 Months.

• E-Tender Online will be submitted up to 15:00 Hrs. on date 12-06-2020 • For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian railway i.e. www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD CPRO/Vidyut-15 Varanasi

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

E-Tender is invited on Behalf of the

President of India for the under nentioned work :-S.N. 1.: e-Tender No.: ECR-CAO-C-S

ETEN-09-20-21 in Two Packet System Name of work : P.way linking supply and spreading of stone ballast, Supply of P.way materials and other P. way ancillary works between km. 38.287 to Km 64.500 including Biharsharif Asthawan and Barbigha-yards in connection with construction of New B.G. line between Biharsharif-Barbigha Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) 327802432.89 Cost of tender form in (Rs.): 10,000.00 Earnest Money in (Rs.): 1789000.00 Period of work completion: 12[Twelve] months. Date and time for closing of tender 18.06.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time wil not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website http://www.ireps gov.in Note: In case of any discripencies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps. gov.in atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum corrections etc in connection with this e-

CAO/Con/South E.C.Rly, MHX, Patna PR/0205/CON/ENGG/T/20-21/48



81004

MANIPUR STATE POWER COMPANY LIMITED

Keishampat Junction, Imphal - 795001 Corporate Office: Electricity Complex, Patta No. 1293 under 87(2), Khwal Bazar, Keishampat, Imphal - 795001, Manipur, India Fax: +91 385 2450702, Tele: +91 385 2450050

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Imphal, the 27th May, 2020

No. 4/84/New-Hydro)/ED(G&C)/MSPCL-2019/175-81: In continuation to this Office Notice Inviting Expression of Interest Nos. 4/84(New-Hydro)/ED(G&C)/MSPCL-2019/2517-23 dated 04.11.2019 and 4/84(New-Hydro)/ED(G&C)/MSPCL-2019/4/166-72 dated 31.01.2020, the Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Limited on behalf of the Governor of Manipur is pleased to revised the dates for submission and opening of both the Expression of Interest (EOI) for conducting Survey & Investigation (S&I) and Formulation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the recently identified 29 nos of hydroelectric projects in the State from the intending Public Secte Underlakings (PSUs) or Private Agencies who have experienced in similar nature of assignments. The applicant(s) should submit the

proposal(s) package-wise which may be either for all the packages of lesser number of packages.								
Tender Name of Assignment Revised last date of Revised last date Revised Cost of EC								
Specification		receipt of request	of receipt of EOI	opening date of				
No.		for clarification	application	EOI application				
	Shortlisting of agencies for conducting Survey & Investigation (S&I) and formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of 29 (twenty nine)) nos of	11.06.2020	26.06.2020 upto 4.00 p.m.	27.06.2020 at 2.00 p.m.	Per package as detailed in the enclosed notification (@ Rs. 10,000/- per project)			
	hydroplactric projects in Manipur							

The applicants who have already submitted their proposals do not need to apply again. However, they can apply for th package(s) which were not applied earlier.

The details of the Expression of Interest (EOI) can be downloaded from the website <u>www.manipur.gov.in</u> and <u>www.mspcl.in</u>. All ocrespondences / communications/submissions of EOIs shall be made to the Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Ltd, Keishampat, Imphal - 795001, Manipur, India, Telephone No. (0385) 2450050 Fax No. (0385) 2450702, Email: edcivil.mspdl@gmail.com

(N. Sarat Singh) Managing Director, MSPCL

15 THE ()UTBREAK THE WORLD



During the session in Tehran. Reuters

IRAN

Newly-elected parliament convenes

Tehran: Iran's newly elected parliament convened on Wednesday under strict social distancing regulations, as the country struggles to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Iranian state TV said all 268 lawmakers who were in attendance had tested negative. The lawmakers were sworn in after many arrived wearing face masks and observing social distancing regulations. Temperatures were taken before they entered the parliament building. Iran is grappling with the deadliest outbreak in the Middle East, with more than 7,500 fatalities of 139,500 confirmed cases.

SOUTH AFRICA Places of

worship to reopen soon Johannesburg: Places of

worship and other religious institutions in South Africa will reopen with strict restrictions from June 1 when the country enters the level 3 of the COVID-19 regulations, President Cyril Ramaphosa has said, acknowledging that their closure has "worsened" the distress of communities during the pandemic. South Africa has been under a nationwide lockdown since March 27. The president had last month announced a five-phase plan to gradually ease the lockdown imposed to combat the spread of the coronavirus in the country.

NEPAL

Highest 1-day spike of 114 cases reported

Kathmandu: Nepal on Wednesday recorded its highest single-day surge in cases with 114 new infections, taking the total tally to 886 in the nation, the health ministry said. Nepal, which has extended its nationwide lockdown till June 2 to contain the spread of the deadly virus, is among the countries having the least number of cases. The virus has so far claimed four lives in Nepal. The total number of coronavirus cases jumped to 886 on Wednesday after 114 new COVID-19 infec-

SINGAPORE Indian-origin man jailed for

tions were reported.

Singapore: A Singapore court on Wednesday sentenced an Indian-origin

breaching curbs

youth to six weeks of imprisonment for breaching a stay-home notice. Quresh Singh Sandhu, a security guard by profession, returned to Singapore from Batam in Indonesia on March 17 and was served a stay-home notice, which required him to remain in his residence between March 17 and

March 31. However, he

kept reporting for duty

and shared a room with

others, exposing them to

the risk of infection by

breaching his stay-home

notice, the Channel News

Asia reported.

Japan, EU push billions in coronavirus stimulus packages for recovery efforts

AGENCIES

JAPAN'S CABINET approved a proposed 32 trillion-yen (USD 296 billion) supplementary budget Wednesday to help fund USD 1.1 trillion in measures to cushion the blow to the economy from the pandemic.

The extra funding under consideration includes support for small businesses, funding for improved medical systems and subsidies for local governments. The budget also will pay for measures to help prepare for possible future waves of infections.

Japan's economy, the world's third largest, slipped into recession in the last quarter and was already slowing before the pandemic hit thanks to weakening global demand and consumer spending.

The combined stimulus enacted so far amounts to a total of more than 230 trillion yen (USD



At a subway station in Tokyo, Japan, on Wednesday. Reuters

2.1 trillion), or about 40% of Japan's economy, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a meeting of officials on Wednesday.

"I will defend the Japanese economy at any cost against this once-in-a-century crisis," Abe said.

