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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**DISCUSSING** MIGRANT CRISIS, **IN HEAVEN** 

BY PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

### **Most Shramik** trains: Gujarat, Maharashtra to **UP** and Bihar

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

AROUND 40 per cent of the Shramik Special trains so far have set off from the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, carrying roughly 20 lakh migrants back home. Until Thursday, 50 lakh stranded passengers had used these trains, the majority to get to their homes in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, according to official data.

Until Thursday, 3,736 Shramik trains had departed from stations across India, with those in Gujarat accounting for the largest number - 979 outspecial trains. Maharashtra is fast catching up with around 695 of the Shramik trains carrying migrants out the state.

Of the 3,736 trains, over 75 per cent were headed to destinations in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, irrespective of where the trains originated from.

While UP has received around 1,530 of these trains, Bihar has by now received around 1,296. As per data, UP received 20,47,000 migrants, while Bihar has received around 17,34,000 migrants so far.

There are, however, signs that the demand for Shramik Specials could be finally ebbing. On Thursday, for instance, merely 35 Shramik Specials were scheduled to depart from various parts of the country.

Officials said that while Gujarat was planning to send 80 trains to Odisha, the state may only need to send about 10 more trains to other parts of the country. Over the past few days, Maharashtra has seen cancellations with the state unable to utilise the capacity of the

BUSINESS AS USUAL

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### EARLIER BENCH HAD DECLINED MIGRANT PIL

## Migrants don't have to pay to go home, ensure they get food on the way: SC

States to share cost of train, bus travel; Rlys to provide trains as per state request

**ANANTHAKRISHNANG** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

QUESTIONING THE Centre and states on the plight of stranded migrant workers, the Supreme Court Thursday directed that no fare be charged from them for their journey home, and that arrangements be made to provide them with food.

The bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, SK Kaul and MR Shah, which took suo motu cognizance of the issue on Tuesday, saying it had also received several letters and representations from different sections of society, and directed that states share the bus or train fare of the stranded migrants returning home.

An earlier bench had declined to entertain a PIL highlighting problems of stranded migrants.

Granting more time to the Centre and states to submit detailed responses, the bench ordered that the stranded migrant workers be provided food by the states concerned at places to be publicised and notified for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Suman, 26, was in Noida Extension on Wednesday afternoon, walking to catch a bus to Dadri railway station, from where she hoped to get a train to Bihar. Suman, who was carrying her 15-month-old child, said her husband, a construction labourer, had no work and the family had no money to stay on. Gajendra Yadav

### SG Mehta invokes vultures, prophets of doom, Sibal says don't make it personal

**ANANTHAKRISHNANG** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

ARGUING THE Centre's case before a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta questioned the personal commitment of those who were seeking to intervene

Calling them prophets of doom, he said they needed to

prove their credentials.

Soon after finishing his submissions, Mehta told the bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, S K Kaul and M R Shah: "I have something more to say as an

officer of the court. I have a

"A large number of steps were taken by the government and the Supreme Court was fully satisfied about it earlier. But we have something called prophets of doom who only spread negativity, negativity, and negativity. All these people writing on CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Chhattisgarh: 3 children die in quarantine

**GARGIVERMA** RAIPUR, MAY 28

THREE GIRLS, including two infants, died over the last 48 hours in three separate quarantine centres across Chhattisgarh. with officials saying that two of the deaths were caused by asphyxiation while the children were being fed.

in last 48 hours

The third child, a fourmonth-old who died Thursday. had been ill for the last few days, and her Covid test result is awaited. The other two died on Wednesday, including an 18month-old and three-monthold who, sources said, was "severely malnourished".

All the three were children of migrant workers who had returned to the state after the lockdown was eased.

Officials attributed the deaths to a combination of heat and overcrowding at quarantine centres. State Health Minister T S Singh Deo said "strict action" would be taken if any "lapses" were found at the centres but added that "the system is overburdened with the number of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Report: Google

taking stake in

considering

### Not far from the LAC, satellite picks up Chinese armour, artillery

Even as Delhi, Beijing work the lines, trucks, excavators suggest permanent construction work opposite Galwan

**MANAMANSINGH** CHHINA, SUSHANT SINGH & ARUN SHARMA

CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, JAMMU, MAY 28

AS DELHI and Beijing turn to their working mechanism at the level of diplomats to reduce military tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, there's evidence of the Chinese having deployed towed artillery and mechanised elements on their side of the LAC opposite the Galwan valley.

Highly placed sources told The Indian Express that a detailed analysis of satellite images has shown extensive deployment of towed artillery and mechanised elements on the Chinese side, bringing Indian deployments within striking distance.

Satellite images also show CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**DIPLOMATIC** TALKS WITH CHINA STARTED BEFORE LAST WEEK'

LT GEN S L NARASIMHAN MEMBER, NSAB

**EXPRESS NETWORK** 

**WILL RESOLVE ISSUE** WITH CHINA, SAYS **GOVT ON TRUMP'S OFFER OF MEDIATION** 

### Glimmer in Covid surge: Less than 5% of all patients require critical care

As of May 27, only 2.25% needed ICU, 1.91% oxygen, just 3 on ventilators

**ABANTIKA GHOSH** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

AS RETURNING migrants and easing lockdown push the coronavirus far and wide, an analysis of statewise data shows that when it comes to Covid patients requiring critical care, their share, even in high-burden states like Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, remains low. So is the demand for ventilators.

Similar is the case in states Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha where the migrant influx is pushing up Covid numbers.

Of the total 83,004 active cases on May 27, less than 3500 needed any kind of intervention

Key to infra, treatment

being encouraged to prevent patients from deteriorating to where they need ICU.

### Centre, state must consult, cooperate to tackle Covid situation, says Thackeray



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF minister

Uddhav Thackeray said on

Thursday that he was not con-

sulted either before the three-

week national lockdown was

imposed on March 25, or before

the announcement on the re-

need for consultations and coop-

eration between the Centre and

states in dealing with the Covid-

Act (UAPA) in connection with

the riots in Northeast Delhi in

February and accused of al-

legedly instigating crowds by

giving speeches in areas where

anti-CAA protests were on. He

was produced before the judge

Dharmender Rana, in his order,

wrote: "It is informed by inspec-

tor Lokesh that there was a com-

munal riot in Delhi and accused

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

Additional Sessions Judge

on May 27.

Thackeray underscored the

MUMBAI, MAY 28

sumption of flights.



Maharashtra CM was guest at Loksatta

19 pandemic. "There is need for and state to go forward," he said. "There should be dialogue

between the Centre and state before placing restrictions or granting relaxations from the lockdown. Initially, I was opposed to resuming air services because the airport is not just a service, it is an industry. Apart from pilots and cabin crew, other staff are involved in it. With the lockdown in force un-May 31, there were

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

### TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE RECOVERED: 67,691 | DEATHS: 4,531

**333** TESTS: **33,62,136** | DOUBLING RATE: **14.34**\*\*

TOWATCH	CASES	24HRS	GROWTH*	RATE**		
■ Maharashtra	56,948	2,190	5.44%	13.23		
■ Gujarat	15,195	366	2.78%	25.87		
■ Kerala	1,003	40	6.02%	11.95		
■ Tamil Nadu	18,575	847	5.01%	14.37		
■Bihar	3,036	68	9.51%	7.57		
■West Bengal 4,192 183 4.39% 16.40						
$^* Compounded \ Daily \ Growth \ Rate \ over \ last \ 7 \ days \\  ^{**} Calculated \ over \ 7-day \ growth$						

**CONCERN** ASSAM: Fastest growing state at the moment, cases

doubling in fewer than three days.

**CAUTION** A GLIMMER KERALA: Growth **RAJASTHAN**: Like in cases faster in in Gujarat, growth second surge; rate of cases has growing faster than been slowing for the national average. last couple of weeks

Based on daily data by Centre, ICMR, state governments

### Vodafone Idea **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

GLOBAL INTERNET giant Google is looking to buy up to 5 per cent stake in debt-laden Vodafone Idea, the Financial Times reported Thursday.

Alphabet Incis also looking to buy some stake in Vodafone Idea's rival Reliance Jio Infocomm, the newspaper reported, without providing details.

The report comes almost a month after social media giant Facebook picked up 9.9 per cent stake for Rs 43,574 crore (\$5.7 billion) in Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL) Jio Platforms. Jio Platforms, a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL, has since seen **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

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GIVEN THAT critical care infra is low outside urban areas, pressure will grow on hospitals in cities as numbers rise. In Delhi, barely eight Covid ICU beds were vacant in private hospitals as of May 27. Use of oxygen is

### Jamia: Delhi court says probe seems 'targeted'

**ANAND MOHAN J** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

A DELHI court, while sending arrested Jamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha to judicial custody, has remarked that "the investigation seems to be targeted only towards one end" Tanha (24) was arrested by

the Delhi Police Special Cell on May 20 under Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

A FIRST: **DELHI DAILY COUNT CROSSES** 1,000 A total 1.024 corona-

virus cases were reported in the capital on Thursday, the first time Delhi has breached the 1,000 cases mark in a day. The total case count in Delhi is now 16,281. Thirteen deaths were recorded on Thursday; the toll is now 316. REPORT, P3

### Industry chorus: Package not much help, govt must do the heavy lifting

ANIL SASI & P **VAIDYANATHANIYER** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

AS COMPANIES gradually ramp up capacities post the lockdown and announcement of the Rs 20 lakh crore AtmaNirbhar Covid economic package, many are of the view that the government needs to do a lot more heavy lifting to generate demand given the extraordinary circum-

There cannot be a better way than increased government spending, direct cash transfers to consumers and deferment of taxes, according to responses of 100-plus companies to a survey carried out by a national trade The survey was conducted

after the latest round of easing, and the respondents included

large companies, regional trade bodies, and also some small and medium enterprises across the manufacturing and services sec-

Some broad trends that emerge

■ Bigger companies are operating at higher capacities; mid and small-sized companies in the same or related sectors are operating sub-optimally.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KEY NUMBERS						
States/UT	Active Cases Till May 27	InICU	Ventilator	Oxygen		
Maharashtra	36,012	3.32%	0.006%	2.21%		
Delhi	6,954	1.31%	0.005%	3.56%		
M.P	3,030	6.44%	0.008%	7.85%		
West Bengal	2,240	10.34%	0.006%	5.8%		
Gujarat	6,767	0.58%	0.001%	1.03%		
Uttar Pradesh	2,680	2.28%	0.001%	1.4%		
Tamil Nadu#^	8,259	0.24%	0%	0.37%		
Karnataka	1,491	1.21%	0.011%	1.21%		
Rajasthan	3,195	0.81%	0.001%	0.46%		
Andhra Pradesh	1,105	1.4%	0.002%	1.2%		
INDIA	83.004	2.25%	0.004%	1.91%		

### Help pours in but teen cyclist is happy to return to school

VISHAL MENON NEW DELHI, MAY 28

**IYOTI KUMARI Paswan has lost** count of the media interviews she's had to tackle over the last week - from 9 am to late evening, almost every day. Then, there are the VVIP phone calls, including a video call from former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri

The story of the 15-year-old's decision to buy a second-hand cycle with the Rs 2,000 that was left with the family, and pedal from Sikanderpur in Haryana's Gurgaon to her home in Bihar's

Darbhanga to escape the lockdown distress, has touched many – from politicians to bureaucrats, business tycoons to

More so, since she was taking her injured father along on the 1,200-km journey - they were lucky to get a ride on a truck for the last 70 km, says her father, an e-rickshaw driver who was stuck without work after a road accident

Today, Jyoti and her father are under home quarantine in Sirhulli village, unnerved by the media glare, and thankful for the surge of support.

"It gets difficult sometimes...

They ask the same questions. Jyoti gets exhausted. Imagine, we are supposed to be in quarantine since we reached on May 15," says Mohan, the father. "But people have been kind,"

he adds.

The Bihar government will provide free schooling for Jyoti, and has started work on constructing a bathroom at her home. Former UP chief minister Akhilesh Yadav has transferred Rs 1 lakh to her account. Anand Kumar, the founder of Patnabased Super 30 for underprivileged IIT aspirants, has offered to sponsor her higher education. That's not all. Union MoS



Jyoti will join the Pindaruch High School near her village in Bihar's Darbhanga district. Twitter

Ashwini Kumar Choubey wants to nominate Jyoti as the country's "health ambassador". And Rabri Devi has promised to fund her education – and marriage, "when that day comes".

There's already a pending invite from the national cycling federation for trials in New Delhi Jyoti was reluctant initially but now savs "cycle race ieetna hai. kyunki mein kuch banna chahti hoon (I have to win the cycle race because I want to achieve something)".

The federation's chairman Onkar Singh says the offer remains open. "Jyoti is confused by the attention she's receiving.

Once the frenzy subsides, we will contact her. We would like to conduct trials and mould her into a top-level cyclist," he says. Union Law Minister Ravi

Shankar Prasad posted on Twitter that he has spoken to Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju "for identifying her talent". But for now, Jyoti is excited to go to school, "I will resume my

ends. Due to financial constraints, I had stopped going to school two years ago," she says. Her father says the family is not planning to return to Sikanderpur, and Jyoti will at-

education once the lockdown

tend the Pindaruch High School

ready in a couple of days," says But amidst the tumult,

near her village, where she

gained admission following the

intervention of the district edu-

brings a surprise, and bank noti-

fications have been pinging for a

The family says every day

But help isn't always in cash.

We didn't have a bathroom.

Seeing our plight, workers from

the Bihar government came to

construct one for us. It should be

cation officer.

Darbhanga's one-time MP and former India cricketer Kirti Azad **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

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#### AS THE LOCUSTS FLY IN, MEMORIES AND FEARS OF A RECURRING 'PLAGUE'

For those of an older generation, sights of locusts brought back memories of a time when they were a frequent feature in India, feared immensely in villages as the harbinger of destruction, and newspapers carried vivid

#### VIDEO OF THE DAY



'IT TAKES ENTIRE DAY TO FETCH WATER'

Villagers face hardship in Maharashtra due to water shortage

#### **CORONAVIRUS**



**TRYING TO CALM NERVES 24X7** 

This team at NIMHANS, Bengaluru needs nerves of steel

### **EXPRESS** AUDIO

### How locusts threaten **India's food security**

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we look at the threat that the current locust swarms pose to India and what can be done about it

### **FROM PAGE ONE**

### Delhi, Beijing

the presence of at least 16 tanks with a mix of infantry combat vehicles, though camouflaged. Flatbed trucks, excavator machines, dumper trucks too have been identified in the imagery, sources said, adding that these suggest permanent defences are being prepared by the Chinese

"Bunkers, troops on ground and machine gun emplacements can also be seen which may also show that the Chinese have been anticipating an offensive and have made defensive positions too," sources said.

"Suitable" counter-deployments, sources said, have also been done on the Indian side of the LAC to neutralise any advantage that the Chinese may accrue due to the deployments they have done in depth.

At Pangong Tso, where Chinese and Indian troops came to blows on May 5-6, the Indian side, sources said, has been concerned about the Chinese occupation of a place called Foxhole Point, the southern-most point on the northern banks of the lake. This is located between Finger 3 and Finger 4, giving the Chinese an advantage in area domination.

As reported by The Indian Express, Chinese forces have moved into Indian territory by crossing the LAC at some places in eastern Ladakh: in the Pangong Tso area, and at three separate locations in the Hot Springs sector.

The perception of the two sides about the LAC has been different at Pangong Tso, leading to tensions and disputes on the lake and on the northern banks. But the locations that saw Chinese incursions in Hot Springs -Gogra, Patrolling Point-14, PP-15 have not been disputed so far, and they have come in 2-3 km ahead of the LAC

The Indian side is also concerned about threat posed to strategic Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road by Chinese deployment, opposite Galwan river on its side of LAC. The 255-km road was inaugurated last year by Defence Minister Rainath Singh who inaugurated a 1400-feet bridge on Shyok river to the north of this area.

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Executive Councillor (Education) Konchok Stanzin said: "While it is difficult to say how many Chinese troops have intruded inside Indian territory in Pangong Tso area, they are camping in Four Finger and Green Top areas also, apart from Patrolling Point 14-15.

Stanzin represents Chushul constituency in Leh, "People in villages like Merak, Lukung, Urung, Man, Spangmik and Kakstel along the Pangong lake are worried over the Chinese intrusions. I have come to reassure people in the villages," he said.

The Indian Army has not commented on the Chinese incursions, but for a statement denying reports that an Indian patrol had been detained by the Chinese soldiers last week. It has, however, acknowledged that soldiers from both sides clashed on the night of May 5/6 in Pangong Tso and on

May 9 at Naku La in Sikkim. On Wednesday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry struck a conciliatory tone, saying the "border area situation is overall stable and controllable". Sun Weidong, Beijing's envoy to Delhi, too said: "We should never allow our differences to shadow the overall development of our relations... We should gradually seek understanding through communication and constantly resolve differences."The Indian establishment is still waiting for signs of any deescalation by the Chinese in eastern Ladakh.

"The next 72 hours are crucial in which we have to watch for any reduction in the soldiers and equipment from the Chinese side.