A pandemic state of emergency still in effect for Tokyo and several other areas ended

Tuesday as the government began trying to get back to business. The European Union's exec-

utive arm laid out on Wednesday the details of a recovery package worth 750 billion euros, or about \$826 billion, for its 27 member economies, especially those hit hardest by the pandemic.

Europe's recovery effort will be difficult and expensive, as some of its economies are set to shrink as much as 10 percent this year. Germany and other wealthy countries have their own funds available to spend immediately to prop up their economies, but poorer European Union members need help.

The program, which was presented by European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen in an address to the European Parliament on Wednesday, hinges on using its own budget to issue bonds in international capital markets, and then distributing the proceeds according to members' needs. It is seen as a breakthrough for the bloc's integra-

tion, even if it is a one-off. The fund will distribute €500 billion worth of grants - free money that will not be piled on to national debt — to all 27 member states, with Italy getting the largest slice, followed by Spain.

OTHER TOP GLOBAL STORIES

As thousands protest, **US says Hong Kong no** longer has autonomy

Over 300 held amid protests against security, anthem laws

AUSTIN RAMZY, TIFFANY MAY, AMY QIN & EDWARD WONG HONG KONG, MAY 27

THE PROTESTERS wanted to surround the city's government offices, but a smothering police presence forced them to abandon that plan. They tried to block traffic in the financial district at lunchtime, but the police pelted the crowd with pepper balls. They gathered in malls to chant protest slogans, but were later rounded up and herded on to police buses.

In all, the Hong Kong police arrested more than 300 people on Wednesday, including students in their teens and early 20s, most on suspicion of unauthorized assembly.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on Wednesday that he told Congress that the State Department no longer considered Hong Kong to have significant autonomy under Chinese rule, a move that indicated that the Trump administration was likely to end some or all of the US government's special trade and economic relations with the territory.

Pompeo's announcement came the day before Beijing was expected to pass a proposed national security law that would allow Chinese security agencies to crack down on civil liberties in Hong Kong. Pompeo has said



A scuffle between protesters and police in Hong Kong. Reuters

that would be a "death knell" for Hong Kong, which has had liberties under a semiautonomous system of governance that does not exist in mainland China, including freedoms of speech, the press and assembly, as well as an independent judiciary.

Antigovernment protests have roiled this semiautonomous Chinese city for months, but the anger remains palpable. Protests swelled again after Beijing announced last week that it would impose national security laws that democracy advocates fear would target dissent. Grievances over the use of force by the police continue to burn. And a law that would criminalise disrespect of the national anthem has further stirred fear over threats to Hong Kong's cherished freedoms of speech and expression. NYT

Impact on trade would be a blow

IFTHEUS decides to end its special trade ties with Hong Kong – including by imposing the same tariffs that it does on mainland China – it would be a maior blow, as the island has been a global trade hub for years now. Experts also said it would have significant impact on China, as the country relies on Hong Kong's status as a hub to interact with other nations.



People living at Guarulhos International Airport near Sao Paulo, Brazil, due to restrictions queue up for food. Reuters

After biggest jump in 50 days, S Korea decide to stop usage

ASSOCIATED PRESS SEOUL, MAY 27

SOUTH KOREA has reported 40 new coronavirus cases for its biggest daily jump in nearly 50 days, causing alarm in a country where millions of children are returning to school.

Figures from the Korea Centres for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday brought national totals to 11,265 cases and 269 deaths. All but four of the new cases

came from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where officials have been scrambling to stem transmissions linked to nightclubs, karaoke rooms and an e-commerce warehouse Three cases were linked to in-

ternational arrivals.

South Korea's top infectious disease expert says the country may need to reimpose social distancing restrictions it eased in April, with coronavirus transmissions creeping up in the populated Seoul metropolitan area



At a school in Seoul. Reuters

and elsewhere in recent weeks. Jeong Eun-kyeong, director of South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said during a virus briefing on Wednesday it's becoming increasingly difficult for health workers to track the spread of COVID-19, which has coincided with increased public activity amid warmer weather and eased attitudes on social distancing.

A steady rise in cases in the greater capital area over the past few weeks has raised concern as officials proceed with a phased reopening of schools, which began with high school seniors last week.

France, Italy, Belgium may reimpose curbs of HCQ for Covid-19

MATTHIAS BLAMONT PARIS, MAY 27

FRANCE, ITALY and Belgium acted to halt the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat patients suffering from COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus, amid questions about the safety of the generic anti-malaria drug.

France on Wednesday cancelled a decree allowing hospital doctors to dispense the medicine, while the Italian Medicine Agency (AIFA) suspended authorisation to use hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 outside clinical trials.

Belgium's medicine agency warned against using the drug to treat the virus any more except within ongoing clinical registered trials. It said trials aiming to evaluate the drug should also take potential risks into consideration.

The sudden changes highlight $the\,challenge\,for\,governments\,as$ they scramble to find ways to treat patients and control a virus that has spread rapidly around

the world over the past three months, killing more than 350,000 and infecting millions.

It also illustrates at least a temporary about-face for regulators on a drug that at the outset of the pandemic had been seen as a promising treatment option.

The moves by three of the countries hardest hit by coronavirus infections and deaths follow a World Health Organisation decision on Monday to pause a large trial of hydroxychloroquine due to safety concerns.

France's cancellation, which effectively bans the drug for COVID-19, was confirmed by the health ministry.

Italian health authorities concluded that the risks, coupled with little evidence hydroxychloroquine was beneficial against COVID-19, merited a ban outside of clinical trials.

"New clinical evidence on the use of hydroxychloroquine in subjects with SARS-CoV-2 infection...indicates an increased risk for adverse reactions with little or no benefit." AIFA said. REUTERS

exacerbated political tensions

over the government's handling

of the epidemic. The military po-

lice opened an investigation into

the government's decision to al-

low some 120,000 people to

International Women's Day on

Grande-Marlaska, Spain's interior

minister, fired the head of the mil-

itary police in Madrid for not in-

forming the government about

the investigation. To protest the

government's decision, another

senior police official resigned on

in Madrid for

Monday, Fernando

gather

March 8.

On

Trump threatens social media

TO SPACE, ONCE MORE

shutdown after fact-check label on his tweets

SUSAN HEAVEY & NANDITA BOSE WASHINGTON, MAY 27

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened to regulate or shut down social media companies for stifling conservative voices, a day after Twitter attached a warning to some of his tweets prompting readers to fact check the president's claims.

Without offering evidence, Trump again accused such platforms of bias, tweeting: "Republicans feel that Social Media Platforms totally silence conservatives voices. We will strongly regulate, or close them down, before we can ever allow this to happen."

Trump's threat to shut down platforms like Twitter Inc and Facebook was his strongest yet within a broader conservative backlash against Big Tech.

Twitter for the first time added fact-check labels on Trump tweets after he made unsubstantiated claims on Tuesday about mail-in voting, attaching a blue exclamation mark alert to warn his claims were false, having been debunked by factcheckers. **REUTERS**



DANIEL LEWIS NEW YORK, MAY 27

LARRY KRAMER, the noted writer whose raucous, antagonistic campaign for an all-out response to the AIDS crisis helped shift national health policy in the 1980s and '90s, died on Wednesday morning Manhattan. He was 84.

 $A \, Space X \, rocket \, ready \, to \, boost \, two \, NASA \, astronauts \, into \, orbit, \, the \, first \, launch \, of \, Americans$

Space Center where men flew to the moon and the last shuttle blasted off in 2011. Credit: NASA

from the US in nearly a decade. Liftoff is set to happen Thursday from the same spot at Kennedy

His husband, David Webster, said the cause was pneumonia. Kramer had weathered illness for much of his adult life. Among other things he had been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, contracted liver disease and underwent a successful liver transplant

Kramer was a founder of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the first service organisation for HIV-positive people, in 1981. A year later, he was a founder of a more militant group, Act Up (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), whose street actions demanding a speedup in AIDS drugs research and an end to discrimination against gay men and lesbians severely disrupted the operations of government offices, Wall Street and the Roman Catholic hierarchy.



Larry Kramer

"One of America's most valuable troublemakers," Susan Sontag called him.

Even some officials Kramer accused of "murder" and "genocide" recognised his outbursts were part of a strategy to shock the country into dealing with AIDS as

a public-health emergency. In the early 1980s, he was among the first activists to foresee that what had at first caused alarm as a rare form of cancer among gay men would spread worldwide, like any other sexually transmitted disease, and kill millions without regard to sexual orientation. Under the circumstances, he said, "If you write a calm letter and fax it to nobody, it sinks like a brick in the

Spain begins 10 days of national mourning

THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK, MAY 27

TEN DAYS of national mourning for the victims of the coronavirus began on Wednesday in Spain, the longest official mourning period in the country's modern history

The government and the royal family led a nationwide minute of silence at noon, and flags were lowered to half-staff on all public buildings. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said the moment was a time for the country to show its collective sorrow and to honour the tens of thousands who died from the virus.

The major cities of Madrid and Barcelona on Monday



People observe a minute of silence in Madrid, Wednesday. AP

caught up with the rest of the country in easing lockdown measures that had been gradually rolled out for weeks, and Sánchez said he had waited to

start the official mourning period until the whole country had entered the first phase of returning to public life.

The extended lockdown has

Tuesday. Speaking in Congress on Wednesday, the leader of the main opposition party called for Mr. Grande-Marlaska to resign for mistreating Spain's police.







9 \$34.73 Brent crude as of 2000 IST

SENSEX: 31,605.22 ▲ 995.92 NIFTY: 9,314.95 ▲ 285.90 NIKKEI: 21,419.23 ▲ 148.06 HANG SENG: 23,301.36 ▲ 83.30 FTSE: 6,155.24 ▲ 87.48 DAX: 11,722.10 ▲ 217.45

As flyers test positive upon arrival, states look to tighten SOPs

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, MAY 27

EVEN AS most states have strict quarantine and testing norms for passengers arriving by domestic flights some like Delhi, Goa, etc had comparatively easier standard operating procedures (SOPs). But now with some passengers testing positive for coronavirus upon arrival, a further clampdown of stance by the states on free movement of air passengers could be on the cards. Goa has already moved to compulsorily test all arriving passengers, unless they were able to produce a negative test-certificate.



Passengers from Mumbai arrive at Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport in Patna on Wednesday, PTI

As of early Thursday, as many as four passengers, at least two of

which were asymptomatic, had tested positive upon arrival. All

four of these travelled on the first day of resumption of flight operations. Tuesday, India's largest airline IndiGo reported a 24-year old person on its Monday flight from . Chennai to Coimbatore tested positive. Another passenger, a 50-year old, on board an Alliance Air flight from Delhi to Ludhiana was also found positive on Tuesday. On Wednesday, two passengers who flew to Guwahati from Ahmedabad on SpiceJet flights also reported positive for the virus upon arrival.

In SpiceJet's case, red-flags are also being raised at the fact that since one of the passengers was flying from Ahmedabad to

Guwahati via Delhi, the passenger should have been tested at Delhi itself but wasn't since there is no mandatory testing for those arriving at the Delhi airport.

Since it opened its airport to domestic passengers, the Goa government has changed its standard operating procedures twice. Earlier it had given three options – either get a COVID negative test certificate issued within 48 hours prior to the date of arrival by a lab authorised by ICMR or get test done at the airport for Rs 2000 and wait for results, or choose home quarantine. With the number of cases showing an increase, the Government has now removed

the option of home quarantine with everyone having to undergo compulsory testing if they didn't have a COVID-19 negative test certificate. Goa so far has 68 active cases of which 31 are active.

Even as the Centre announced the restarting of domestic flight operations with a two-day notice it failed to extensively consult with the states. Hours before the recommencement of domestic flights, airlines were informed of the demands of certain states to operate curtailed schedules that led to cancellation of flights on the first day

An airline executive for a lowcost carrier said: "We really wish

there was more communication between the states and the Centre. As the situation continues to evolve, there is a chance states might look at further tightening the noose on air travel. It is not fully viable to begin with but the uncertainty of this entire programme is what even more troublesome".

Even though on one hand, the decision to impose quarantines are being looked at by state governments as essential measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, the aviation industry, globally, deems it to be affecting air travel. Speaking to reporters, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director

General and CEO Alexandre de Juniac said: "I would also like to highlight a growing concern on the quarantine measures that some governments are putting in place. One development is of particular concern. That is the politicization of quarantine measures".

"In response to the UK government's announced 14-day quarantine measures for all arrivals, do the same for arrivals from the UK. Measures must be guided by science, not politics. And tit-for-tat quarantine measures are, frankly, unacceptable," de Juniac said.