So far (as on Thursday afternoon), there has been no change in their deployment. Our side also remains on high alert, we haven't changed anything either," an official told The Indian Express.

### Chhattisgarh

returning migrants". Thursday's death occurred in Balod district, and officials identified the victim's father as Yuvraj

Nishad, who had returned to his village, Tenga, from Chandrapur in Maharashtra on May 14 along with his wife, three-year-old son and four-month-old daughter.

The girl was unwell and local health workers were checking on her. On May 26, they asked the family to get the child to hospital. The family reached the hospital on May 27, but no one checked the child the entire day," Yogeshwar Nishad, Yuvraj's older brother, claimed. "My brother informed me today that the child had died."

Local officials said the parents refused to part with the body until they were assured by police officers that it would be returned to them for the last rites. Finally, a health worker in PPE carried the body out, as Yuvraj watched with his son at the door of the centre.

The family came on a truck from Maharashtra. We had sent the child's sample on May 25, but the test results haven't come yet," said a district official.

The 18-month-old died at a quarantine centre in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi Wednesday, three days after she had arrived with her family from Bhopal. Officials said she died

due to asphyxiation after food

got stuck in her throat. "The girl's family -- her father is a 22-year-old migrant worker -- had come to the centre a week ago but then slipped out and went home. After the villagers got to know, they sent them

back." an official said.

The three-month-old died on the same day at a quarantine centre in Kabirdham distict's Bandhatola village. Officials said the child's family had returned from Nagpur on May 11. "The girl and her family were kept at the village school where more than 30 other people are under quarantine," an official said.

According to sources, the child was "severely malnourished" and had been admitted to the local hospital before she died due to asphyxiation while being fed milk.

The latest deaths follow a series of at least 10 fatalities in quarantine centres across the state since May 14, including one due to electrocution, two to snakebite, two suicides and at least three due to illness.

The quarantine centres are decentralised, and monitored by the district administration. "In each village, government buildings are used as quarantine centres. These buildings are crowded and the heat has increased exponentially. This can lead to dehydration and related complications," said a health official.

Health Minister Deo said: "The transit of migrants should have been regulated. There are limits to all systems. As of now, we have a severe backlog in testing because there are just not enough labs. We are trying to set up new labs, but that will take weeks. We are trying to help people in quarantine centres with all facilities. In lieu of the current weather conditions, water and ORS sachets should be provided."

### Jamia student

was actively involved in that. My attention has been drawn to the statement of a witness... where there are specific allegations against the accused. In view of the material available on record, accused be remanded to judicial custody till 25/06/2020."

"Perusal of the case diary reveals a disturbing fact. The investigation seems to be targeted only towards one end. Upon inquiry

### Migrants don't have to pay to go home: SC

period they have to wait for their turn to start the journey.

While the state from where they set out shall provide meal and water at the bus station, the Railways should provide it during the journey, it said. During the hearing, Justice

Kaul asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta: "What is the estimated time required to shift migrants? What arrangements are being made? What is the mechanism in place? Do they know if they will be shifted on fifth day, seventh day or tenth day?... What's being done to ensure they are given information?"

Mehta said since the states are the boarding points, they would be able to explain this better. "But what is the normal time? If a migrant is identified, there must be some certainty that he will be shifted out within one week or ten days at most? What is that time?" the bench asked.

In its order later, the bench directed states to "simplify and speed up the process of registration of migrant workers and

also provide help desk for registration at the places where they are stranded".

It said states must "try to endeavour that after registration, the workers should be asked to board the train or bus at the earliest and complete information should be publicized to all concerned regarding mode of transport".

'We further direct that those migrant workers who are found walking on the highways or roads shall be immediately taken care by the concerned State/Union Territories and they shall be provided transport to the destination and all facilities including food and water be provided to those found walking on the road,' the bench said.

On earlier occasions, the court had refused to intervene in the matter of migrant workers who had begun walking home. On March 31, the Solicitor General had told the court that as of 11 am that day, no migrant labourer was walking on foot to reach home.

Earlier this month, the

court declined to entertain a PIL seeking directions to District Magistrates to immediately identify moving or stranded migrant labourers, shift then to labour camps and provide them food and "free transport" to their villages.

A different bench of the court had, on that occasion, wondered how it could stop migrants from walking and that it was up to the states to act.

But the bench on Thursday made it clear that it would take a comprehensive view of the issue and directed that all necessary details regarding the number of migrant workers, the plan to transport them etc be brought on record.

It also asked the Railways to provide trains as and when the state governments put in requests. Earlier, Mehta thanked the court for taking cognisance of the matter and said some isolated incidents have taken place and these are being shown repeatedly.

He said he has filed a preliminary report in response to the notice issued by the court.

He said the initial lockdown had a two-fold purpose — to break the chain of the virus and to enhance and strengthen hospitals and healthcare.

Justice Bhushan said: "We are not disputing the fact that Centre has not taken steps. But whoever needs help is not getting that help."

Mehta said that thought initially there was movement of migrants, it was sought to be stopped so that infection does not move from urban to rural areas. But subsequently, the Centre, he said, decided to shift the migrants. He said the government will not stop its efforts until every single migrant is shifted. He referred to the Railways plying Shramik special trains and said that due to some unfortunate incidents, what actually happened had not been placed in the public domain.

were operated between May 1 and 27 to transport migrants, and 91 lakh migrants (50 lakh by train and 41 lakh via the road transport) had already

### ■Automobile units are delib-He said 3700 special trains

■ Auto units in the north have

### SG invokes vultures, prophets of doom

social media, giving interviews, cannot even acknowledge what is being done...They are not showing any courtesy to the nation."

"State governments and ministers are working overnight. None of these people acknowledge," Mehta said.

"There was a photographer who went to Sudan in 1993. There was a vulture and a panicstricken child. The vulture was waiting for the child to die. He photographed it and the photo was published in The New York Times and the photographer was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. He committed suicide after four months" Mehta said

His reference was to South African photojournalist Kevin Carter's photo which had become a subject of international

from inspectors Lokesh and Anil,

they have failed to point out what

investigation has been carried out

so far regarding the involvement

of the rival faction. In view of the

same, DCP concerned is required

to monitor the investigation and

ensure fair investigation," the or-

issues of how to transport them

and passengers to and from the

airport. Then the Centre said that

the state should allow at least lim-

ited services, stating that Mumbai

is an important centre."

The chief minister, who com-

pleted six months in office on

Wednesday, was speaking at the

the Loksatta interactive web se-

ries programme, Sathicha Gazhal

been better Centre-state co-ordi-

nation, the problems faced by mi-

grants workers could have been

nationwide lockdown in March,

migrant workers were seen

crowding some railway stations

in Mumbai at a time when the

government was shutting down

activities in a phased manner. I re-

alised that if we don't allow mi-

grants to return home, it may lead

to law and order issues. We re-

quested the Centre to give us

some trains over the next few

days and offered to bear the cost

of their transportation. We said

we will not ask anyone to go to

their homes, but those who feel

insecure can go. Had these trains

"Before announcement of the

Thackeray also said had there

Uddhav

Thackeray said.

Maharashtracha.

avoided.

debate on the professional responsibility versus personal duty of a journalist. "He was not an activist. He

was not running an NGO. He was a man with a conscience...A journalist had asked him, what happened to the child? He said I don't know. I had to return home. Then the reporter asked him how many vultures were there? Carter said one. No, there were two-one was holding the camera, said the journalist," Mehta said.

"Those who come before your Lordships, let them establish their credentials. They earn in crores. Have they spent a penny? People are feeding people on the streets," the SG said. "All these people critiquing, had any of them cared to come out of their AC offices to help?"

been allowed then, the migrant

workers could have gone home

easily and the spread of Covid-19

could have been controlled,"

Thackeray said, also stating that

Maharashtra has cordial relations

allegation that he was a "non-

playing captain", and dismissed

speculation about a conflict in the

ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi, the

three-party coalition of his Shiv

Sena, the NCP, and the Congress.

inexperience had led to over-de-

pendence on the bureaucracy and

a marginalisation of the political

leadership, Thackeray retorted:

"Yes, I am inexperienced and de-

pendent on the bureaucracy. So

what? Show me one decision

which was not correct. My inex-

perience in administration has al-

lowed me to work with an open

mind. I listen to everybody, but

that does not mean I don't take

their (the BJP's) over-experience

has left them more confused."

He added caustically, "I think

Asked why he was not seen

as asserting himself more and in

action as taking charge of the

government, Thackeray said, "I

am not a Bollywood hero who

must be seen in action. Why

should I be seen everywhere?

Let my work speak. Let my work

who would push responsibilities

on to others. I accept challenges

and I win. I can state with confi-

dence that Maharashtra will

emerge stronger as a leading in-

He said he was not "someone

determine my action."

On the BJP's allegation that his

Thackeray rejected the BJP's

with the central government.

"For them, Lordships are neutral only if you abuse the executive," he said, adding that failing to do so invites comparisons with the ADM Jabalpur moment (the landmark case where the court is criticised for giving into the government). "Some High Courts", Mehta

said, "are running a parallel government", alluding to the fact that many High Courts had questioned the governments at the state and the Centre on their handling of the Covid crisis. A little later, the SG objected

as Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal rose to argue."This court cannot be made a political platform", Mehta said.

Sibal responded: "I want to participate in a humanitarian issue." The SG said Sibal may argue if he is for a state and that he

dustrial state after overcoming

nounced a loan waiver for farm-

ers. Maharashtra was among the

states that ensured there were no

communal riots following the Centre's controversial decision on

Glimmer in surge

oxygen therapy, ICU or ventila-

tors. A total of 1,868 patients

needed ICU (2.25 per cent), of

whom just three were on venti-

lators while 1585 people (1.91 per

cent) were on oxygen. This trend

has remained largely unchanged

Until May 15, 18,855 ventila-

tors were available in the country

for Covid care, this number

would have gone up since. In ad-

dition, 60,000 ventilators have

cance given the apprehension

about medical infrastructure be-

ing overwhelmed by the pan-

demic as testing ramps up and

Lockdown 4.0, Niti Aayog's Dr

Vinod Paul said: "Our goal is to

control the pandemic and then

restore normalcy so that life can

go on. That balance is key to all de-

cisions on restrictions. We have to

make sure that the size of the pan-

demic remains below our capac-

and Bihar where returning mi-

grants are a cause for concern, so

far no patients are on ventilators,

oxygen or in the ICU. The reasons

In Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand

On the way ahead during

These figures assume signifi-

been ordered.

more cases pour in.

ity to treat patients."

since the first cases came in.

"After becoming CM, I an-

the Covid-19 pandemic."

the CAA," he said.

pearing to argue some interlocutory application. Sibal, who was appearing on behalf of two organisations, said it was a humanitarian crisis that had nothing to do with politics. "Don't make it personal", he told the SG. Mehta asked Sibal. "What's

would oppose him if he was ap-

your contribution in the crisis?" Sibal replied: "Four crores, That's my contribution," adding that he wanted to assist the court as a counsel. Sibal said that under the Disaster Management Act, a national plan should be prepared by the National Executive Committee, which is then approved by the NDMA.

Section 12 of the national plan has guidelines for minimum standards of relief which the National authority has to recommend, he said.

aren't clear: there is speculation that the epidemic may be in its early stages in these states or that

few patients need critical care or

that the health infrastructure is-

n't uniformly distributed in these Of the 2,680 active cases in Uttar Pradesh till May 27, 61

needed ICU and 38 needed oxygen. No patient was required to be put on a ventilator. In Maharashtra, which has

seen the most number of deaths, the percentage of people on oxygen is just 2.21 per cent. In Delhi the percentage is 3.56 but on May 27, when the number of active cases in Maharashtra was 36012, there were just 796 people on oxygen while in Delhi, of the 6954 active cases, 248 were on oxygen.

Overall, the percentage of people on oxygen (1.91% of total active cases in the country) is an important metric because it has often been seen in Covid cases that patients recover quickly after a few days on oxygen. However, if timely oxygen is not given, there are increased chances of organ damage and quick deterioration. Until May 26, Delhi had 303 deaths while Maharashtra till May 27 had 1897 deaths.

The data suggest low levels of need for intensive care, except in West Bengal and MP. Use of ventilators appears to be very low and oxygen therapy has been used more than mechanical ventilators. Overall, the data are consistent with good clinical outcomes with a very limited requirement for advanced intensive care," said Dr K Srinath Reddy, president 10.34% of the 2240 active cases --

Public Health Foundation of India

and member of the ICMR's Covid.

Bengal has the highest percentage of people in the ICU: and also a relatively high proportion (5.8%) on oxygen. The state saw 289 deaths till May 27. Of the 3030 active cases in MP till May 27, 7.85% were on oxygen and 6.44% were in the ICU. There were 313 deaths till May 27.

Meanwhile, the total number of Covid cases in the country touched 1.58.333 with the addition of 6566 cases and 194 deaths in the last 24 hours. A total of 1,19,976 samples were tested in the last 24 hours taking the total to 33.62 lakh.

### Industry chorus

■ Companies producing fast moving consumer goods or those producing essential commodities and food products have been able to scale up fast, and are working at even 80 per cent capacity or

erately slow in restarting operations due to lack of retail demand, probably because of stress on consumers due to uncertainty on the job front, and wage cuts.

started earlier, while those in south and east trail: this could be because the Manesar-Gurgaon belt was among the first hubs to open up, while those in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have been slower off the block due to Covid overhang. Most companies said the

stimulus package of the government did not benefit them, many said it was ineffective, and some others said there was little fiscal support either to the industry or to the poor. Suggestions varied from Rs

2,500 direct cash transfer to the poor, wage support to labour, and GST and income tax waivers.

Within the manufacturing sector, pharma units are operating at over 85 per cent capacity, while chemical companies are lagging behind in capacity utilisation. In services, software and technology firms are working at 90 per cent capacity.

A Mumbai-headquartered software company reported 95 per cent operating capacity post-lockdown, while other small IT services firms, a midsized firm involved in artificial intelligence solutions and another working on unmanned systems were operating at much lower levels of 50 per cent.

Core sector firms in industries such as mining and steel reported operations even during the lockdown, primarily because restarting smelters and boilers is a cost and energy intensive process.

Capital goods and power generation companies too, operated through the lockdown, but at significantly lower capacity levels. A major Mumbai-based capital goods company pegged its current capacity utilityation at just 37 per cent, but a Bengaluru-based state-owned equipment major reported a much higher operating capacity of 75 per cent.

### Teen cyclist

points to the larger story. "The fundamental issue is that there is this daily wage worker who is unemployed, penniless and in such a dire position that he would die of poverty. So his daughter, who is a minor, takes it upon herself to take her father back to the village in a cycle without realising the consequences of what might happen. This is what needs to be talked about." he says.

Mohan acknowledges that the government should have looked after the interests of migrant workers like him while implementing the lockdown.

### Google

New Delhi

Atlantic, Silver Lake Partners,

"If you look at the timing, the Google deal with Vodafone Idea is a win-win for both. Nobody wants Vodafone Idea to go bellyup, and it is certainly not completely out of the woods yet. So it gets the desired money to survive. On the other hand, Google gets a cheap entry into the market and can bring its expertise in data to benefit from a growing wireless user base," said a telecom analyst, who did not wish to be identified.

A deal with Google could be a lifeline for Vodafone Idea, which owes as much as Rs 54,000 crore in adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues to the government. Following a Supreme Court

judgment on October 24 last year, Vodafone Group's chief executive officer Nick Read had said that the company, which holds 49 per cent stake in Vodafone Idea, would not commit any more equity in India as the "country effectively contributed zero value to the company's share price".

Vodafone Idea chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla had said that it might have to shut shop if there was no AGR relief from government, as it did not make sense

to "put good money after bad". A potential deal between Google and Vodafone Idea will heat up competition in one of the world's largest and fastest growing data consumption markets, experts said. As of January 31, 2020, India had a total of 115.6 crore wireless telephone subscribers, with a net addition of up to 50 lakh users per month, according to data from Telecom Regulatory

Authority of India (TRAI). The three private players, Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel, and Reliance Jio, together held nearly 90 per cent share of the domestic telecom market. Though it has been losing subscribers for over six quarters now, Vodafone Idea had a 28.4 per cent share of the domestic market as of January 31, 2020.

### Shramik trains

Shramik trains. In Telangana, the 36 trains that set off on May 23 and 24 ran at just about 59 per cent capacity, sources said -- 17 of those at less than 50 per cent

"I am happy to say that in the

Corona crisis, the Shramik Special trains have so far transported over 50 lakh labourers to the home states in safe and convenient manner," Railway Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted Thursday. Railways data shows that af-

ter Guiarat and Maharashtra. Punjab has seen off 397 trains, 263 trains originated from UP and a similar number from Bihar.

Among the Opposition states, West Bengal has so far received only about 75 trains. Three Shramik Specials, data shows, originated from West Bengal - to Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar.

Chhattisgarh received around 53 trains. Raiasthan received around 45 trains while it sent out around 119, of which around 18 were from Kota, taking away mostly stranded students. Odisha received around 159 trains while it sent out three – one each to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh.

Kerala has received just nine trains, three from Maharashtra, two from Delhi, and one each from Puniab. Raiasthan. Karnataka and Gujarat. It has so far sent out around 50 trains, mostly to Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, but also to West Bengal, Rajasthan and even to Manipur, Tripura and Jammu.

When the trains began running on May 1, only 1,200 passengers, accounting for social distancing, travelled on each trip. But towards the middle of the month. each train carried a maximum of 1,600 passengers each way. An estimated 50 lakh people have so far travelled on the trains as per ticket sale figures till Thursday.

investments from global private equity players such as General Silver Lake Partners and KKR.

## THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

### **BRIEFLY** —

### Nurse tries to commit suicide

Gurgaon: A 25-year-old nurse at a private hospital in Gurgaon attempted suicide on Thursday after she was diagnosed with coronavirus. "She tried to hang herself in the room she shared with some other people in Jharsa village. They rescued her," said Subhash Boken, PRO of Gurgaon Police. "The woman had tested positive but we do not know if this was the reason she attempted suicide," said Aman Yadav, ACP (Sadar).

### Court denies Jarwal bail

New Delhi: A Delhi Court rejected the bail application of AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal, who is being investigated by the police in connection with the suicide of a South Delhibased doctor. Additional Sessions Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar rejected Jarwal's application considering the status of the applicant, the stage of investigation and nature of

### Man killed over petty argument

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man was allegedly killed by two men after he objected to them roaming around the streets during the lockdown in Sagarpur, said police.

### Woman sets herself on fire

New Delhi: Upset over a fight with her husband, a 29-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by setting herself on fire in South Delhi's Maidan Garhi Wednesday. The woman, Jyoti Mishra, was upset after her husband refused to buy a new mobile phone for their kids to attend online classes, police said.

### 3 DJB staff test positive

New Delhi: Three people working in the office of the law officer at the DJB headquarters in Jhandewalan have tested positive for Covid-19. Seven more NDMC staff working at Palika Kendra centre on Parliament Street have also tested positive since Tuesday, raising the total cases reported from there to 9. ENS

### RISE EXPECTED, SHOULD FOCUS ON LOW DEATH RATE: EXPERTS

## 24-hour Covid count breaches 1,000 mark, 13 more deaths

suggested the rise was expected.

"Looking at the population of

Delhi, more people are vulnerable

of catching infection. So the num-

bers will go up. Nationally, cases

have been fluctuating due to

which the death rate will also vary.

This is a common characteristic of

any virus, and a surge is bound to

happen. What we need to focus

on is the death rate, which should

not increase. The cumulative

**ASTHA SAXENA** 

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

AS MANY as 1,024 coronavirus cases were reported in the national capital on Thursday — the first time Delhi has breached the 1,000 mark — taking the total number of confirmed cases to 16,281. Thirteen more deaths have been collated by the state health department, taking the toll to 316.

Delhi is now third in terms of case count, behind Maharashtra with 56,948 cases and Tamil Nadu with 18,545 cases. In the last 10 days since lockdown relaxations were announced, the city has reported 5,656 cases almost 35% of the total.

The city has 4,462 beds for Covid patients, 429 ICU beds, 343 ventilators and 2,632 oxygen supported beds in Coviddesignated hospitals. With 2,196 patients admitted in 13 hospitals, around 2,200 beds are still vacant. There are 4,227 people under home isolation, almost double the patients in hospitals.



Medics attend to a suspected Covid-19 patient at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital . Amit Mehra

The number of those who have recovered/migrated/been discharged has reached 7495, with 231 people recovering in a day. Active cases stand at 8,470. Delhi's recovery rate is 46%, higher than the national recovery rate of 42.75%. The mortality rate in Delhi 1.94%, lower than

the national average of 2.8%. Experts in Delhi who have been closely monitoring cases Dr Jugal Kishore, director, head of the department of community medicine, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung

At AIIMS, as many as 195 healthcare workers have so far tested positive. "On an average, five-six healthcare workers are testing positive daily," said DK Sharma, AIIMS MS.

A committee formed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to assess the capital's health infrastructure had prepared a scenario for three stages: stage 1 when the city will start reporting 100 cases a day, Stage 2 with 500 cases a day and stage 3 with 1,000 cases a day.

The calculations were based on the study published in New England Journal of Medicine. The study was conducted by a group of researchers to analyse data on the first 425 confirmed cases in Wuhan to determine epidemiologic characteristics of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)-infected pneumonia (NCIP).

"The study estimated about

1,099-odd patients, but we thought let's take 1,000 patients for our calculations. It said if there are 1,000 patients, then 14% will require hospitalisation because of severe infections; about 5% will require an ICU set-up; 2.3% might require ventilator support; 1.4% might succumb to the disease. At present, we are over-prepared as Delhi has sufficient number of ICUs and ventilators. Adding more ICUs and ventilators initially has been an advantage for us," said DrSKSarin, head of the committee and chief of the Institute

Delhi has begun the process of adding 1,500 beds with oxygen support in GTB Hospital. Now, around 9% of patients are in ICU and most are on oxygen support.

of Liver and Biliary Sciences.

"We need to ensure that hospitals are not overwhelmed as cases are going up. Those above 50 and with co-morbidities should have a pulse oximeter at home or at quarantine centres. The government has a plan to purchase 1,000 ventilators," said a health department official.

### Notice issued to two hospitals for 'refusing treatment'

**SAKSHI DAYAL** GURGAON, MAY 28

DAYS AFTER the Gurgaon District Magistrate warned of action against private hospitals refusing treatment to Covid-19 patients,

showcause notices were issued to

two private hospitals Thursday for

allegedly violating the directions. The notices, issued by the DM, says Park Hospital and Paras Hospital "failed to comply with the... order stating that private hospitals/nursing homes in district Gurugram shall not refuse any patient approaching them for treatment of coronavirus infection and other critical services".

District Magistrate Amit Khatri said notices had been issued to both hospitals. They have been ordered to "explain within one day as to why the office of the District Magistrate should not impose sanctions for failing to comply with standards of due diligence".

Paras Hospital, in a statement, denied any wrongdoing and said it is taking the coronavirus pandemic "very seriously". "We are following all ICMR guidelines regarding hospital admissions and **Paras Hospital denied** any wrongdoing. Park Hospital claimed the notice was wrongly addressed to them

we haven't refused any cases till now which require medical attention. At Paras Hospital, we are committed to providing the best healthcare facilities to all our patients," said the statement.

Officials from Park Hospital, however, claimed the notice had wrongly been addressed to the establishment. "We have not received any notice, the document was wrongly addressed to us. In fact, if you read the notice, while it is addressed to Park Hospital, the subject accuses Paras Hospital of the violation," said a hospital spokesperson, adding, "We are not refusing any patients.'

Khatri, however, said: "There was a clerical error in the notice sent to Park Hospital but allegations have come to our attention that both Park Hospital and Paras Hospital have violated directions. Notices have been issued to both.

### Odds of locust attack low, thanks to wind direction

**SHIVAM PATEL** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

THE POSSIBILITY of a locust attack in the national capital is low but that could change if wind direction becomes favourable for their transport, according to Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), a body under the Ministry of Agriculture.

The deputy director of LWO, K LGurjar, told *The Indian Express* on Thursday that five to six swarms of locusts were active in parts of Rajasthan and one or two were active in some areas of Madhya Pradesh. "For the locusts to move towards Delhi from Rajasthan, the wind has to blow from west to east, But at present, the wind direction over Delhi is from the east. The population of locusts in MP is not very high and therefore they won't be able travel to Delhi. Efforts are also underway to control them there," said Gurjar.

The Delhi government, meanwhile, has issued an advisorv with a list of preventive measures for a "probable locust attack." Delhi Cabinet Minister for Development Gopal Rai on Thursday said the advisory has been sent to authorities, including the three municipal corporations, district magistrates and revenue commissioners



near Sri Karanpur in Rajasthan. Gurmeet Singh

the horticulture sector too gets affected by locusts. I have met senior officials of the department and am personally monitoring

The circular listed four chemicals - Melathion 50% EC, Melathion 25% WP. Chloropyriphos 20% EC and Chloropyriphos 50% EC — that

can be diluted in water and used as pesticides to spray.

custs, but they can only be sprayed when the swarm is at rest in the evening said Gurian of late afternoon Thursday, there was a possibility of the swarm moving towards Bhatinda in Punjab from Rajasthan.

S Chelliah, director of horticulture at the New Delhi Municipal Council, said "Locusts prefer small leaves of agricultural crops. Leaves of trees, shrubs and climbers are harder for them to eat. They would cause damage if they arrive here, but it would be very little to our

### Registrations at DU may begin on June 8

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

DELHI UNIVERSITY may see registrations for admission to its undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate courses opening on June 8 this year, if a tentative schedule prepared by its admissions department is passed by the standing committee of the academic council in its meeting Friday.

This will delay the admission process by a little less than a month from last year, when UG registrations had begun on May 15. As per the tentative schedule of the admission department, headed by Dean Admissions Shobha Bagai, the registration portal is to be opened on June 8 and closed on June 30 for UG courses. The department has suggested the portal be opened once again from July 31 to August 9 for aspirants to update their Class XII marks.

As per the tentative schedule, the first cut-off list will be released on August 11. A total of five cut-offs will be declared, the last being on September 3, after which a "special cut-off" will be released on September 8.

The document to be presented at the meeting of the standing committee's agenda says more cut-offs may be released if seats are left vacant.

"The schedule will depend on the declaration of the Class XII results by CBSE. This is a tentative schedule. The dates may be modified, keeping in view the situation at the time of admission due to Covid-19," it reads.

The UG and PG bulletin of information or prospectus will also be on the meeting agenda on Friday. It remains to be seen what changes are brought in the admission criteria, if at all, and how the Covid-19 pandemic would influence the DU admission process.

CBSE board exams for Classes X and XII were postponed due to the nation-wide lockdown in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. They will now be held from July 1 to 15.

### Consumption of liquor not a right: Govt to HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

THE DELHI government has told the Delhi High Court that sale or consumption of liquor is not a "fundamental right" of the citizen but a "privilege", and the state has the "authority and jurisdiction to regulate (including prohibit totally or partially)". Filing a counter affidavit on

May 27, the Delhi government sought dismissal of petitions against its move to levy "Special Corona Fee" of 70% on the MRP of liquor of all brands in the national capital amid the Covid-19 pandemic. On May 15, the court had sought the Delhi government's response on a batch of PILs seeking setting aside of its May 4 notification and declare it illegal. The matter is to be taken up for hearing Friday.

The 70% is on the maximum retail price (MRP) per bottle. For instance, a liquor bottle having a pre-tax MRP of Rs 1,000 will now cost Rs 1,700.

The Delhi government, through its Standing Counsel Ramesh Singh, said: "...The total Excise Revenue (including the impugned Corona Fee) collected by the State during the aforesaid period between May 4 to May 25 has been to the tune of Rs 227.44 crore (inclusive of Rs 127 crore of Special Corona Fee), against the total revenue collection of Rs 425.24 crore in May 2019," the affidavit states.

The government said its revenue has shrunk by almost 90% in the month of April 2020, and the total collection dwindled to a mere Rs 300 crore as opposed to approximately Rs 4,000 crore in the corresponding month last year.



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He said, "Not only agriculture,

In the advisory, issued on Wednesday, the administration mentioned precautions including ensuring that locusts are not allowed to rest. "Swarms usually fly in day time, and rest during night time. Therefore, locusts should not be allowed to rest, especially during the night," the advisory read.

Pesticides would kill the lo-

green spaces."

### **HOW THE KERALA MODEL WORKS — AND ITS LESSONS**

**FIGHTING THE VIRUS:** 



Presents



with

### K. K. Shailaja

Minister for Health, Social Justice and Woman and Child Development Government of Kerala

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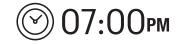
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## Fresh curbs by Haryana in 4 districts near Delhi

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, MAY 28

IN THE wake of increasing Covid-19 cases in districts bordering Delhi — Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonepat and Jhajjar the Haryana government has decided to completely seal even village roads and inner roads connecting these districts with the national capital. Haryana has already sealed the main roads connecting the four districts with Delhi. Anyone coming from Delhi is not allowed to enter without an e-pass approved by the state home department.

The decision to seal inner and village roads connecting these districts with Delhi has to be taken because a lot of traffic movement has been noticed on these roads. Thus, the orders to immediately seal all such roads was taken and directions have been issued to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home). The orders issued by Delhi High Court regarding movement between these districts and Delhi shall be duly followed and relaxations are being given for essential services movement," said Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij.

The state witnessed its biggest single-day spike with 123 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. Out of these, 92 cases were only in three districts - Gurgaon (68),



Borders were sealed in Gurgaon earlier. 70% of Haryana's cases are in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonepat and Jhajjar. Archive

Faridabad (18) and Sonepat (6). In the last one week, Haryana saw 98 fresh cases in Faridabad, 111 in Gurgaon, six in Jhajjar and 27 in Sonepat, all with a Delhi connection. Over 70% of the total cases in Haryana are in these four districts.

Gurgaon and Faridabad have been witnessing a spike in cases for three consecutive days. Taking this into account, Gurgaon District Magistrate Amit Khatri declared 60 containment zones Thursday. Majority of these, that include numerous residential areas, have been declared containment zones till June 23.

The Gurgaon civil surgeon has been directed to conduct door-to-door screening/thermal scanning of each person in households falling in containment zones. Health teams conducting screening/ scanning have been asked to sanitise gates/door knobs of households.

"Movement of inhabitants of

containment zones shall be restricted, other than for essential services and emergency... The entire containment zone shall be sealed by deployment of adequate police force... Further, all SDMs in coordination with ACP/ SHOs concerned shall identify boundaries of containment area immediately, along with entry and exit points, and shall also ensure all necessary essential services/emergency movements/authorised pass movement may be

### Domestic helps at Noida societies cut off by employers, some forced to beg

**ASHNA BUTANI** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

AFTER BEING promised a higher pay, Anju Bibi (32), a domestic help, left her job at one of the houses in Noida's Sector 50 and took up work at a house in Prateek Wisteria in Sector 77. Fifteen days later, she was fired by her new employer.

"When the lockdown was implemented, I was given Rs 1,600 and told to leave. Now, no one is hiring... we do not know when we will get jobs again," said Bibi, who used to work at four houses but was only paid her dues by two employers.

Bibi lives in Sarfabad Village in Sector 75, where most of the women work as domestic helps in nearby housing societies. Since the lockdown, most have left, with a majority leaving on May 27 for their hometowns in West Bengal via Shramik Special trains.



Women who work as domestic helps in nearby housing societies at Sarfabad village. Abhinav Saha

Among the few still in the village is Rehela Parveen (31), who said she has been calling her former employer 8-10 times a day for her dues. "One of my employers owes me Rs 5.000 for March. They can send it to me on Paytm.

but they keep cutting my call or switch off their phones," she said. "The societies don't let us en-

ter. If they do, we aren't permitted to work in more than one house. Our employers call us and tell us to return to our villages. If I

leave. I won't come back," she said. Many are waiting for the lockdown to end so they can find new jobs. But the going has been tough and a few have resorted to begging for food.

"Someone suggested this a

livelihood now," said Poonam Posaha (57), who waited for a helping hand outside Jal Vayu Vihar market in Sector 25.

Posaha said she had worked at a house in Sector 40 for over four years: "I am getting old and I have a back injury. I had a feeling my employers would get rid of me sooner or later... If nothing

works out, I will continue asking

for money and food on the roads. A similar situation prevails in Delhi as well. "I worked at two homes in Lajpat Nagar. While one pays me every month, the other fired me. They are very affluent but they paid me only Rs 2,000 for March. My husband got dengue and I got him admitted to a private hospital as government hospitals are dealing with coronavirus. I borrowed money from acquaintances to pay the hospital charge of Rs 20,000. I have also been unable to pay rent of Rs

6.000." said Rinku Devi (33).

### 2 activists in judicial custody till June 11

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday sent two members of Pinira Tod, a women's student organisation, to judicial custody till June 11. In his order, Duty Magistrate Kapil Kumar wrote, "Investigation is pending. Grounds of arrest have been examined. There were sufficient grounds for arrest of the accused persons. Keeping in view

the nature of these allegations, accused persons are remanded to judicial custody and be produced on 11.06.2020.'

Natasha Narwal (32) and Devganga Kalita (30) were arrested on May 24 in connection with their alleged role in the February anti-CAA Jafrabad sit-in protest. The sit-in had prompted

a pro-CAA rally by BJP's Kapil Mishra and his supporters. A day later, riots broke out in Northeast Delhi. They were granted bail following their arrest by the team from Jafrabad police station, but again arrested by a Crime Branch SIT under charges of murder, attempt to murder, among other charges. **ENS** 

foreign Tablighis to other accommodations New Delhi: The Delhi High Court

HC nod to shift 955

Thursday allowed shifting of 955 foreign nationals, who participated in Nizamuddin Markaz event in March, from institutional quarantine centres to nine alternate places of accommodation. A bench of Justices Vipin

Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar allowed shifting of the foreign nationals to eight facilities, and to Hotel Smart Plaza at Mahipalpur for Malaysian nationals. It said the "petitioners and respondents shall coordinate so that complete log is maintained of each foreign national regarding the facilities to which they are shifted".