(With inputs from Smita Nair in

INDEX CLOSES AT 31,605; RUPEE FALLS 5 PAISE TO SETTLE AT 75.71

Ahead of F&O expiry, Sensex jumps 996 pts on positive global cues, EU stimulus package

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

LED BY bank stocks, markets on Wednesday staged a staged a strong rally on institutional buying and positive global cues despite the rising COVID infececonomy. The benchmark Sensex rose 996 points, or 3.25 per cent, to 31,605.22 and the NSE Nifty Index jumped 286 points to 9,314.95.

The benchmark indices staged an intra-day rally in sync with global cues amid expectations that European Union will announce a stimulus package ahead of the derivative contracts expiry. "In spite of rising number of infections, markets expect slow return to normalcy. when lockdown 4.0 ends this week. All sectoral indices were in the green and institutional buying in banking stocks helped the bank index gain by over 7 per cent. The volatility is expected to continue, ahead of Thursday's F&O expiry," said

BRIEFLY —

Troyjo is prez of

Beijing: The New Develop-

countries on Wednesday ap-

pointed Marcos Prado

Troyjo, who served as Brazil's

Economy Minister, as the

new president. The Board

named Anil Kishora, of SBI.

vice president of the NDB.

NTPC to foray

into distribution

New Delhi: NTPC has decided

to foray in electricity distri-

bution business by evincing

interest to buy 51 per stake

in Anil Dhirubhai Ambani

Group's (ADAG) two utilities

Boeing cuts

12,000 jobs

New York: Boeing is cutting

more than 12,000 jobs

through layoffs and buyouts

as the coronavirus pandemic

seizes the industry, and more cuts are coming. AP

REC, TajSATS

tie up for meals

New Delhi: REC Ltd, through

its CSR arm REC Foundation.

has partnered TajSATS, a joint

venture of IHCL and SATS Ltd,

in a mission to distribute spe-

cially-made meal packets to

medical staff in key govern-

ment hospitals as well as

poor daily wage labourers.

Sathe named

NHAI advisor

Mumbai: Nilesh Sathe, for-

mer Member of insurance

regulator IRDAI, has taken

charge as Finance Advisor of

the National Highways

Authority of India (NHAI). He

will have a two-year term at

NHAI. Sathe will help NHAI

to garner funds with long-

term tenures for road devel-

opment in the country. ENS

in Delhi. **PTI**

BRICS bank

EXPLAINE

Shift in sentiment in the markets about rupee

THE MARKETS ignored advisories by rating firms and investment banks about the contraction in the economy in India and other major countries in the ongoing quarter. Major Asian stock markets were mixed on Wednesday as US-Chinese tension over Hong Kong competed with optimism about recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. A shift in sentiment is quite visible in the markets, which is likely to bode well for the rupee in near term.

'Economic situation worsened

after easing lockdown rules'

guidelines, as per a consumer survey by Smart Power

conditions between the first and fourth phase of

lockdown to counter the coronavirus pandemic

Economic situation worsened even after easing lockdown

India, a subsidiary of Rockefeller Foundation, comparing

remittances

hygiene

Availability of essential items has improved significantly in

comparison to Lockdown 1.0. Only 8% respondents stated

poor availability of essentials items at village level

73% respondents observed a

practices since Lockdown 1.0

18% respondents stated that

more than 50% population in

their villages are not obeying

COVID-19-related social

29% of total shops were

11% in Lockdown 1.0

reported to have opened in

Lockdown 4.0 compared to

significant decrease in

adoption of social hygiene

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

ICICI Bank rose 8.97 per cent, Kotak Mahindra 5.58 per cent and SBI gained 4.76 per cent. IT stocks led by TCS and Infosys also gained ground. Axis Bank soared 13.46 per cent to Rs 387.35 on the BSE on reports that private equity (PE) firm Carlyle was looking to pick around 8 per cent stake in the

87% of the respondents

stated approximately 1/5th

population in their villages

are severely impacted and

3% respondents stated the

severity of economic plunge

impacted more than 50% of

75% respondents reported

economic slowdown, only 3%

respondents stated having

satisfactory cash flow due to

compared to 15% earlier

the village population

poor cash flow due to

may not be getting

enough food

The rupee depreciated 5 paise to settle at 75.71 against the US dollar as market participants were concerned about rising tensions between the US and China amid coronavirus pandemic.

Analysts said the markets ignored advisories by rating firms and investment banks about the contraction in the economy in India and other major countries in the ongoing quarter. mixed on Wednesday as US-Chinese tension over Hong Kong competed with optimism about recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Benchmarks in Shanghai and Hong Kong retreated after the White House said a proposed national security law might jeopardize the Chinese territory's status as a global financial centre. European stocks rose on Wednesday, underpinned by expectations that the European Union will announce a massive stimulus programme for the region's recovery efforts, though investors were keeping an eye on simmering China-U.S. tensions, said Deepak Jasani, Head Retail Research, HDFC Securities

Major Asjan stock markets were

According to Ruchit Jain, Senior Analyst, Angel Broking, underperforming banking and the NBFC space witnessed sharp moves and were seen taking the leadership to push the benchmark higher.

With the broader markets participating, there should be a continuation of the upmove in

that they may need to borrow

70% respondents stated

1.0. UP grid supply has

deterioration in grid electricity

supply in mini grid villages of

UP and Bihar since Lockdown

improved from 12 hours/day to

15 hours/day, while in Bihar

grid supply reduced from 20

hours/day to 15.5 hours/day

Compiled by ENS Economic

Source: Smart Power

Bureau

9,500. "On the flipside, 9,200-9,150 will now be seen as the immediate support zone. We continue with our advise for traders to trade with a positive bias and look for stock specific opportunities with good volumes as such pockets have potential to give decent returns," he said.

On the rupee's movement, Sugandha Sachdeva, VP-Currency Research, Religare Broking, said, "A shift in sentiments is quite visible in the markets which is likely to bode well for the Indian rupee in near term. Risk appetite has returned to the markets and there is lot of optimism as businesses reopen across major economies. Nevertheless, keeping gains in check are the brewing tensions between the US and China, rise in oil prices and the greenback.

"Going ahead, rupee is likely to find strong cushion at 76.60 mark, while it would be difficult for the domestic currency to nudge past the level of

SBI simplifies **EMI** moratorium process, starts notifying eligible

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MAY 27

STATE BANK of India has decided to simplify the process of extending the moratorium to eligible borrowers without waiting for their request.