Appearing for some of the petitioners, senior advocate

Rebecca John, said the foreign nationals shall continue to remain at the facilities to which they are shifted and shall not shift their location without prior permission. The counsel for other petitioners also agreed to the arrangement.

'... We make it clear our order shall merge in the order the learned Magistrate may pass, before whom chargesheets would be filed, in case the said foreign nationals approach the Magistrate concerned for bail," the court said.

The HC gave the order after the Centre, Delhi Police, Delhi government did not object to senior advocate John's suggestion that foreign nationals be moved to better facilities. **ENS** 

### MCDs to offer wood-based cremation for Covid cases

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

WITH INCREASING pressure on CNG-based cremation facilities, the three civic bodies have started the option of wood-based cremation for Covid cases at its facilities. Only CNG cremation facilities were allowed to function till earlier this week, but it was leading to longer waiting time for families of those who had died and either tested positive for Covid or were suspected to have the virus.

A circular issued by the office of the municipal health officer, North MCD, said the competent authority had allowed inclusion of wood-based cremation in these grounds. It lists four sites –

mation ground on Rani Ihansi Road, Karkardooma cremation ground and Puniabi Bagh cremation ground — where wood-based cremation will be allowed. Only Punjabi Bagh and Nigambodh Ghat have CNG furnaces as well.

At Nigambodh Ghat, a few bodies could not be cremated a few days ago. Officials said problems arose due to lack of adequate infrastructure and staff, along with the detailed protocol and social distancing norms to be followed to cremate Covid patients. The Director, Press and Information of the North body, said, "There were some issues on Wednesday but they have been addressed."

The South MCD spokesperson also said there was an increased rush at the Punjabi Bagh crematorium as well, and woodbased cremation was allowed to accommodate more people.

Delhi had seen 316 Covid deaths till Thursday. At cremation and burial grounds, both Covid confirmed and suspected bodies are laid to rest as per the Covid protocol. Three CNG furnaces out of six at Nigambodh Ghat have not been functional for a while. There are four CNG furnaces at Punjabi Bagh which too have reported technical snags in the past.

East MCD spokesperson Arun Kumar said only wood-based cremations are possible at the Karkardooma ground: "It was earlier not on the list of Covid designated cremation grounds but had to be included later.

### SALUTE THE SOLDIER



SANGTAM 10.08.1975 TO



VAIPHAI 01.03.1971 TO









CHETRY CONSTABLE/COOK 05 02 1967 TO 29 05 2006

Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers and cherishes the martyrdom of its brave hearts, CT/GD S. Amongba Sangtam, CT/GD Thangkholian Vaiphai, CT/GD P. Robi Singh, CT/GD H. Lakshab Singh and CT/Cook Krishna Bahadur Chetry of 17th Battalion, SSB, Bhairabkunda (Assam), who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives for the Nation in the line of their duty on this day in the year 2006. They attained martyrdom on 29.05.2006 when insurgents ambushed them while they were performing ROP and convoy protection duty. We salute the supreme sacrifice of the brave soldiers of SSB.

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL



Name of Work Estimated Cost Last date of online Providing and Laying VDC Flooring at CW, Surajpur (UP). upto 15.00 Hrs

Detailed Tender Notice along with conditions of contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the website <a href="www.cwceprocure.com/CWC">www.cwceprocure.com/CWC</a> or <a href="www.cwc">www.cwc</a> or <a href="www.cwc">ww **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (HOE)** TROPICAL FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

उष्णकटिबंधीय वन अनुसंधान संस्थान Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education भारतीय वानिकी अनसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद (An Autonomous Council under the Ministry of Environment & Forests Govt. of India) ( पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त परिषद् ) P.O.-R.F.R.C., Mandla Road, Jabalpur- 482 021 डाकघर : आर.एफ.आर.सी., मण्डला रोड, जबलपुर-482 021

No. 15-1(1)RC-Chemical, Glassware/2020-21 /Pur/TFRI/JBP/159 A-B Date: 26/05/2020

### भाव अनुबंध आमंत्रण

संस्थान द्वारा वर्ष 2020-2021 में रसायन, कॉच, प्लास्टिक एवं Catalogue में दिए गये उपकरण सामग्रियों की पूर्ति हेत् प्रतिष्ठित निर्माता कंपनियों से भाव अनुबंध प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। भाव अनुबंध प्रस्ताव अधोहस्तोक्षरी के कार्यालय में दिनांक 26/06/2020 तक पहुँच जाना चाहिए। दरें कंपनी की प्रचलित मूल्य सूची के आधार पर दिनांक 31/03/2021 तक प्रभावी रहेंगी।

उष्णकटिबंधीय वन अनुसंधान संस्थान जबलपर

कार्यालय नगर निगम (उत्तर/दक्षिण), कोटा (राज.) website: www.kotamc.org, email:nnkota@gmail.com, Tel Ph: 0744-2502293 संशोधित निविदा सूचना-5

नगर निगम कोटा द्वारा संशोधित निविदा सूचना क्रमांक निनको/ निर्माण/ 2020/6586-94 दिनांक 31.03.2020 से पूर्व में जारी की गई ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 54/2019-20 दिनांक 16.03.2020 की तारीखों में COVID-19 के कारण निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में तिथि	संशोधित तारीख
	निविदा डाउनलोड व अपलोड करने की तिथि (वेबसाईट से)	19.03.20 से 02.06.20 (दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक)	19.03.20 से 08.06.20 (सांय 06.00 बजे तक)
2	डी.डी. एवं दस्तावेज जमा करने की तिथि	19.03.20 से 02.06.20 (दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक)	19.03.20 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।

प्राधिकारी एवं आयक्त नगर निगम, कोटा (उत्तर/दक्षिण



#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR e-Procurement BID IDENTIFICATION No SENC (R&B)/02/2020-21

No. 1410 Dtd. 20.05.2020

The Superintending Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the

construction of Road works and Building works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors No of works = 13 (Thirteen) (Roads/Bridge-12 nos and

Buildings-1 No).

Tender Cost: Rs. 10,000/-

Class of contractor: "B' Class, "A" Class, "Special" & "Super"

Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids From 04.06.2020 to 17.00 Hours of 18.06.2020.

Date of opening of Technical Bid 20.06.2020 at 11.00 Hours The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further

details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur OIPR- 34035/11/0002/2021



#### KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Undertaking)

Head Office, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P. O. Sainik Colony, Jammu - 180 011, Jammu & Kashmir.

### **OPEN e-TENDER**

Tender Notice No.: KR/PD/JK/EL/T-2/2020 Dated 26/05/2020

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites "Open e-Tender" in Two Packet System from experienced contractors for "Provision of E&M system which includes Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 33kV AND 11kV HT Power Cable Network, GIS substation, DG Sets, Tunnel Ventilation System, Tunnel Lighting, SCADA System and Firefighting System etc. for Tunnel T-8/9 & T-10 (NR) and T-1 & T-2 (KRCL) between KMS 25 TO 39 on Katra-Dharam Section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project". Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 477.76 Cr. Earnest Money: ₹ 1,00,00,000/-. Completion Period of Contract: 18 months. Submission of Tender: 23/07/2020 up to 15.00 hrs. Opening of Tender: 23/07/2020@ 15:30 hrs. Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 29,500/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only) to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal only. For further details and updates please visit https://www.ireps.gov.in Amendments/Corrigendum, if any would be hosted on the

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No.17(RVU2021WLOB00200) Online e-tenders are imited for Annual Contract for the work of mplete operation, maintenance and housekeeping of cos handling plant including wagon unloading, operation & maintenance of heavy machineries and other equipments, Electrical & C&I works. of CHP area and other related works as specified in the scope of work fender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunt S

www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. RVUN.PR.3384 Addl. Chief Engineer (CSCTPP)

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY **ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENTS**

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement to the post of Senior Resident under Senior Residency Scheme at Northern Railway Central Hospital New Delhi Detailed advertisement with VACANCY STATUS, Terms & Conditions, Format of Application form is available on Northern Railway website **www.nr.indianrailways.gov.i**n under head News & Recruitment Info). The date and Time of the Walk in interview is specified against each Specialty. Any request for a change in dates will not be entertained. Candidates should report along with Application form duly filled in & Signed along with self attested copies of all the requisite documents in Auditorium, 1st Floor, Academic Block Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi on the date of walk in interview (10.06.2020). They must carry with them all the Documents in Original & produce the same for verification.

Chief Medical Director Northern Railway Central Hospital, Basant Lane, New Delhi-110055 File No.: E/Med/SR/74/CH/2020 Advt. No. NRCH/SR/2020/002 1200/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in Mob: 096461-22955, 096461-11033 e-mail: po.pspcl@gmail.com e-tendering page: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

### TENDER ENQUIRY NO. QQ-2309/PO-P

Short Description:- Design, Manufacture, Testing before dispatch & Delivery of 12. KV, 3 Phase star connected with floating neutral 50 Hz All poly- propylene, impregnat ed with non PCB, Outdoor Type, Manual Operative Switched Capacitors banks/sets (consisting of 3 single phase units) comply with IS 13925 (part I): 1998 and 13925 (par ): 2012 and IS 13925 (part II): 2002/ IEC-60871-1 & II: 2005 & 1999 RESP with late:

amendments if any and PSPCL fender Enquiry No. QQ-2309/PO-P.				
QUANTITY	450 KVAR= 1628 SETS AND 600 KVAR=955 SETS			
Last date for downloading of Specification/tender documents from https://eproc.punjab.gov.in	30.06.2020 (upto 11.30 AM)			
Last date for Bid Submission	30.06.2020 (upto 11.30 AM)			
Bid Opening date.	09.07.2020 (at 11.30 AM)			

NOTE:- 1) For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to https://eproc.pun jab.gov.in 2) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to an reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website www.pspcl.in

Sd/- Chief Purchase Officer/MM

#### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES, ZONE, JODHPUR Lal Sagar, Kishore Bagh Jodhpur (Rajasthan) 342304 Tel. 0291-2570681 (O) Email :- acejdr.wr@rajasthan.gov.in, acejdr.wr@gmail.com

NIB No. 01/2020-21 Date 18.05.2020 WBN: WRJ 2021 WLOB 00005 Single Stage Two- Envelopes unconditional covered bids are invited electronically or e-procurement portal, <a href="http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the procurement of Works as listed below, from enlisted bidders of ropriate class of the department on e-procurement portal, latest upto 4:00 PM of

**NOTICE INVITING BIDS** 

S. No.	Name of Work and Site	Estimated Cost of Work (Lacs)	Completion Period	Price of Bidding Document (Rupees)	Amount of Bid Security (Lacs)
1.	Rehabilitation work of Earthen Dam, Spillway Arrangements and Basic Facilities at Sukli Selwara Dam, Sirohi District Under		30 Months (including rainy season)	7500/-	42.00

The complete Bidding Document may be seen or downloaded from the State Public Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or e-procurement portal Procurement Portal <a href="http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in">http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in</a> or e-procurement portal <a href="http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in">http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in</a> or our website <a href="http://sppc.rajasthan.gov.in">www.water.rajasthan.gov.in</a> and its non-refundable price may be paid along with processing fee and bid security at the time of submission of the bid by eGRAS.

DIPR/C/3638/2020

Water Resources Zone, Jodhpu

(R.K. Tepan

New Delhi

Chief End

### HIMACHAL PRADESH HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING & PROCESSING CORPORATION LIMITED

(A state govt, undertaking) Head Office: Nigam Vihar, Shimla - 171 002 (HP)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FMC (Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing corporation Limited) invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible firms penaling as national commodity exchange recognized by SEBI; having validity or at least five years, to facilitate e-trading of Himschal apples and other huits getables in the state through HPMC as well as HPMC processed product The election commodity exclininges should submit EOs/proposals via email to hipmoshimia@live.com by 10th June, 2020, 3.00 PM along with supporting documents regarding eligibility. For eligibility details and scope of assignment delivery, please visit the HEMC website i.e. http://hipmo.in



INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH (A Postgraduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences) Recognised Under Societies Registration Act. Reg. No. 132/85-86 South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bangalore-560029. e-mail: ihealthchild@yahoo.in Website: www.igich.org

No. IGICH/JOURNALS/01/2020-21

Medical Journals

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION** Two Cover Tenders are invited for the procurement of the following

through the e-Procurement period Name of the Medical Books Medical Books 25.000/-

The Tender Document will be available online for download from: 27-05-2020 to 12-06-2020 in the e-Procurement portal eproc.karnataka.gov.in The last date and time for submission of bids online in the e-Procurement portal is 12-06-2020 upto 3.00 pm. e-Procurement portal fees shall be payable. Tender(s) received will be opened online in the e-Procurement portal on 15-06-2020. Tender accepting authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender(s) without assigning any reasons to the Sd/- Director

DIPR/DDU/157/2020-21 Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bangalore

### **GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA** STATE PROJECT MONITORING UNIT. NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG.

NO.SPMU(NHP)/PROCUREMENT/5/WQM/2020-21/4 Dated Shillong, the 27th May, 2020

### **NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING**

The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Meghalaya invites online bids for The Supply of Portable Multiparameter Water Quality Meters in Meghalaya under the World Bank funded 'National Hydrology Project'.

Document publish date: 5 June 2020; 14:00 & time hours.

Bid Submission Closing: 10 July 2020; 14:00 hours.

Details may be obtained from website https://meghalayatenders.gov.in

Chief Engineer (WR) & Nodal Officer, SPMU, NHP Meghalaya, Shillong. MIPR No. 154 Date 27.05.2020





#### AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

#### FORM L-1A-A-RA

#### REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020 - Policyholders' Account (Technical Account)

(₹ in Lakhs)

	For the Year Ended March 31, 2020					For the Year Ended March 31, 2019									
			Non-linked			Linked			Non-linked			Linked			
Particulars	Total	Total Individual			Individual		Total Individua			dual Ir		ndividual			
		Life	Pension	Group	Life	Pension	Group		Life	Pension	Group	Life	Pension	Group	
PREMIUMS EARNED - Net															
(a) Premium	550,696	363,008	5,923	62,783	117,568	179	1,235	477,720	323,490	5,632	36,757	103,676	292	7,873	
(b) Reinsurance ceded	(15,886)	(3,988)	-	(10,882)	(1,016)	_	_	(11,856)	(3,019)	_	(7,697)	(1,140)	_	_	
(c) Reinsurance accepted	-	-	_	-	-	_	_	-	-	_	-	-	_	_	
SUB-TOTAL	534,810	359,020	5,923	51,901	116,552	179	1,235	465,864	320,471	5,632	29,060	102,536	292	7,873	
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS	,	,		,	,		,	,	· ·	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	,	,		,	
(a) Interest, dividends and rent - gross	128,380	104,777	1,444	4,463	16,506	127	1,063	108,181	84,369	1,006	3,334	18,203	244	1,025	
(b) Profit on sale / redemption of investments	52,800	7,457	, -	8	44,507	716	112	51,565	2,655	_	192	47,206	1,297	215	
(c) (Loss on sale / redemption of investments)	(23,770)	(9,444)	_	_	(14,184)	(107)	(35)	(10,489)	(3)	_	(43)	(10,100)	(171)	(172)	
(d) Transfer/Gain on revaluation/ change in fair value	(126,453)	_	_	_	(123,736)	(1,929)	(788)	5,012	_	_	-	5,191	(112)	(67)	
(e) Amortisation of premium/discount on investments	5,357	72	19	18	5,219	3	26	5,339	(275)	2	47	5,507	14	44	
OTHER INCOME	2,635	2,078	1	44	498	12	2	2,613	2,354	3	62	191	3	_	
Contribution from the Shareholders' account	3,445		_	3,445	_	_	_	7,564		60	_	7,487	_	17	
Contribution from the Shareholders' account towards excess of	57	_	57	-	_	_	_	31	_	31	_		_		
Expenses of Management (EOM)										01					
SUB-TOTAL	42,451	104,940	1,521	7,978	(71,190)	(1,178)	380	169,816	89,100	1,102	3,592	73,685	1,275	1,062	
TOTAL (A)	577,261	463,960	7,444	59,879	45,362	(999)	1,615	635,680	409,571	6,734	32,652	176,221	1,567	8,935	
COMMISSION	28,365	21,407	89	2,324	4,544	-	1	24,847	19,220	103	1,119	4,395	1	9	
OPERATING EXPENSES RELATED TO INSURANCE BUSINESS	90,710	66,850	286	8,191	15,341	11	31	90,908	63,619	261	5,723	21,185	27	93	
Goods and Services tax on Charges	4,556	_	_	_	4,532	2	22	4,309	6	_	_	4,282	3	18	
Provision for doubtful debts	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Bad Debts written off	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Provision for Income Tax	2,908	2,872	_	35	1	_	_	1,913	1,848	_	65	_	_	_	
Provisions (other than taxation)	2,000	2,0.2			_			1,010	1,010						
(a) For diminution in the value of investments (net)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
(b) Advances & Recoveries	129	80	3	22	22	2	_	(18)	_	1	(14)	(5)	_	_	
TOTAL (B)	126,668	91,209	378	10,572	24,440	15	54	121,959	84,693	365	6,893	29,857	31	120	
BENEFIT PAID (Net)	233,508	69,562	633	15,405	143,991	2,397	1,520	193,633	50,714	290	13,023	117,974	4,540	7,092	
Interim Bonuses Paid	302	294	8	-	-			266	241	3	22	-		.,002	
Change in valuation of liability in respect of life policies in force	502	201													
(a) Gross	192,217	280,056	5,284	33,833	(123,446)	(3,508)	(2)	325,494	281,104	5,705	11,956	28,268	(3,262)	1,723	
(b) Fund Reserve	-		- 5,201	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-		
(c) Amount ceded in Re-insurance	2,423	2,648	_	(153)	(72)	_	_	(32,343)	(28,721)	_	(3,744)	122	_	_	
(d) Amount accepted in Re-insurance	2,123		_	- (100)	-	_	_	(02,010)		_	-	_	_	_	
TOTAL (C)	428,450	352,560	5,925	49,085	20,473	(1,111)	1,518	487,050	303,338	5,998	21,257	146,364	1,278	8,815	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (D) = (A) - (B) - (C)	22,143	20,191	1,141	222	449	97	43	26,671	21,540	371	4,502	-	258	-	
Balance of previous year		,101	-,		-	-	-			-	-,002	_	-	-	
APPROPRIATIONS															
Reserve for lapsed unit linked policies unlikely to be revived	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Transfer to Shareholders' account	7,192	6,452	150	1	449	97	43	15,305	10,981	25	4,041	_	258	_	
Balance being funds for future appropriations	14,951	13,739	991	221	-	_	-	11,366	10,559	346	461	_			
TOTAL	17,551	13,133	-	-	<del>                                     </del>	+	-	11,500	10,333	340	701	1	_	<del>                                     </del>	

### FORM L-2A-A-P&L

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

Shareholders' Account (Non-technical Account) (₹ In Lakhs) For the For the Year Ended Year Ended **Particulars** March 31, March 31, 2020 2019 Amounts transferred from/to the Policyholders 7,192 15,305 Account (Technical Account) Income From Investments (a) Interest, dividends and rent - Gross 9,447 8,451 (b) Profit on sale/redemption of investments 222 12 (c) (Loss on sale/redemption of investments) (11)(d) Amortisation of premium/discount on investments (143)116 Other Income 23,873 TOTAL (A) 16,718 Expense other than those directly related to the 3.041 809 Contribution to Policyholders Account towards 57 31 excess of Expenses of Management (EOM) Contribution towards Remuneration of Managing 269 297 Transferred to Policyholders' Account Bad debts written off Provisions (Other than taxation) (a) For diminution in the value of investments (Net) (b) Provision for doubtful debts (c) Others 473 Contribution to Policyholder's Account 3,445 7,564 TOTAL (B) 7,285 8,701 Profit/ (Loss) before tax 9,433 15,172 **Provision for Taxation** 156 861 Profit / (Loss) after tax 9,277 14,311 APPROPRIATIONS (a) Balance at the beginning of the year. (79,454)(93,765)Interim dividends paid during the year Proposed final dividend Dividend distribution on tax Transfer to reserves/ other accounts

### FORM L-3A-A-BS

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2020** 

(₹ In Lakhs)

As at

As at

#### **Particulars** March 31, March 31 2020 2019 SOURCES OF FUNDS SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS: Share Capital 201,288 201,288 Reserves and Surplus Credit/[Debit] Fair Value Change Account (384)21 **Sub-Total** 200,904 201,309 Borrowings 472 POLICYHOLDERS' FUNDS: Credit/[Debit] Fair Value Change Account (7.184)3.940 Policy Liabilities 1,579,693 1,258,025 Insurance Reserves Provision for Linked Liabilities-Non Unit 5,290 5,228 Provision for Linked Liabilities-Unit 470,308 591,067 Sub-Total 2,048,107 1,858,260 Funds for discontinued policies - Discontinued on account of non-payment of premium 56,584 62,915 - Others Funds for Future Appropriation - Linked Business - Others 44,226 29,275 TOTAL 2,349,821 2,152,231 APPLICATION OF FUNDS INVESTMENTS -Shareholders' 122,486 112,051 -Policyholders' 1,589,735 1,269,265 Assets Held to Cover Linked Liabilities 526,892 653,982 Loans 5,826 4,592 Fixed Assets 11,452 9,663 CURRENT ASSETS - Cash and Bank Balances 32,941 27,238 - Advances and Other Assets 94,484 90,384 Sub-Total (A) 127,425 117,622 CURRENT LIABILITIES 100,746 91,330 **PROVISIONS** 3,426 3,068 Sub-Total (B) 104,172 94,398 NET CURRENT ASSETS (C) = (A - B)23,253 23,224 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (to the extent not written off or adjusted) DEBIT BALANCE IN PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT 70,177 79,454 DEBIT BALANCE IN REVENUE ACCOUNT (Policyholders' Account) TOTAL 2,349,821 2,152,231

#### FORM L-22A ANALYTICAL RATIOS

Sl. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter March 31, 2020	Upto the Quarter March 31, 2020	For the Quarter March 31, 2019	Upto the Quarter March 3 2019
1	New business premium income growth rate - segment wise				
	- Participating policies - Non-participating policies - Pension	-24.9% 4.6% -24.7%	10.3% 20.9% -17.5%	-26.8% 48.6% -18.2%	-43.7% 29.6% -37.3%
	- Non- Par Annuity - Non Par Pension	-3.6% 1961.9%	8.5% 167.4%	-14.6% 0.2%	-7.7% 132.7%
	- Health - Group - linked	-75.2% -95.3%	-57.1% -82.3%	-61.2% 496.4%	-77.9% 558.2%
	- Individual Life - Linked - Pension - linked	-25.4% 0.0%	-9.6% -100.0%	15.4% -100.0%	95.79 -86.39
2	Net Retention Ratio Expense of Management to Gross Direct	97.1%	97.1%	97.7%	97.59
3	Premium Ratio Commission Ratio (Gross commission paid to	16.8%	21.6%	21.1%	24.29
5	Gross Premium) Ratio of policyholders' liabilities to shareholders'	4.8% 1643.8%	5.2% 1643.8%	5.1%	1600.69
6	funds Growth rate of Shareholders' Fund	7.3%	7.3%	13.3%	13.39
7	Ratio of surplus to Policyholders' Liability	0.2%	1.0%	0.6%	1.49
8	Change in net worth (₹ in Lakhs) Profit after tax/Total Income	8,872 4.2%	8,872 1.6%	14,333 2.9%	14,33 2.2
9 10	(Total real estate + loans)/(Cash & invested	1.2%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3
11	assets) Total investments/(Capital + Surplus)	1707.8%	1707.8%	1670.5%	1670.5
12 13	Total affiliated investments/(Capital+ Surplus) Investment Yield (Annualised) A. With unrealised gains	1.9%	1.9%	2.1%	2.19
	Shareholders' fund Policyholders' fund Non linked	15.6%	12.8%	11.1%	9.09
	Participating	13.6%	13.9%	9.9%	9.19
	Non Participating Linked	19.2%	15.7%	10.3%	9.4
	Non Participating B. With realised gains	-50.3%	-13.2%	19.7%	9.8
	Shareholders' fund Policyholders' fund Non linked	8.0%	8.3%	8.2%	8.2
	Participating	4.5%	7.9%	8.2%	8.3
	Non Participating Linked	7.6%	8.4%	11.1%	9.0
14	Non Participating Conservation Ratio	7.1%	8.5%	7.8%	10.6
	- Linked	70.8%	71.4%	69.0%	71.8
	- Non Linked - Pension (both Linked and Non Linked)	89.1% 79.6%	86.0% 74.5%	83.5% 88.3%	84.3° 83.2°
	- Health	85.7%	88.0%	87.3%	85.8
15	Persistency Ratio (policies)* For 13th month	82.2%	78.6%	69.5%	74.3
	For 25th month	61.3%	64.3%	62.4%	63.4
	For 37th month	54.4%	55.1%	50.3%	51.5
	For 49th month For 61st month	44.8% 33.3%	46.3% 32.8%	41.7% 30.5%	40.7° 30.6°
16	Persistency Ratio (premium)* For 13th month	82.5%	79.7%	73.0%	78.5
	For 13th month For 25th month	62.8%	79.7% 66.6%	65.2%	66.3
	For 37th month	56.2%	56.6%	50.2%	50.8
	For 49th month	44.3%	45.4%	41.3%	41.0
17	For 61st month	31.5%	31.5%	29.5%	29.8
17	NPA Ratio Gross NPA Ratio	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.19
	Net NPA Ratio	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1

Profit carried to the Balance Sheet

1) This disclosure is made in accordance with IRDAI Master Circular No. IRDAI/F&A/CIR/232/12/2013 dated December 11, 2013 and subsequent amendments/circular issued thereafter by the Authority. 2) The audited annual accounts for the year ended March 31, 2020 have been taken on record in the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 26, 2020.

3) Prior year figures have been reclassified/regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to current year's presentation.

(70,177)

(79,454)

4) \*Calculated as per IRDAI circular no. IRDA/ACT/CIR/MISC/035/01/2014 dated January 23, 2014. Persistency ratio for "For the Quarter" have been calculated using policies issued in December to February period,  $measured \ as \ on \ March \ 31 \ of the \ relevant \ years. \ Persistency \ ratios \ for "Up to \ the \ Quarter" \ have been \ calculated \ using \ policies \ is sued \ in \ March \ to \ February \ period, \ measured \ as \ on \ March \ 31 \ of \ the \ relevant \ years.$ 

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For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-Ashish Kumar Srivastava

## 6 THE OUTBREAK MIGRANTS ON THE ROAD



Workers wait to board a train for their home in Jharkhand, at

the railway station in Pune. Ashish Kale



Ramanand Chaurasia (26) has been waiting for tickets to go to Bihar's Kaimur along with his family,. Gurmeet Singh

### TRAIN BIRTH



Anita Mishra arrives in Lucknow from Mumbai with her family. She delivered a child on board a train without medical assistance while crossing Surat. The family, hailing from Gonda in UP, spent five days in a park in Mumbai before managing to find seats on the train. Vishal Srivastav



Krishna Kumar Ojha (55) decided to return to Sonipat. He could only get tickets for June 20 to go to UP's Ballia. Abhinav Saha



A family waits for medical screening to board a train for their home in UP's Gonda, in Chandigarh. Jaipal Singh

### Shah dials CMs, discusses road ahead; **Cabinet Secy** meets states

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

DAYS AHEAD of the fourth lockdown drawing to a close, Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday spoke to Chief Ministers of all states over the phone to discuss the road ahead

The Home Minister spoke to all Chief Ministers and took stock of the Covid situation in all states. The discussions largely focused on the road ahead. Also part of the discussions were relaxations that would be required in the next phase of the lockdown to further open the economy," a home ministry official said.

Multiple states have suggested further opening of the economy and social life. Karnataka has already written to the Centre for opening of malls and multiplexes from June 1 while Goa is planning to open restaurants beginning Monday. Many states are also nudging the Centre on relaxations for holding religious events as multiple and July.

Meanwhile, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba held a meeting with all states on Covid-19 preparedness, with a special focus on 13 cities which constitute about 70 per cent of the cases in the country. Before the fourth lockdown was imposed, the government had focused on 30 cities that had 79 per cent of the total cases. which has seemingly now been whittled down to 13 cities that

These cities are Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Thane, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur. Chiefs of municipal corporations and district collectors from these cities were present at the meeting

## Drive to bring back migrants to end, last trains in 2-3 days: UP

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW MAY 28

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Thursday said that the drive to bring home migrant workers from other states through Shramik Special trains has come to an end with the final batch of trains set to reach the state in the next two to three days. The government said the decision was taken due to lack of any fresh registrations in other states by migrants seeking to re-

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said, "The governments of Gujarat, Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Haryana etc have all informed us that there are either no people coming to UP or there are very few of those left. Therefore, there is no need to run special trains or buses from these states." He said a few trains carrying migrants are set to arrive from Maharashtra, Kerala and other states.

1,411 Shramik Special trains have brought over 19.15 lakh migrants from across the country to UP in the last few weeks.

Awasthi said that the state government had arranged for 1,551 trains for bringing migrants, and in the next two days 2 lakh more people will arrive through 140 more trains. Till Thursday, he said, 7.12 lakh people have been brought through 490 trains from Gujarat, 4.55 lakh through 327 trains from Maharashtra, and about 2.67 lakh through 228 trains from Puniab.

Meanwhile Principal Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that the government would soon come out with a separate protocol for those arriving through regular train serv-



A Scouts and Guides cadet provides drinking water to migrants, at Prayagraj station. PTI

### Restrict flights from hotspot states: Karnataka to Centre

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, MAY 28

THE KARNATAKA government has written to the Centre seeking to restrict the number of flights arriving from states with high prevalence of Covid-19, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said here on Thursday.

"We have requested the Central government to restrict the number of flights arriving from places with high prevalence of Covid-19. The ban on entry by road from these places will continue but train service will continue," Yediyurappa said on

social media. The CM's statements came following a Cabinet meeting where ministers discussed ex-



Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa

three states - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat - and making it applicable to flights too. The Cabinet also discussed including Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh among the states from where arrivals could be

restricted. After the Cabinet meeting, Karnataka Law Minister JC Madhuswamy stated that the government had decided to stop arrivals from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Raiasthan till June

of Covid among returnees from these states. The ban will extend to arrivals by flights as well, he indicated.

The Chief Minister later said the state had written to the Centre to restrict flights arriving from regions with a high prevalence of Covid-19.

The government on May 21 also made it mandatory for people arriving from six states - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi - to undergo Covid-19 test even if they are asymptomatic, "We have said earlier itself that arrivals by road from hotspots like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu should be stopped. Now we have written to the Centre to stop flights," **Education Minister Suresh** Kumar said.

# In SC, Singhvi lists suggestions on migrant workers

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

SENIOR ADVOCATE Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Thursday urged the Supreme Court to direct the government to identify and accurately tally the number of stranded migrant labourers at the district/village level.

Singhvi, who submitted a list of six suggestions to the court, also called for setting up of reception centres to receive migrant labourers or facilitate their onward journey, to collect information from these committees on difficulties faced by them and use it to formulate a nationwide plan.

He also mooted the formulation of a scheme for migrant labourers to ensure steady supply and access to medicine, food and shelter apart from the one at railway and bus stations.

Singhvi called for the setting up of a high-powered committee to recommend within three working days how much money can be given through direct benefit transfer to the labourers.

**UTTAR PRADESH** 

Foreignentrants: None

**TAMIL NADU** 

Foreignentrants: None

**RAJASTHAN** 

Foreignentrants: NA

Foreignentrants: 31

1,819 1 84

**KERALA** 

**四8,334 瑜 184 第106** 

**四12,246 章 827 117** 

**4.956 251 85** 

Schemes to provide them gainful employment must also be explored, he said.

Singhvi appeared before the bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, S K Kaul and M R Shah on behalf of Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, who had filed an intervention application. Singhvi's appearance for Surjewala was oposed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who said "let this not be politicised".

The bench then told Singhvi that it will hear him dehors the petition as an officer of the court, following which the senior counsel came up with the suggestions.

Singhvi said that according to the solicitor general, 100% of the ticket is given by the state. But states now have no money, he said, and asked if there should not be a committee to deal with this.

Appearing for migrant labourers, senior advocate Indira Jaising said the number of trains has to be increased. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, who too appeared for a migrant labour group, said there are several difficulties with regard to registration.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Foreign entrants: None

**PUNJAB** 

Foreign entrants: 1

**HARYANA** 

Foreign entrants: None

■ Samples tested III

■ Positive cases T

**4** 9,858 **4** 128 **7** 74

四 927 章 19 None

**四3,284 爺 123 Mone** 

CASE COUNT: THE CHANGING PICTURE

A look at how Covid-19 case counts in states

are changing as migrants return home

### UP: Cops, health workers attacked during cremation of migrant, 9 held

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW, MAY 28

NINE PERSONS were arrested and several others booked in Gopiganj area of Bhadohi on Thursday, a day after a group of villagers allegedly pelted stones and attacked health workers and policemen when they had gone to help with the cremation of a migrant worker.

The 42-year-old had returned from Surat in a truck on Tuesday and died the same day at a hospital after his family members took him there. His Covid test report is awaited.

Bhadohi SP Ram Badan Singh said, "There were rumours in Rampur Ghat that coronavirus may spread in the area if the body is cremated there. The attack happened around 6 pm on Wednesday. Stones and bricks were pelted at the police vehicle and ambulance.

The cremation was, however, completed the same evening.

Bhadohi Chief Medical Officer, Dr Lakshmi Singh, said, 'After the man returned from complained of mild fever. So, his family members took him to the district hospital the same day where he collapsed and died... We are waiting for the (Covid) report." The CMO said postmortem was not conducted due to Covid-19 precautions.