"In line with recent RBI announcement on extension of the moratorium on term loan EMIs by another three months, SBI has decided to extend the moratorium by another 3 months in loan accounts of all eligible customers without waiting for their request," the bank said.

Besides, the bank has also proactively reached out to all of its eligible loan customers to obtain their consent to stop their standing instructions (SIs) or NACH mandate for the EMIs falling due in June, July and

INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

'Significant uncertainty about growth ... after Spanish flu, recovery was V-shaped'

KRISHNAMURTHY SUBRA-MANIAN said it is difficult to make a reliable estimate on growth given the kind of uncertainty resulting from effects of COVID-19 pandemic. In an interview with SUNNY VERMA of The Indian Express, he said consumption of discretionary items like cars and houses will get impacted due to the uncertainty. Edited excerpts:

What is your view on economic growth? Many economists are projecting significant contraction for

First thing to keep in mind is that there is significant uncertainty about growth and it's useful to keep in mind that in the month of lanuary. not a single economists or analysts would have been able to predict that global economy is going to go into a recession, so that illustrates the uncertainty that prevails in general about prediction. And especially about predicting amid the COVID pandemic because unlike an economic phenomenon where one can say that with some degree of certainty that phenomenon may end at this point in time, (but) this is primarily a pandemic and so all responses, like the lockdown is affecting economy. So uncertainty is really about when will we have a vaccine and whether this can be administered to a large number of people across countries.

Given all this, it's very hard for anybody to make a reliable estimate. Also I will mention that behavioural economics talks about this (bias), when we are in normal times we continue to think we will be in normal times, we don't put in enough probability for a black swan event. And when we are in black swan event, we continue thinking we are going to be in a black swan event, we do not put enough probability on going back to normal times. Here I want to point out about the Spanish flu episode, which was a far more devastating pandemic, (but) we still had a V-shaped recovery.

So in this kind of event, it's not useful to debate on whether we will have a Ushaped, V-shaped recovery because ultimately we don't

Again you can only use past

Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian. File

phenomenon as I was referring to the Spanish flu pandemic that was far more devastating one with almost 10 per cent of the global population being impacted. In contrast, even now, less than 1 per cent of the population is impacted. The mortality rate of Spanish flu was about 10 per cent, in contrast just about 3.5 per cent in the COVID. So mortality rate is just about one third of what it was in the Spanish flu and the percentage of infected population is about one by thirty third(now), and yet in the Spanish flu the economic recovery was Vshaped one.

Much of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package relies on banks and financial sector. Will it not expose them to higher non-performing

No. Keeping that in mind, lot of the lending has been guaranteed by the government. Take the Rs 3 lakh crore loans to MSMEs, it is 100 per cent guaranteed by the government. It's effectively like a risk free loan, banks can write it like a risk-free product compared to them earning 3.5 per cent by putting the funds in reverse repo with the RBI, which is also a risk free investment. Here it's like a risk-free investment where they can earn a higher interest rate. It makes sense for banks therefore to be able to utilise this. If I remember right about Rs 8.5 lakh crore was actually parked with the RBI's reverse repo operations, which earns about a 3.5 per cent. By giving 100 per cent guarantee, the loan has been made completely risk free.

India's growth story has been

been hit now. Does the government need to do more boost consumption?

See it's important to understand the nuanced relationship, there are interdependencies between supply and demand, especially if you look at in the case of Covid, it's basically MSMEs which account for a large proportion of employment. If you look at less than 100 employees (companies) and take that as the threshold, almost 85 per cent firms are MSMEs, and they account for a large proportion of employment. Now suppose if these firms are not supported, and there has been a decline in demand and because they have to take care of their fixed cost which they can't change, so they will have to cut down on their variable cost and so there may be an impact on employment.

When there is an impact on employment, actually consumption of even essential items can get affected. So by providing extensive support to the MSMEs through the various measures under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme, therefore ensuring that the impact on unemployment is minimised, the impact on demand is thereby reduced to a larger extent.

It's important to keep in mind these interdependencies, by taking care of the supply on the MSME side, demand also, especially that of essentials items. also protected. Other point to remember is that when you think of demand itself, across the world spending on discretionary items have decreased. I was reading a very interesting article on Walmart, (which says) people are buying tops but people are not buying bottoms, and because when they are working from home, on a teleconference, all that matters is the top and not the bottom, Walmart has found this evidence. What this suggests is that people are spending only on what is necessary and not on any discretionary item. This is because there is uncertainty and that uncertainty stems from the pandemic and till the time the uncertainty remains, consumption, especially which requires a lumpy investment like a car or a house etc, people will not be inclined to make lumpy invest-

> Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Ola Electric buys **Dutch scooter** company Etergo

REUTERS NEW DELHI, MAY 27

A UNIT of SoftBank Groupbacked Indian ride-hailing company Ola will buy Amsterdambased electric scooter company Etergo as part of its plan to locally build electric vehicles (EVs), the company said on Wednesday.

Ola Electric did not disclose the amount it was paying to acquire Etergo, which was last valued at around 84 million euros million), according to a source familiar with the deal.

Etergo's scooters use swappable, high energy density batteries that give it a range of up to 240 Electric said it will begin EV production work this year and plans to launch its first electric scooter

Brazil puts onus on India to 'balance' world sugar market

HARISH DAMODARAN NEW DELHI, MAY 27

INDIA SHOULD implement a more "ambitious" biofuel programme that will help its sugar mills to increase production of ethanol and "balance the world sugar market", according to Eduardo Leão de Sousa, executive director of Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association or UNICA.

The average ethanol blending in gasoline (petrol) sold in India is now only around 6 per cent and expected to reach 10 per cent by 2022. "That would reduce your sugar production by 4 million tonnes (mt), which is also the surplus in the global market today. Last year, by producing more ethanol, we took away 10 mt of sugar from the world market, but The average ethanol blending in gasoline (petrol) sold is now only around 6 per cent and expected to reach 10 per cent by 2022

for which it would have collapsed," Sousa said in an interview to The Indian Express Brazil's mills in 2019-20 -

the season there is from end-April till November, as against mid-October to May for India crushed 642.7 mt of sugarcane. Only 35 per cent of the cane juice from crushing was boiled and crystallised to produce 29.6 mt of sugar. The balance 65 per cent was fermented and distilled into ethanol, whose production amounted to 35.6 billion litres. Indian mills, by contrast, crushed 301.18 mt of cane to make 33.16 mt of sugar and just 1.886 billion litres of ethanol in 2018-19. For the current 2019-20 season, sugar and ethanol supplies are estimated at nearly 27 mt and 1.9 billion litres, respectively. In Brazil, the average ethanol blending in petrol is about 48 per cent.