According to police, the situation flared up when the body was brought to the village for cremation. "When a police team along with some health workers reached Rampur Ghat along the Ganga for the cremation, villagers pelted stones at them. An ambulance and a police van were damaged and some health workers and policemen suffered minor injuries," Circle Officer of Gyanpur police station, Kalu Singh, said.

A case has been registered against 35 people and 40 unidentified persons.

#### ices being started by the tending till June 15 the existing along with Chief Secretaries and curbs on arrivals by road from Railways from June 1. senior officials of states. 15 on account of high incidence 'Sometimes bears took blankets away':

Jharkhand airlifts 60 stuck in Kargil

**ABHISHEK ANGAD** RANCHI, MAY 28

SIXTY LABOURERS from Dumka who had climbed up Kargil to blast hills and build roads will be flown back home by the [harkhand government on Friday after being stuck for two months battling anxieties and fears.

The group working for Border Roads Organisation includes a 26year-old who had had enough of dangerous terrains and wild bears, men whose relatives have died, and farmers who want to be back home before the paddy season.

"They will be airlifted from Leh on Friday to Delhi and the same day to Ranchi from where buses will be arranged for onward journey. Jharkhand government will pay the bill, which will be around Rs 8 lakh," said sources in the Iharkhand Chief Minister's Office. Chief Minister Hemant Soren



The 60 workers had climbed up Kargil to build roads. Express

on Thursday said, "I have spoken to the Border Roads Organisation and we are planning to bring the labourers back from Ladakh.'

On Thursday morning, all the 60 boarded a bus to Leh. John Paulis Hansda, a labourer subcontracted with the BRO, said, "We had been stranded here since the lockdown. And we hoped that we would be brought back and our prayers were answered."

Hansda, who received Rs 13,600 as monthly salary, said the pay was good, but the terrain was very difficult. "We used to work in Dras, Matiyana area blasting the hills, clearing the ice for making roads. It was full of dangers...we used to live in tents...sometimes wild bears used to take our blankets away. It was a hell of an experience,

we will not come back again." On the way to Leh, Hansda said not all were going back home. "Some stayed back to join when work restarts."

Labourer Saul Tutu said he owned 10 acres of land. "We have to be present there during the sowing season of paddy. The produce will give us rice to feed our family of six for an entire year," he said.

Another labourer wishing anonymity said, "A few of us also lost our relatives and we could not go. My wife ran with some other man and left my child with our relatives. I am extremely distressed and I just want to reach home and find out what has happened."

Hemant Soren through a letter on May 20 informed the Union Home Minister of labourers stuck in Ladakh. "Due to the terrain of these states it very difficult to evacuate them by buses or trains," the letter said seeking MHA's permission to allow the flights.

**FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

### From Mumbai, workers fly to Jharkhand on plane rented by NLSIU alumni

States' data for last 24 hours, updated up to 9 pm on May 28

**SOMYALAKHANI** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

WHILE NINE-YEAR-OLD Krishna Mandal was surprised that Mumbai's tallest buildings were suddenly as small as his fingers, his 12-year-old brother Suraj wanted to catch the clouds and eat them. The duo squabbled over the window seat of an Air Asia flight they had boarded from Mumbai to Ranchi Thursday morning, recalled their father Rajendra Tulsi Mandal (47), an auto-rickshaw driver.

By afternoon, the father and sons had reached their home at Atka village in Jharkhand's Bagodar block, three hours from Ranchi airport. It was the trio's first

They were part of a group of 174 labourers — daily wagers, auto drivers and construction workers from Jharkhand, living in that was leased by a group of alumni of National Law School of India University (NLSIU).

the labourers home.

On the plane, the children

Mumbai, who boarded a plane

"I have not seen such sadness in my life, nor have I witnessed such happiness as I did today after sitting in the plane. I have found god," said Raiendra about the NLSIU alumni who collected Rs 12 lakh for the flight that took

Rajendra lived in a rented room in Mumbai's Ghatkopar east with his two boys, while his wife and their daughter live in the village. "There was no work because of the lockdown, I ran out of money. In the last two months, we survived on very little. My wife would cry over the phone. I would worry about how to take the children back. Many people walked back home, some died, some fainted... I couldn't put my children through this." he said

New Delhi

called up their mother Dhaneshwari Devi (40) and told her they would be home in a few hours. "I saw the clouds from above, the water bodies and buildings. I felt cold in the plane, but no fear," said Krishna, Dhaneshwari Devi told The Indian Express over phone, "The kids won't stop talking about the clouds, the plane journey. I am grateful that we are

all together now." Four days ago, Rajendra's phone rang. It was about returning home on a flight. "The group also dropped us to the airport. I didn't pay a rupee. From Ranchi airport, a bus arranged by the Iharkhand Chief Minister dropped us off till Bagodar. From there I took a rickshaw home. Can you believe I only spent Rs 150 from Mumbai to my village in Jharkhand?" said Rajendra.

Since the plane landed, advocate Shyel Trehan and her four friends, who form the core group that raised money for the plane, were inundated with calls from those who had reached home. "We are bowled over by the calls, and are keen to do this again on a bigger scale," said Trehan.

It all started when the five booked 45 migrants, who lived near IIT-Bombay, on a scheduled flight which was to leave on Wednesday. "We later heard the flight had been cancelled, so we decided to rent a plane, and raised money in the alumni group. Phone numbers were circulated for NGOs and migrant labourers to reach out. We coordinated with Mumbai police, and the Jharkhand Chief Minister assured us that the migrants would be looked after.' said advocate Suhaan Mukerii.

While 80 NLSIU alumni contributed money, the core members include lawyers Mukerji, Trehan, Arkaja Singh, Shuva Mandal, Priyanka Roy and IIT PhD scholar Priya Sharma.

### Cases surge in Bihar, but morbidity rate stays low

**SANTOSH SINGH** PATNA. MAY 28

BIHAR HAS been seeing a surge in Covid-19 cases over the last fortnight, but is not pressing the panic button just vet—very few patients are being admitted to intensive care or require ventilator support. In almost all districts of the state, there is hardly any patient admitted to Level II hospitals, where moderate Covid-19 patients with symptoms of pneumonia have to

Of 3,106 cases reported till May 27, 1,050 patients have been discharged. Till date, 15 Covid-19 patients have died. But 11 of them were cases of malignancy and one had acute renal complications.

Three dedicated Covid-19 hospitals in the state-Nalanda Medical College and Hospital. Patna, Anugrah Narayan Medical College and Hospital, Gaya, and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital, Bhagalpur, have less than 150 patients at present. None of these patients is critical.

NMCH, Patna, Principal VK Gupta told *The Indian Express*: "Our recovery rate is among the best in the country. We have admitted 209 Covid-19 patients so far. At present, we have only 38 patients and none of them is critical. Of five Covid-19 deaths reported at NMCH, four were advanced case of malignancy." He said most cases were "management cases" in which patients are given symptomatic treatment.

Bihar has tested 70,275 samples so far. Of 3,106 cases, 2,168 are of returning migrants.

Leading epidemiologist and former principal of CMC Vellore, Javaprakash Mulivil, told The Indian Express: "Lower morbidity in Bihar or elsewhere is an early trend. It could be due to better resistance among patients of age group (less than 50 years). But we must not conclude anything"

### To ferry 4 of kin to Delhi, MP man hires 180-seater Airbus A320

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** BHOPAL, MAY 28

A HIGH-NET worth individual based in Bhopal hired a 180seater Airbus A320 plane from a private carrier, just so four of his family members could avoid the crowds at airports and in flights while travelling to New Delhi.

This person, a liquor baron, chartered the aircraft for his daughter, her two children, and their maid, who were stuck in Bhopal for the last two months due to the lockdown, sources said.

The plane arrived in Bhopal from Delhi on Monday with only the crew—and flew back with the four passengers for whom it was specially hired, the sources said.

"The plane arrived here on May 25. It was chartered by someone and there was no medical emergency," an airline official said, refusing to divulge more de-

According to aviation experts, it costs about Rs 20 lakh to hire an Airbus A320 aircraft.

## 'Can't leave people on the roads... will continue bringing migrants'

TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT speaks to **LALMANI VERMA** on the fight against Covid-19, the economic challenge the state faces and how it plans to make migrants stay. Excerpts:

How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected Uttarakhand's economy and what efforts have you initiated for revival?

A single-window system has been set up so that industrialists can conveniently obtain permissions to start their units... The Prime Minister has announced an economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore in which major relief has been given to the MSME sector. Majority of industries in Uttarakhand are in the MSME sector that will benefit from this. As far as revival of the economy is concerned, a committee headed by Indu Kumar Pandey (a retired IAS officer) has submitted an interim report. A work plan is being prepared as per its recommendations.

What is the impact of lockdown on revenue

When economic and industrial activities are stopped, it certainly affects revenue. On one side.

our revenue receipts have declined and on the other, we have given several types of concessions and rebates and have to bear their cost, A Special Development Plan is being prepared for increasing economic activities.

Migrants are coming back to Uttarakhand and this is leading to a spike in Covid-19 cases. How prepared is the machinery for this?

A huge number of people from Uttarakhand live in other states. Many of them want to come back amid the pandemic. More than 2.5 lakh people have registered so far. We cannot leave our people out on the roads. We have arranged buses and trains. The state government is bearing the expenses... We are bringing people but we are also following all protocols and health norms.

**An Uttarakhand Migration** Commission report says that more than five lakh people migrated from hills in the past 10 years due to unavailability of iobs, infrastructure. education and medical facilities. Youths are now coming back. How will you retain them after the

lockdown ends? We are seeing this as an op-



INTERVIEW **TRIVENDRA** SINGH RAWAT CHIEF MINISTER UTTARAKHAND

THE EXPRESS

portunity to rehabilitate hilly areas... Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana has been launched under which returnees will be able to get loans to work in service and construction sectors... The PM has given the call to become "aatmanirbhar" (self-dependent). We want to motivate our people to become self-dependent and capable to contribute towards mak-"aatmanirbhar

time any government has started work for preventing migration as well as for reverse migration in a planned manner... Hill areas are in focus under the MSME sector. Development Migration Commission has been formed... A lot of improvement has been done in health sector...

How much has the state spent on Covid-19 management so

An amount of Rs 85 crore has been released from the SDRF head. From that, Rs 5 crore has been given to each district to make preparations for Covid-19 prevention and Rs 20 crore to the medical education department for strengthening Covid-notified hospitals and procurement of equipment. Rs 10 crore has been released from Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the Medical Education Department for enhancing the capacity of government medical colleges identified for prevention of Covid-19. The state cabinet too has approved Rs 50 crore...

How much has the state spent on bringing back migrants?

Over 1.45 lakh people have been brought back... more than Rs 5 crore has been spent on bringing people back. The details

of the expenditure are being col lected...bringing them back will continue.

Char Dham Yatra and tourism sector are the backbone of the economy of Uttarakhand's hills. After this loss in lockdown, what avenues are you looking at to revive the economy?

We have requested the Centre to allow certain tourism activities in a controlled manner in green zones. We are waiting for guidelines from the Centre on what will happen after lockdown 4.

What kind of financial support do you want from the Centre? Have you demanded any special package?

The world is facing the pandemic and it has affected India. too, on a large scale. Revenue resources of all states well as the Centre are affected. We cannot fight the virus separately. The PM has announced a package of Rs 20 lakh crore... Whether directly or indirectly, states get benefits of steps taken by the Centre. As for Uttarakhand, we have apprised the Centre about many things. We are receiving cooperation from the Centre and will keep receiving it in future. FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

### UP sees power demand boost as industries get back on feet

**LIZ MATHEW** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

UTTAR PRADESH is witnessing a steady revival of economic activities after nearly two months of lockdown, power consumption figures by industry feeders in the state indicate

This week, power consumption by industries in UP crossed 90 per cent of the average consumption recorded in February, when industrial activities were at the pre-pandemic levels.

The index of industry power consumption in the state on May 27 rose to 92 per cent of what was the daily average in February – up from 58.08 per cent 15 days ago. In February, consumption from 518 industry feeders in the state was 8.630 million units per day. On May 11, it dropped to 58.08 per cent of that, and rose back up to 7. 246 million unit on May 21, which is 83.96 per cent of the February

On May 26 (Tuesday), it reached 88.8 per cent of the average utility of normal times, and on Thursday reached 92 per cent.

With industrial activities picking up, the state government has decided offer more support - to help not just the industrial belts but also promote villages to explore self-employment opportunities. According to state Power Minister Shrikant Sharma, his ministry has tweaked some rules for initiatives along the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (selfreliant India) and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's announcement that the state would provide job opportunities for workers returning from other states.

Sources said nearly 25 lakh native workers from the state have already returned, and the number is expected to cross 30 lakh. Having already announced creation of special expert groups, including a migration commission to explore options for welfare of Power Minister Shrikant

Sharma

ernment has promised that it would provide jobs for 20 lakh of

Having initiated a skill-mapping system for the returning workers, initial data collected by the UP government shows that those worst hit are contract workers, carpenters, artisans, etc.

Minister Sharma told The *Indian Express*: "The government wants to provide infrastructure for villages to start small ventures. From the Power Ministry, we have decided to provide 24x7 electricity supply in urban centres and in rural areas where line loss is less than 15 per cent." So, he explained, any village that informs the Power Department that its line loss— which results mainly from power theft – is less than 15 per cent, "has to be provided 24x7

power supply within 48 hours". Sharma said the state government is also launching a massive campaign to make village councils, pradhans and members on creating self-employment opportunities, as also to increase public participation for this. "Our purpose is to provide the people opportunities within the state,' he said.

Earlier this week, Adityanath had announced that Uttar Pradesh would give jobs to all workers who have returned from other states, and if other states want to engage workers from UP, they would have to take permission from the state government.

The state government subsequently said it would not incorporate the prior permission clause in the migration commission bylaws.

### Pumping of air for dying patient to changing diapers: Families face ordeal in Gujarat hospitals

RITU SHARMA, SOHINI **GHOSH, ADITI RAJA & AVINASH NAIR** 

AHMEDABAD, VADODARA,

DAYS AFTER the Vijay Rupani government assured the Gujarat High Court that protocols were in place to attend to patients and keep relatives informed about developments at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, the state's largest Covid hospital, nothing seemed to have changed on ground.

Hardik Valera, a resident of Dani Limda, a containment zone in Ahmedabad, lost his 81-yearold grandmother 12 hours after she was taken to Civil Hospital on Tuesday evening.

The octogenarian was put on the ventilator around 2.30 am on Wednesday. "At 7.30 am, when the doctor decided to shift her to the ward on the third floor, they cited shortage of staff and refused to move her with the ventilator. They gave me a bag and asked me to manually keep pumping air. By the time we reached the third floor with her on a stretcher, the doctor on the floor said she was dead." Valera

told The Indian Express. He said, "The entire night she was in the emergency room and no tests were conducted or samples taken. We also asked her to be moved to the ward, but they did nothing. They said beds were not empty and she would have

Officer on Special Duty at the hospital, Dr M M Prabhakar, said:

"We did not send the samples, as our first priority is to save the life of the patient." He said as per his information, samples were not

On Wednesday, a video shared widely on social media showed a woman patient with blood draining out of nasal tubes and purportedly dead. A person in protective suit was seen rebuking the doctor, asking why he was not informed about his mother being put on the ventilator. The video shows the doctor telling him he was not allowed in ICU and that he should seek information from the con-

Asked about the case, Dr Prabhakar said, "The patient was Covid-positive, diabetic and was on blood thinners. She died on May 24. The relative bypassed security and entered the ward

At Vadodara's Gujarat Medical Education and Research Society (GMERS), a 78-year-old Covid-19 patient, who was on ventilator support, died on Tuesday – four days after the hospital had allowed his grandson to enter the ward to change the patient's diapers.

The victim's granddaughter said, "My grandfather was referred to the Covid hospital on May 19. They told us a day later that he had tested positive but we were not given a soft copy of the report for our record."

She said: "We asked them to assign a staff member for his personal care and were willing to pay, but no such facility was

available. We heard stories from other patients about apathy of the sanitation staff. After repeated requests, the presiding doctor allowed my brother to go in on May 23, wearing a PPE

"Yesterday, when my brother went to see the body, he noticed that he was in the same diaper that we had changed four days ago.'

After repeated complaints, OSD Vinod Rao directed the authorities to file FIRs against sanitation workers under the Epidemic Act if they refused to do their jobs. Vadodara

Development Authority's CEO Ashok Patel, administrator of GMERS hospital, said, "After I took charge, we increased the sanitation staff strength to ensure that there are enough attendants.... But if we receive specific complaints, we look into it. Sanitation workers are equipped with PPE kits and proper protection so there are no safety issues."

Presiding doctor at GMERS confirmed that relatives of the patient who died on Tuesday were allowed to change his diaper once but refused to speak on the issue of sanitation workers.

### up Gujarat govt, HC bench changed

Days after it pulled

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

AHMEDABAD, MAY 28

DAYS AFTER a Gujarat High Court division bench headed by Justice JB Pardiwala, in a scathing order on May 22, compared Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, the state's largest Covid-19 hospital, to a dungeon, and on May 25 said it would visit the hospital and refused to give the state government a clean chit, the bench was shuffled for Friday listing of matters. The new bench, notified on Thursday, will be headed by Gujarat HC Chief Justice Vikram Nath, and Justice Pardiwala will be the junior judge in the bench.