"All the 40,000-odd fuel stations in Brazil sell either gasoline with 27 per cent ethanol blend (E27) or pure ethanol (E100). Most of our cars are flex-fuel vehicles running both on E27 and E100 (the tax on the gasoline component makes the latter cheaper at times). Even in diesel, we have 12 per cent ethanol blending," explained Sousa.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'Google faces antitrust case in India over payments app

REUTERS

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

INDIA'S ANTITRUST body is looking into allegations that Alphabet Inc's Google is abusing its market position to unfairly promote its mobile payments app in the country, five sources familiar with the case told Reuters.

The complaint was filed in February and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has kept the identity of the complainant confidential, the first source with direct knowledge of the case said.

The complaint alleges the US tech giant more prominently showcases its Google Pay app inside its Android app store in India, giving it an unfair advantage over apps of competitors which hurts consumers, the source added.

Google did not respond to a

request for comment. Two of the sources said the watchdog informed Google about the case being filed a few days ago and the company will respond in due

A source said the case filing is currently being reviewed by senior CCI members. Typically in such cases, Google will appear before the watchdog which will then decide on the way forward.

The CCI can direct its investigations unit to conduct a wider probe into the allegations, or dismiss the case if it finds no merit in it.

"It is at a consideration stage," the source said. The CCI did not respond to a request for comment. This is Google's third major antitrust challenge in India. In 2018, the CCI fined Google \$21 million for "search bias", but a company appeal against that is pending.

Morparia as JP Morgan chief for South, SE Asia **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**

replace Kalpana

Leo Puri to

MUMBAI, MAY 27

JP MORGAN has appointed Leo Puri chairman of JP Morgan South and Southeast Asia. Puri will replace Kalpana Morparia and will take charge in the first quarter of calendar 2021.

Puri was earlier chief executive of UTI Asset Management Company and Managing Director of Warburg Pincus India. He has also worked as senior partner and co-head of Asia Financial Services at McKinsey & Company. Murali Maiya will become the new CEO for South and South East Asia in Q1 of CY2021.

He will report to Filippo Gori, CEO, Asia Pacific.



@indianexpress.com

THOSE MONTHS, THOSE MINUTES

Forced into an unprecedented lockdown, sport is staring at an unfathomable despair. Indian athletes, though, have given the country reasons to rejoice in the past.

Paddler **SATHIYAN GNANASEKARAN** tells **SHASHANK NAIR** how India ended half a century of medal drought at the 2018 Asian Games.

BRIEFLY -

Elite athletes allowed to train outdoors

Elite Indian athletes such as javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and sprinter Hima Das started outdoor training at NIS Patiala on Wednesday. The SAI said training, which also resumed at its Bengaluru centre, took place in strict compliance with the health guidelines of the government and the Standard Operating Procedure that was unveiled last week. The senior men and women's Hockey team will resume training on Monday.

EPL clubs approve resumption of contact training

Premier League clubs voted unanimously on Wednesday to resume contact training as the English top-flight took a significant step towards restarting in June. The Premier League was put on hold in March due to the coronavirus pandemic, with Liverpool just two wins away from sealing the title. "Premier League shareholders today voted unanimously to resume contact training, marking another step towards restarting the Premier League season, when safe to do so," the league said in a statement.

BWF extends Games qualification period

An extended qualification period for the Tokyo Olympics will be introduced next year and ranking points earned at tournaments during the original qualification phase will be maintained, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said on Wednesday. With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the international calender, the BWF was unable to complete the last six weeks of its one-year qualifying period, which ended on April 28. But with the Tokyo Games postponed, the governing body of badminton has decided to extend the qualification period to next year.

Prince of Persia

Firouzja is one of the rare players to unnerve Carlsen, and his immense potential has prompted France & US to pursue the Iranian champ

SANDIPG

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

LATE LAST April, Magnus Carlsen, a calm man of measured words, seemed unusually animated. "Truth be told. I wanted to crush him." he admitted, after a routine victory in the eponymous Carlsen Invitational. Soon the world champion's vengeance turned into appreciation of his vanquished opponent: "He's very, very slippery. Never underestimate him. He is devilishly tricky."

That slippery, devilishly tricky, can't-underestimate-opponent Carlsen was alluding towas Alireza Firouzja (surname pronounced as Firoz-jo), a scruffy 16-year-old from Iran with deep eyes and faint moustache, who had twice punctured Carlsen's aura of invulnerability in the space of a fortnight.

First in a marathon 204-game one-minute bullet match in early April and then in an equally engrossing blitz game in the Banter Cup a week later. The second defeat shook the inscrutable Norwegian. He cracked and confided: "It's really vexing. I'm just constantly doubting myself and it's all a total mess."

Though this year has seen fissures emerge in Carlsen's game, the multi-format world champion self-admonishing himself for "silly mistakes" ever so often, the defeats to the teenaged adversary was as much a result of his erratic game as an indication of Firouzja's bris-

A grandmaster at the age of 14, the second-youngest player to reach the 2700 Fide rating, the highest-ranked teenager in the world, he won the Prague Masters in February, joining a list of select few players including Garry Kasparov, Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to have triumphed at that prestigious tournament while still a teenager. In the Online Fide Nations Cup recently, he scalped the established likes of Sergey Karjakin (with black) and Levon Aronian.

No wonder then that Firouzja has the chess fraternity in his thrall. Recently, Grandmaster Ivan Sokolov likened his rapid-game prowess to a young Viswanathan Anand for his speed of thought and predicted that he can become world champion one day. The latter, who had defeated him with a slick endgame at the Tata Steel Masters, reckons he's one of the brightest



Alireza Firouzja at,14, won the Prague Masters in February, joining a list of select few players including Garry Kasparov, Bobby Fischer and Magnus Carlsen to have triumphed at that prestigious tournament while still a teenager. FIDE

talents on the circuit. "He left me really impressed and is very sharp. Him beating big names should no longer be a surprise, and he would get only better with more experience," the Indian said.