The change in the judges' roster comes abruptly, a day before the court is due to hear PILs on all

Covid-related issues. The PIL was being heard by division bench headed by Justice Pardiwala, and comprising Justice Ilesh Vora, since May 11. Before that, the PIL was taken up seven times by the bench headed by the Chief Justice since March 13, when the PIL came to be registered following the court's suo motu cognisance of WHO's declaration of coronavirus as a pandemic.

After the bench headed by Justice Pardiwala took over, Gujarat HC has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports highlighting the plight and issues of migrant labourers. The bench has also taken suo motu cognizance of the high mortality rate at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. In an order on March 22, the

bench had pulled up senior IAS officers, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, who also holds the Health portfolio, and questioned the state government whether it was "artificially" controlling the number of cases. The court had also taken on record an anonymous report by a medical officer listing problems at the Civil Hospital and an anonymous letter by a resident doctor on its dire conditions. Following the 143-page or-

der, the state government, on May 25, moved a civil application on urgent priority with Chief Justice Vikram Nath's endorsement for urgent hearing the same day. The application had "endeavoured" to clarify that the condition of Civil Hospital was "not as pathetic". Justice Pardiwala's bench said it was "too early to give a final certificate"and that it will visit the hospital "one fine morning".

### Advt. No.- 45/2020

**Government of India** Public Enterprises Selection Board

Invites applications for the post of

### **DIRECTOR (EXPLORATION)** IN ONGC VIDESH LIMITED

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is

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### **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm 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 & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 11.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. shall be opened/downloaded on dated 12.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.

S.N.	Job No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	25/GM(R)/ Sr. M.(E&M)-I/E.T./ 2020-21	Providing 16 mtr. and 30 mtr. High Mast in Main Gate sector-104, Herbal Park sector-108 infront of Police Chowki sector-144 FNG road sector-143, Noida.	38.17
2.	22/GM(R)/ Sr. M.(E&M)-II/2020- 21/ET	Annual Maintenance of Street light and Electrical Maintenance of sport complex building sector-21A, Squash, Gym, Badminton & Table tennis courts etc. Noida.	25.30
3.	63/G.M.(R)/ Sr. M(E/M)-III/E.T/ 2020-21	Repair, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Fountain at sector-35,36,53, Triphala Park, Sector-61, Noida.	28.12
4.	65/G.M.(R)/ Sr. M(E/M)-III/E.T/ 2020-21	Providing & Laying of 11 KV HT Cable connecting the CSS around plot No. GH-01 (A,B,C) in sector-43, Noida.	36.75

General Manager (R)

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SR. No.	HANE OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK HOTECE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE	ITTEE MAINTEMNANCE OF STREET/DRAIN WARD NO 1 TO WARD NO 15 IN		29040/-	etenders.hvy.nic.in	Secretary
2	UHBAN ROHTAK	REMOVATION OF VISITOR'S ROOM AND LAYING OF FLOOR TILES IN THE DRAWING BRANCH AT OP CIRCLE OFFICE UNION PANIPAT	0,060NG DATE 10,06,2020	1.31 TACS	www.uhbvn.org.in	senciviluhbwnrohtak@gmail.com
3	UHBWN PANCHKULA	INSURANCE OF STOCK INVENTORY LYING IN THE STORES AND WORKSHOPS OF UHBAN	23.05.2020 12.06.2020	NIL.	www.uhbvn.org.in	8901362605 sestores@uhbyn.org.in
49	UHBVIK, ASSANOH.	VEHICLE TENDER	CLOSING DATE 10.06.2020	3.95 LACS	www.uhbvm.org.in	seropuhbynassanch@gmail.com
5:	UHBVN, PANIPAT	1 NO. VEHICLE (MAHINDRA/BOLERO, SCORPED JEEP) FOR OFFICE USE OF SOO (OP). S/ODVISION UHBYN ISRANA PAVIPAT.	0.053NG BATE 09.06.2020	6000(-(for each vehicle)	www.uffbrn.org.in	0180-2651549 senopsupanipat@uhbyn.org.in
6	HVPNL, KARNAL	SUPPLY OF OL NO. PLOKUP WAY WITH DRIVER FOR SSE, 220 KV		2.24 LACS	www.hypn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hypn.org.in
2	HPGCL PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF CLIPPE CLASS DIFOR AHP	0.063NG DATE 11.06.2020	11500/-	Benders hry nicin	xenproc1@yahoo.com
8	HSAMB YAMUNA NAGAR	CONST. OF MINI SOIL TESTING LABORATORY IN NGM AT SARASWATT NAGAR IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTT. (DEPOSIT WORK OF AGRICULTURE DEPTT.) +2 OTHER WORK		15.95 LACS	stenders.hry.nic.in	07132-237625 eanynr.hsamb@gmail.com
9	HSAMS GURUGRAM	C/O BNO OFFICE BUILDING & C/O MINI STL BUILDING ON LST FLOOR		LS3 CRORE	https://ebenders.hry.nk.in	9466457133 xengurgeon.hsamb@gmail.tom
10	MC KARAL	PROVIDING & LAYING OF LP.B 80 MM THICK (ISI MARK) IN VAROOUS		56.56 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	diefergreemek@gmail.com
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12	E-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF 96 NOS. MULTIFUNCTION LASER HARTRON PROVIDES ON BEHALF OF PUNISH AND HARYANA HIGH COURT, D-WADDSARH . + 1 OTHER WORK		29.05.2020 29.06.2020	90 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2562456 prohartron@gmail.com
13	BIDS FROM THE PVT. LTD. OR PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES OR		29.05.2020 18.06.2020	10 LACS	www.uhbwn.org.in	0172-3019132 usga@uhbvn.org.in
14	1 NO. MAHINDERA BALERQITATA FORCE OPEN FROM BACK SIDE UHBVN NARAJNGARH WITH DRIVER, FOR OF SUB DOVISION UHBVN NARAJNGARH UNDER OP DOVISION UHBVN NARAJNGARH		CLOSOVG DATE 02.06.2020	6000/-	uhbvn.org.in	93547-26356 xenopraraingarh@uhbvn.org.in
15	MTC, OF APPROACH ROAD AND MAIN GATE AT 220 KV SySTN,		0,060VG DATE 15,06,2020	7.78 LACS	ni po ngvi, ww	0172-2583789 pro@hypn.org.in
		ANNUAL REPAIR OF M.C. PROPERTIES IN MG & VM STWAN & P.C.	CLOSING DATE		https://ebenders.hrv.nic.in	D1746-222374

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### WORDLY WISE

CINEMA IS A MATTER OF WHAT'S IN THE FRAME AND WHAT'S OUT.

— MARTIN SCORSESE

### The Indian EXPRESS

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Ramnath Goenka

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## Trains on their mind

Death of a mother at a railway station, a conversation in Heaven





Even as it repels Beijing's incursions in Ladakh, Delhi must guard against being overtaken in the war of narratives

HE INTERESTING THING about US President Donald Trump's offer of mediation between Delhi and Beijing is that it was made at all. It is less about Trump knocking together the heads of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping than about signalling American concerns about Sino-Indian military tensions that have become frequent and intense. It comes amid the expanding arc of conflict between the US and China — from trade disputes to coronavirus and from Huawei to Hong Kong. Despite the massive and unprecedented polarisation in the US, the US political class has come together to project the China threat and agree on the need for a vigorous push-back. Trump's statement merely extends the argument articulated a few days ago by Alice Wells, a senior official in the State Department. Wells was locating Chinese muscle-flexing on the disputed border in the trend of Beijing's aggression in many areas, including in the South China Sea.

Trump's offer is bound to irritate China. Beijing sees itself as Washington's equal but has convinced itself that China is poised to overtake the US as the predominant power in the Asian theatre. It is especially galling for Beijing, since, not so long ago, China was offering to work with the US to manage the conflicts between Delhi and Islamabad. India and China might have been equals way back in the 1990s; Beijing no longer sees Delhi in the same weight class. Clubbing China with India will be seen as a big put-down in Beijing; and that, probably, was Trump's intent.

There was a time when Delhi used to jump at any one talking about "mediation", especially on Kashmir. But now it has learnt the art of fending off these busy-bodies with a smile. And then, Delhi discovered that it could, in fact, leverage international interest in its relations with Islamabad to India's advantage. In the last few years, it managed to redirect the international concerns on Kashmir towards the sources of cross-border terrorism in Pakistan. In fact, Delhi is actively "internationalising" the question of Pakistan's sanctuary and support to those fomenting violent extremism in Kashmir. Similarly, Delhi can use the global concerns on a Sino-Indian conflict to counter the PLA's forward policy. In the name of handling the boundary dispute with Beijing in a purely bilateral framework, Delhi has turned its China strategy into an opaque process that neither the domestic or international public opinion understands. This is a good moment for India to publicise its case for a reasonable boundary settlement with China and contrast it with Beijing's insatiable territorial greed. If winning the war of narratives is important in today's world, standing one's ground in a military standoff is absolutely critical. In a paradox, a Delhi that can repel Beijing's military incursions on its own will gain ever-larger international political and diplomatic support for India's contestation with China.

### **Unsafe Journeys**

As Court has underlined, safety and dignity of migrants is responsibility of states, Railways

VIDEO CLIP of a toddler at Muzaffarpur railway station in Bihar tugging at a piece of cloth covering his dead mother, that went viral on Wednesday, frames a continuing tragedy. In the first week of May, the Indian Railways started Shramik Special trains to ferry back home migrant workers, who have waged a grim struggle for existence after their livelihoods dried up following the announcement of the nationwide lockdown on March 24. For large numbers of these workers, these journeys has been arduous. Trains have been delayed, and several have deviated from their routes. Nine people have died on their way back home in the Shramik Specials. Now the Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the matter. In an interim order passed on Thursday, a three-judge bench asked the states where the journey originates to provide food and water to passengers at the station. It asked the railways to provide the same during the journey.

Railway officials have claimed that the people who died on the special trains had been "battling many illnesses". But, by all accounts, most state governments and the railways have given short shrift to arranging even the basic necessities on these special trains. A first-hand account published in this newspaper has highlighted the travails of the passengers who boarded the Surat-Warangal Shramik Special on May 23. All norms of social distancing were flouted during the bus ride to the railway station at Udhna. During the 10-hour train journey in the searing heat, food and water were in short supply, often leading to scuffles between the travellers. The passengers had to suffer the ignominy of food parcels and water bottles being hurled at them from across the platform when the train stopped at a station. The toilets were unusable for most of the journey.

The state governments and the Indian Railways must realise that facilitating the movement of the migrants is not an act of charity, it is their duty and responsibility. The workers have been forced to return to their villages because the urban areas in which their worksites are located do not offer them any semblance of social security. The journey back home shouldn't be a continuation of the saga of indignity that began after the announcement of the lockdown. The humanitarian imperative of a safe and dignified journey for the worker cannot be overstated. The authorities in the states and at the Centre should also realise that the way the workers have been treated on their journey could further diminish their already shaken confidence in a system they are an essential part of. Passengers in the special trains must be provided with food and water and norms of social distancing must be observed — accountability must be enforced if this is not done.

### No sex or violence

Lights, camera, inaction. If the COVID-19 protocol suggested by movie producers is extended to actors, it would ruin the plot

HE PRODUCERS GUILD of India has developed a "new working protocol" as film and TV crews prepare to go on set after the lockdown is lifted. It is dreadfully sterile -- no hugging, kissing or sharing bad habits, always wear masks and gloves and keep away from anyone aged over 60. This is what will happen behind the scenes. But what if the sanitary and distancing norms we now live by were to be extended to the cast? The immediate consequence would be the abolition of sex and violence, the two plot elements on which the entire edifice of popular cinema rests. For both activities, actors must get really close up and personal. The censor board would silently become extinct, too, but it would not be missed except by historians of cinema and insecure neighbourhood uncles.

However, masks and gloves would be in character in boxing films, to an unsatisfying degree. Imagine watching *Raging Bull* with only the training bits — in real bouts, it's just gloves and no padded headgear. Superhero films could prosper, too, since lead characters and their sidekicks are masked by design. But it would be hard to tell them apart from stock characters like thugs, flatties, subhuman judges, corrupt politicians and innocent bystanders if they're also masked. Frustratingly, the superheroes would be robbed of physical agency by distancing norms. The plot would suck. The movie would bomb.

What of love? After decades of struggle to get a kiss past the censors, must we regress to the callow device of displaying two luridly Technicolor flowers suggestively intertwined, or butterflies flitting and sipping in richly florescent gardens? And the injunction to spurn people over 60? Does it mean that an era has ended without our knowledge, because we had already seen our last Amitabh Bachchan movie, before the lockdown?

THE SCENE IS, once again, Heaven. Eminences from our History are lazing around, as always bored out of their minds. Heaven is, after all, in permanent Lockdown, without having to worry about haircuts. Mohandas Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Hansa Mehta, Rabindranath Tagore, Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Sri Aurobindo, Sarojini Naidu, Jayaprakash Narayan, Deendayal Upadhyaya are milling around. Narada shows up to needle them.

Narada: Hey, Jawahar! How come you are still in Heaven? I thought they were moving you to Hell. Didn't you destroy India and all that?

**Jawahar**: They were trying to arrange a third-class train ticket to Hell for me. Then, the lockdown happened. So I am stuck.

**Mohandas** (admonishingly): While you are stuck, read *Hind Swaraj* seriously, my dear Jawahar. Remember, I wrote there that trains "are the carriers of plague germs". "The Railways too have spread bubonic plague."

Jawahar (with a pained expression): But Bapu, you discovered India through trains. Kasturba: And Bapu, a train was your

moment of enlightenment. If you had not been thrown off one, you would have never woken up. **Bhim Rao**: Gandhiji, did you not also write,

"Our leading men travelled India either on foot or on bullock carts. They learned one another's languages and there was no aloofness between them." Did you not say that it was after the railways "that we began to believe in distinctions?"

Jinnah interjects: I told you, this new fel-

low of yours, Narendra Ranchoddas Modi is just like Mohan. He made millions of Indians travel on foot across the length and breadth of the country. That tapasya will make them all leading men, and India will be without distinctions. Just as Mohan said. He has made all of them Shankaracharya (laughs).

Sarojini: Er, Jinnah, I have caught you

watching an Indian film again. You mean Narendra Damodardas Modi. You should respect the Indian PM. Ranchoddas is the guy in *Three Idiots*, who had issues with his degree. **Jinnah**: Sorry, Sarojini behn, all these Hindi

rhyming names. Sometimes it is easy to confuse. **Bhimsen Joshi**: A das is a das. (Breaks into

Asavari Todi) "Main toh tumhro das, janam janam se". **K M Munshi**: Hey Jinnah, Narendra bhai

Maya and Tapasya, India is done. People are dying on railway tracks. Jawahar (turns to Rabindranath): Forget this

Bhim Rao snaps: Between

Rabindranath): Forget this whimsical game of selfforgetting. Did you not see what happened at Muzaffarpur station? A toddler was pulling a cover off her dead mother, imploring her to wake up. Does not reality ever stare at you? I can never think of a railway station without playing that image in my mind. Maybe Bapu is right: The railway station is the scene of our moral desolation. It spreads evil faster than goodness. Mohandas: They have forgotten my talisman. I won't repeat it. Even I have forgotten it. Something about the poor. Someone (inaudibly)

whispers: But did the station

have wi-fi?

is building a bullet train.

Hansa Mehta (whispers under her breath): Maybe he got misled by the word bullet.
Mohandas (pained): My Gujarati brothers always misunderstand me! I did tapasya myself, never brutally imposed it on others.

**Bhim Rao** interjects: Come here, Vallabhbhai. We are discussing your favourite subject, railways. The real steel frame that holds India together. Disabuse Mohan of his nonsense.

Vallabhbhai: I have fond memories of trains. In fact, I waited on a train for the princely states of Orissa to deliver their treaties of accession. Good things, trains.

**V P Menon** interjects: Sir, princely states may have given their accession on trains. But some states are now not accepting trains. Centre blames the states, states blame the

Centre. **Vallabhbhai**: What? Can't the Centre coordinate? We left India a strong Centre.

**Jayaprakash**: Centre is strong when you want to lock down, weak when you want to open up. Same as in Emergency.

**Narada** (looks at Rabindranath): Why are you so silent? Babu, *kichu bolo*? You wrote poems on railway stations.

**Deen Dayal** (repeating with joy): I have a railway station named after me.

Rabindranath (airily) recites his poem: Some get aboard/some stay behind; succeeding boarding failing or remaining/Nothing but picture after picture/Whatever catches the eye for a moment is erased the next moment after/A whimsical game of self forgetting. (Railway Station, translated by William Radice).

**Sri Aurobindo**: Sounds like "maya". On

second thoughts more, more like social media — "whatever catches the eye is erased the next moment". **Bhim Rao** snaps: Between Maya and

Bhim Rao snaps: Between Maya and Tapasya, India is done. People are dying on railway tracks.