Bright future

America's speed specialist Hikaru Nakamura considers the Iranian as one of the top three one-minute bullet chess players in the world, alongside himself and Carlsen. Some others compared his style to the late Mikhail Tal, the legendary Soviet-Latvian grandmaster. Such is Firouzja's value and reputation that a three-way tussle for acquiring his citizenship is also simmering in the background.

Firouzja is as Iranian, in features and tastes, as he could be. His speaks Farsi with a typical Northern Iran accent. In interviews to chess websites, he frequently brings up references of the rumbling Caspian Sea that lashes onto his hometown, Babol, and the beautiful rain and oranges back there. His favourite dishes are tahchin and khoresh-e beh.

Yet, his ties with the local federation are

squaring off with Israelis. Since Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, the country has refused to recognise Israel. However, refusing to play an opponent on political grounds means expulsion from

frayed, as it has banned Iranian players from

the tournament, and since Israel has a fair bit of chess contingent attending every tournament, such a diktat could hamper his career. Firouzja and his father have already left Iran

and are currently living in Paris. The move, initially, was to furnish him more exposure and easy access to other European chess destinations, besides competing in the competitive French league. Recently, he admitted to a web-

site that he could turn out for France: "I will probably play for France from now on, given that is where I live." The French Chess Federation, meanwhile, is eagerly awaiting a firm 'yes' from Firouzja.

Offers galore

Not just France, he could also end up at St Louis in the US, receiving special coaching from Kasparov and fuelling US billionaire Rex Sinquefield's dream of another American world champion after Fischer. The retired financier and politician, the biggest benefactor of American chess, had paid for the transfer of Fabiano Caruana from Italy and Wesley So from the Philippines in the past. Could Firouzja be the next?

Back in Babol, though, his childhood coach Mohsen Sharbaf, hopes the federation would solve the impasse and Firouzja would represent the country of his birth. "We can't let such a talented player, easily the best we have produced, slip through our hands. It will be a shame for us," he says.

He first saw his ward when he was 9, during an inter-club chess competition, but it was while watching a football match that he realised his genius for the first time.

"Barcelona was playing some other team, and he was like correctly predicting the passage of the game, like this person would pass the ball to that person, and he would do this and that, and so on. I was really amazed because guessing the moves in football is tough even for elders. His mind was super-computing, and I realised he has great potential," Sharbaf recollects.

Going the extra yard

The potential, obviously, was chiselled by hours in front of the chessboard and laptops. "Even when he was 10-11, he used to tune into all the big games around the world.

He used to come up with interesting observations, and then there was a game between two grandmasters wherein he pointed out where one of them had made a mistake and offered a solution in minutes. He was a chess maniac. Before local tournaments, he used to practise 3-4 days without too much sleep. He might look very sleepy, but still made the right moves," says the coach.

Firouzja once innocently admitted that he sometimes spends a whole day practising. "Since the only thing I think about is chess, maybe it's the whole day, maybe days, until I get that perfect move." The president of the Chartres club where

he trains in Paris, François Gilles, concurred. "He's an exceptional talent, very strong tactically and mentally. Works his bum off, and I have little doubt that he is a world champion in the making." Agrees Sharbaf, though he admits his ward

is far from a finished product. While he excels in faster games, the results decided more by instinct and reaction than patience and perseverance, he needs to tighten his classical game, he reckons. "Then he could challenge Carlsen," he says.

Like he already has in the shorter versions, where he has got under the world champion's skin.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

BY PETER VIDAL

If you experience a

sense of deja vu, all

well and good. The

planets are indeed

The best thing you

can do now is

engage in serious discussions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov

24 - Dec 22)
If your own finances

are in a mess it may

The Moon is on your

side, so nobody and

prevent you from

nothing must

clinching a deal while the tide is

favour. But keep space for future

must be kept fully informed and

changes and adaptations. The

running so strongly in your

golden rule is that partners

leading you back to a situation you thought had been dealt

with, perhaps eighteen months

ago. At least this time around,

mistakes, and that has to be a

you won't repeat the same

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Practical arrangements need

themselves. Don't be afraid to

ask stupid questions — they're

not as silly as you think. And

to be made, and they're not

going to happen by

the answers might be

pleasantly surprising.

be because you're too

idealistic by half. You would do

very well to listen to other

people who, guided by those

sagacious planets, the Sun and

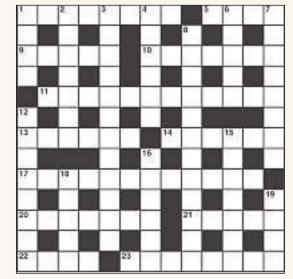
Mercury, can offer you some

Mind you, you don't have to

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

extremely sound advice.

CROSSWORD 4129



- He can cry out of court
- Woe is me giving back part of my salary (4) Changing a flat could be
- ruinous (5) Mother repeatedly passes
- round the hat for an Asian teacher(7)
- Goes ahead and plays the star part (5.3.4) Regards as fun for the
- children (6) 14 Hit on an advertising catch phrase(6)
- Transport for a small charge Profit in a way when in
- opposition (7) Call up the day before about
- sanction(5) 22 Sound sense of position

Chinatown, 13 Penknife, 14 Infidel, 16 Teller, 17 Versus, 19 Level

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

BDEONY

ELRRUH

Answer: Honesty pays, but it doesn't seem to pay enough to suit some people - Kin

__pays, but it doesn't seem to pay enough to suit some people - Kin Hubbard (7)

Acts as chairman but shows partiality in advance? (8)

JUMBLED WORDS

the answer for the given quip

CRVEO

ATYST

A slap by the hand

- Cut a tea break and get things
- Remembered and rang for a baby-sitter?
- Distant meteor destroyed
- Turner appears in the Scala Theatre (5) No sedentary status
- Supporters who arouse
- enthusiasm (12) Allow no openings for
- substitutes (8) A line in gold showing age
- (4,3)Fat goat? (6)

(4)

- Show some response concerning part of the play
- Raise the pace for favourites
- Solutions Crossword 4128: Across: 1 Fleshpots, 8 Hymen, 9 Maestro, 10 Angela, 11 Chaise, 12 Reporter, 15 Nineteen, 18 Kneels, 20 Triple, 21 Missive, 22 Where, 23 Reversals. Down: 2 Leash, 3 Siskin, 4 Perverse, 5 Shinto, 6 Amnesty, 7 One across, 11

SOLUTION: COVER, TASTY, BEYOND, HURLER

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



ALL THE KIDS IN YOUR

CLASS KNOW HOW

OBNOXIOUS YOU ARE

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

HOW DO YOU THINK

YOU'RE GOING TO

GET ELECTED

CLASS PRESIDENT?

Difficulty Level 2s

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

must appear in each of the

each of the nine horizontal

nine vertical columns, in

rows and in each of the

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;

3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;

5s = Very Hard; 6s =

every digit from 1 to 9

8 3

6 2

5

6

Instructions

nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

SUDOKU

1'M DE ONLY BOY CH A PLINGBOUND GR(5 ?



4

SOLUTION SUDOKU



RCLW.

SEET I'VE

ALREADY GOT

GREAT NAME

5 3 6 8 2 1 4 9 7

7 1 8

4 3 5

6 9 2

4 9 5 1 8 6 3 7 2

3 6 1 2 7 4 9 5 8

5 6 3 8 2 1

9 4 7 6 3 5

2 4 9

7 8 6

5 1 3

164

New Delhi

9 4 7

2 1 8

8 7 4

2 9

7 8 2 3 5 9

RECOGNITION.

ያካውየውርና (

4-22

AIR FILTER!

the cards.

Businesslike types will thrive under Sun-Moon angle However, I hope you

appreciate a challenge, because there is almost no indication that life will be easy and straightforward. The trouble is that nobody is saving exactly what they

DAY TODAY

You may press

ahead with all

with total

commitment and dedication.

The more businesslike you are

now, the more time you'll have to put your feet up later

on. It really is a case of making

the best of the present by

making sensible plans for

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

now and you could save

yourself a big disappointment.

Venus' encouraging position

indicates the need for a splash

of colour at home, and perhaps

a party or family gathering is on

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

the future.

professional plans

Travel schemes are

in danger of going

wrong, but apply a

little forethought

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Whether you or someone else should

take the lead is a moot point. Perhaps you each have your own area of

expertise, and the correct solution could be a sensible division of labour. Play it by ear, and wait until all the facts have fallen into place.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You may know by

now that all was not what it seemed. There is no reason why you should become

disillusioned or cynical, but vou ought to weigh up the options very carefully and attempt to come to a realistic solution. It's difficult, I know, but you need to take other people's feelings into account as well.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Children, or any

younger person in your care, could be

increasingly demanding. You won't get anywhere by trying to keep the lid on as there is a great deal of surplus energy, released. Offer constructive support instead.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19) Something is



might not do much good at a time when your imagination is so strong. Perhaps you should make a point of relying on the facts, just for a change.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



organisational duty. You may feel hard-pressed, but nobody will mind if you feel you have to reduce the burden which falls on your shoulders. You never know - some helpful souls might offer their assistance.

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NEXA

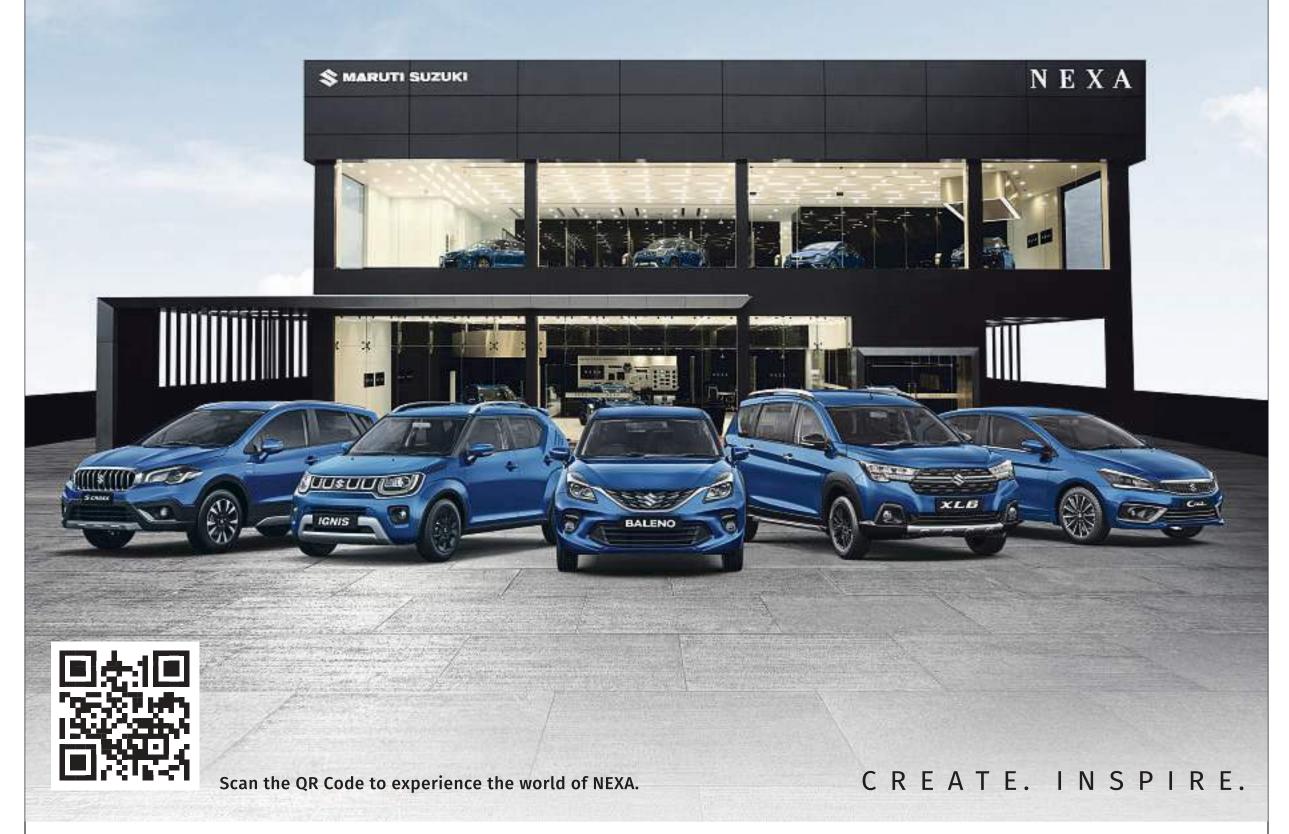
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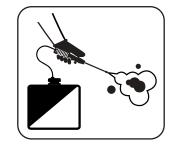
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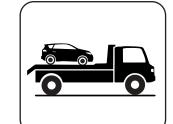
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