Jawahar (turns to Rabindranath): Forget this whimsical game of self-forgetting. Did you not see what happened at Muzaffarpur station? A toddler was pulling a cover off her dead mother, imploring her to wake up. Does not reality ever stare at you? I can never think of a railway station without playing that image in my mind. Maybe Bapu is right: The railway station is the scene of our moral desolation. It spreads evil faster than goodness.

**Mohandas**: They have forgotten my talisman. I won't repeat it. Even I have forgotten it.

Something about the poor.

Someone (inaudibly) whispers: But did the station have wi-fi?

**Vallabhbhai**: Jawahar, you always get sentimental. Do you not remember the trains of death we dealt with in Partition? One train up with dead bodies, one train down. Godhra and the aftermath. Our trains are what we make of them. Stop crying.

(Everyone looks down; some try to sneak a look at Jinnah's face.)

**Deen Dayal**: Speaking of railway tracks, you all do know my body was found on one?

Narada: Of course. Since you highminded people never read novels, you never pay attention to reality, let me tell you, Indians have always complained about dying on railway tracks. Some guy called Rohinton Mistry, in A Fine Balance, wrote about the Emergency, a time that resembles ours in some ways. One of his characters, a passenger miffed at a delayed train, complains, "Why does everyone have to choose the railway tracks for dying?" Grumbled another: "No consideration for people like us. Murder, suicide, Naxalite-terrorist killing, police custody death, everything ends up delaying the trains. What is wrong with poison or tall buildings or knives?'

**Bhim Rao**: And now hunger deaths on tracks too... We complain more about how they die than why they die.

Silence hangs in the air.

**Subhas Bose** interjects: Speaking of trains not running on time, I once had buddies who made the trains run on time. Mussolini ran trains on time. I am not advocating it, but think about it. Maybe a stout dose of discipline and the trains will run in time.

**Bhim Rao**: In India, dictators cannot run trains on time. And as we just found out, they cannot even ensure that trains reach the right destination. With the passengers alive.

**Jawahar**: I think I will take a flight to Hell. Forget the train. Too much de

Hansa Mehta: You can escape, but what about the Republic, Jawahar? Go at the speed of a train or will it fly? Will it walk to its destiny? Will it collapse in the middle, exhausted? And we, like the toddler at the station, imploring the mother to wake up long after its life has been eviscerated.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

### My Teacher, My Friend

Outstanding scholar, unforgettable teacher. Rekha Jhanji was so much more than that

Kant, Plotinus, Leo Strauss, Shaftesbury,

Bharati Puri

IN THIS PERIOD of lockdown and inner turmoil, when the fear of death looms large and all of us are in confinement, and when all familiar assumptions are called into question, she — my beloved teacher, Professor Rekha Jhanji — left quietly on May 8. As she lived under the ruthless wrath of Alzheimer's for over a decade, and as the world around her nearly forgot her, she lived in a world of her own. A world, I would like to think, of repose and equanimity.

And now that she is gone, just as is its wont, the world is waking up to the loss. They remember her as an outstanding scholar and teacher of Indian aesthetics, existentialist thought, hermeneutics and phenomenology who taught several generations of students at Panjab University, Chandigarh. Her accomplishments were, indeed, many. Her books are widely read and are on the reading lists of universities and institutes in India and abroad Her work was published in prominent journals. She was president of the Indian Philosophical Congress in 2009, consulting editor for the Indian Philosophical Quarterly, fellow and executive editor at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, and coordinator of the Centre for Swami Vivekananda Studies, 2002-2005.

She was an unforgettable teacher. Her lectures, whether on western thinkers such as

She would tell us how she sat in Café Les Deux Magots, the coffee house which Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir frequented — but she never walked up to Sartre's table to tell him she was writing her dissertation on him. It was in Paris, too, that the inner calling to study her own cultural-philosophical traditions stirred.

Addison, Burke, Toynbee, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, or on the Indian classics like Bharata's Natya Shastra, Sudraka's Mrichchhakatika, were deep and engrossing. I have not come across many who would straddle the two parallel streams with such ease. In her vounger days, she had earned a second PhD from the University of Paris. She had gone there wanting to study Sartre. This was the period when the radicalism of the Paris Spring was very much in the air, post 'Mai 1968'. She would tell us how she sat in Café Les Deux Magots, the coffee house which lean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir frequented — but she never walked up to Sartre's table to tell him she was writing her dissertation on him. She had the apprehension that she would lose the magic of a thinker. It was in Paris, too, that the inner calling to study her own cultural-philosophical traditions stirred, much before such a thing would become trendy among professional academicians in India. She was already a full-blown professor when she decided to systematically learn Sanskrit, and pedalled many miles on her bicycle to her teacher's home.

But while she was all that in her academic persona, she was something else in her essence. She was a free spirit yet a very shy and reclusive person, a romantic, an enigma. Many of us would see her walking down the corridor of the department, absorbed in thought, her eyes deeply illuminated and friendly, something serene surrounding her.

She nurtured diverse interests – painting, music, gardening, travel, trekking. She walked up to the Mansarovar in her late 50s and painted exquisite watercolours, an interplay of myriad azures, captivating and meditative. She liked doing all this undetected, behind the stage. Yet she kept an open house. My thoughts turn back to the home she and her life partner, Professor Bhupinder Brar, shared. Murli, their help, cooked the meals and Rekha would fuss over her grapefruit salad. We would let our hair down over dinner, but the very next day it was back to business and Professor Jhanji would start her lecture as though we had never left the classroom.

It was in the refulgence of her life and work that we, her students, were crafting our lives. Eventually, some of us disappointed her. For long, I felt I stood tall in that list.

Panjab University has lost a doyenne and one of its most brilliant scholars. Goodbye beloved teacher, friend and a wonderful human being.

The writer is an associate professor at IIT, Delhi

INDIAN EXPRESS

Law is moderney were experienced and a second sec

### May 29, 1980, Forty Years Ago

ASSAM VIOLENCE

ASTHE SITUATION in Goalpara, Kamrup and Nowgong, three trouble-torn districts of Lower Assam, remained unchanged, violence spread to new areas of Nowgong district where the army was called yesterday to assist the civil administration in maintaining law and order. Police fired several rounds to disperse a violent mob in Athagon Chapori village in Nowgong district. Tension is mounting in vast areas of the district and the panicstricken people belonging to the majority community fled away to comparatively secure places in Auniati Satra, Bamungaon and Vriangaon. At least 20 persons have been killed and many scores injured.

### IMPHAL CURFEW AN INDEFINITE CURFEW was clamped on

Imphal following the death of one of the women demonstrators protesting against Army operations in Manipur. Immediately after hearing of the death, hundreds of women who run the famous Khowal bazaar closed down their shops and marched towards the chief minister's house. The chief minister, Dorendra Singh, has ordered a judicial inquiry into the death. In the afternoon, the All Manipur Women's Association and the All Manipur Girls Organisation took out a procession defying Section 144. They demanded a concrete and clear decision from the government not to call the Army.

New Delhi

KHOMEINI'S MESSAGE IRAN'S NEW PARLIAMENT convened with a warning from Ayatollah Khomeini to be on guard against "plotters" and a published appeal that the 53 US hostages be held until the Shah and his wealth are returned and America pays damages. Khomeini's message mirrored the religious fervour of the parliament, which is dominated by hardline clergymen. The mullahs, or priests, wore white or black turbans in stark contrast to the red and gold hues of the ornate chamber. "Maintain a policy of neither East nor West in all domestic affairs and international relations", said Khomeini's message, read to the opening session by the Ayatollah's son, Ahmad.

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

## THE IDEAS PAGE

## Drawing closer in crisis

The pandemic is a colossal challenge but it may create opportunities to deepen India's engagement with Africa



Sujan R. Chinoy

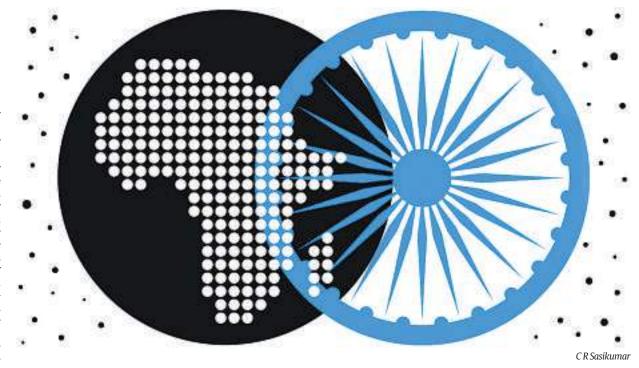
AFRICA DAY IS observed every year on May 25 to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (now known as the African Union). India has been closely associated with it on account of its shared colonial past and rich contemporary ties. The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses has hosted an Africa Day Round Table annually for the last four years in order to commemorate this epochal event. This year, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has marred the celebrations in India. Africa, too, has come to a standstill due to the

The World Bank's Africa's Pulse, a biannual analysis of the near-term macroeconomic outlook for the region, in its April 9 report, assessed that the COVID-19 outbreak has sparked off the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region's first recession in 25 years. Growth is expected to plummet to between -2.1 and -5.1 per cent in 2020, from a modest 2.4 per cent in 2019. With high rates of HIV, malaria, diabetes, hypertension and malnourishment prevalent, a large number of Africans were already faced with a health and economic crisis. The steep decline in commodity prices has spelt disaster for the economies of Nigeria, Zambia and Angola.

Precarious fiscal positions have ruled out any major governmental stimulus. Public debt has mounted. According to the World Bank, the SSA region paid \$35.8 billion in total debt service in 2018, 2.1 per cent of regional gross domestic product (GDP). Together, African countries have sought a \$100 billion rescue package, including a \$44 billion waiver of interest payment by the world's 20 largest economies. The IMF's debt service relief of \$500 million is meant for 25 countries of which 19 are in Africa, but that is a drop in the bucket. It is clear that without outside support, Africa will find it very difficult to meet the challenge.

Africa's rich natural resources, long-term economic potential, youthful demography and influence as a bloc of 54 countries in multi-lateral organisations is apparent. In recent years, several extra-regional economies have strengthened their engagement with African states, with an eye to rising economic opportunities, including in energy, mining, infrastructure and connectivity. China's engagement of Africa, as elsewhere, is huge but increasingly regarded as predatory and exploitative. Its annual trade with Africa in 2019 stood at \$208 billion, in addition to investments and loans worth \$200 billion. Traditionally, China's participation in infrastructure projects has been astonishing. Having famously built the 1,860 km Tanzania-Zambia railway line in 1975, and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti and Mombasa-Nairobi lines more recently, China is now eveing to develop the vast East Africa Master

It is also developing the Trans-Maghreb Highway, the Mambilla Hydropower Plant in Nigeria, the Walvis Bay Container Terminal in Windhoek and the Caculo Cabaca Hydropower project in Angola. At the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (COCAC) in 2018, China set aside \$60 billion in developmental assistance, followed by a whopping



\$1 billion Belt and Road (BRI) Infrastructure Fund for Africa. China has followed up with robust health sector diplomacy in the wake of the pandemic, but its image has been tarnished by defective supplies of PPE gear and discriminatory behaviour against Africans in Guangzhou, leading to an embarrassing diplomatic row.

Japan hosted the 7th Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD) in August 2019. Russia hosted the first-ever Russia-Africa Summit last year. Brazil, home to the largest population of people of African descent outside of Africa, has also sought to develop closer ties. Cuba has sent medical teams to help Africa.

In the last few years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has redefined India's relations with Africa. India-Africa trade reached \$62 billion in 2018 compared to \$39 billion during 2009-10. After South Asia, Africa is the second-largest recipient of Indian overseas assistance with Lines of Credit (LOC) worth nearly \$10 billion (42 per cent of the total) spread over 100 projects in 41 countries. Ties were boosted at the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in 2015. Forty per cent of all training and capacity building slots under the ITEC programme have traditionally been reserved for Africa. Approximately 6,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in UN peace-keeping missions in five conflict zones in Africa. Bilateral cooperation includes solar energy development, information technology, cyber security, maritime security, disaster relief, counterterrorism and military training. India has also launched several initiatives to develop closer relations, including the first-ever India Africa Defence Ministers conclave in February this year on the margins of the Defence Expo 2020. India provides about 50,000 scholarships to African students each year. The huge Indian diaspora is a ma-

India had planned to host the Fourth India Africa Forum Summit in September this year. However, the COVID-19 pandemic may cause it to be delayed. India has already despatched medical assistance to 25 African countries and PM Modi has had a telephonic talk with President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa who is the current chairperson of the African Union, and separately others such as the presidents of Uganda and Ethiopia, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar has also reached out to counter-

parts in Africa to reiterate India's support in the fight against the coronavirus. India could consider structuring a series of virtual summits in zonal groups with African leaders across the continent over the next few months that could both provide a platform for a cooperative response to the pandemic and also serve as a precursor to the actual summit in the future

There are several other ideas that could be pushed to deepen India's engagement with Africa. The Ministry of External Affairs has already extended the e-ITEC course on "COVID-19 Pandemic: Prevention and Management Guidelines for Healthcare Professionals" to healthcare workers in Africa. The Aarogya Setu App and the E-Gram Swaraj App for rural areas for mapping COVID-19 are technological achievements that could be shared with Africa. Since the movement of African students to India for higher education has been disrupted, India may expand the e-VidyaBharti (tele education) project to establish an India-Africa Virtual University. Agriculture and food security can also be a fulcrum for deepening ties. With the locust scourge devastating the Horn of Africa and the pandemic worsening the food crisis, India could ramp up its collaboration in this sector.

India could also create a new fund for Africa and adapt its grant-in-aid assistance to reflect the current priorities. This could include support for new investment projects by Indian entrepreneurs especially in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors in

Both India and Japan share a common invelopment. The COVID-19 crisis has nudged many countries to engage in new formats. It is time for the Quad Plus, in which the US, India, Iapan and Australia have recently engaged other countries such as the ROK, Vietnam, New Zealand, Israel and Brazil, to exchange views and propose cooperation with select African countries abutting the Indian Ocean, After all, the Indo-Pacific straddles the entire maritime space of the Indian Ocean. The pandemic is a colossal challenge but it may create fresh opportunities to bring India and Africa closer together.

The writer is a former ambassador and currently director general of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Views are personal

## Your Lordships

"The China-US 'battle' over Hong Kong is on. The US is free to play any cards in its hand. Hong Kong is under China's sovereignty, and whatever act

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Washington passes is just wastepaper."

Edited excerpts of a letter to justices of Supreme Court, from senior members of the Bar on the migrant crisis

IT IS WITH great anguish and dismay that we write to you as the citizens of India and senior members of the Bar. The Supreme Court (SC) has a pivotal constitutional role in protecting and safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens of this country, and particularly the vast swathes of our population who eke out a living near or below the poverty line or minimum wage. The SC's constitutional role and duty assume even greater importance in the time of a crisis, such as the present when the entire country and its economy was "locked down" from March 24 by an order of the central government. More than 75 per cent of the Indian workforce earn their livelihoods in the informal or unorganised sector, and for them, a stoppage of economic activity in the Medium, Small and Micro sectors has resulted in an immediate loss of livelihood and the means

The "lockdown" was imposed on March 24 without any consideration being paid to the plight of these poor, especially migrant labour earning their livelihood in the major cities, and for whom social distancing was and is a utopian impossibility. These poor citizens were faced with the prospect of being cooped up in small cramped tenements/rooms or on the pavements, without any employment or livelihood or even a definite source of food and were thus compelled to start walking back to their home states, often thousands of kilometres away, with little children, family members or elderly parents. They were forced to do so as the central government's lockdown had precluded them from taking trains or buses back to their home towns.

While hearing public interest litigation on the plight of the migrant workers, Alakh Alok Srivastava v. Union of India, the SC considered the Status Report filed by the learned Solicitor General, representing the Union of India, which referred to the government's circular dated March 29, prohibiting movement and transportation of migrant labourers and a direction to shift them to relief shelter homes and relief camps instead and the Solicitor General's statement before this Court that as of March 31, "no migrant person was walking on the roads in an attempt to reach his/her home towns villages". The SC, vide order dated 31.03.2020, expressed satisfaction at the steps taken by the Union of India to combat COVID-19 and proceeded to observe that "the migration of labourers working in the cities was triggered by panic created by fake news that the lockdown would continue for more than 3 months". As a consequence of the Court's failure to intervene, even though the number of COVID cases was only a few hundred at the time, the millions of migrant workers were unable to proceed to their hometowns. This enforced stay in cramped quarters only exposed poor workers to a higher risk of infection. Moreover, the government's statement has been clearly shown to be contrary to the facts. Several reports suggest that more than 90 per cent of migrant workers did not receive government rations in many states and were suffering from dire food shortages.

The SC's failure to intervene in March resulted in a massive migration of millions of workers by early May — they were fed up with being virtually incarcerated for the previous six weeks. By this time, the COVID infections in the country had crossed 50,000

and a significant number of migrant workers were also infected. Even at this stage, the government initially sought to obstruct their travel/movement on foot or by trucks. Subsequently, the government agreed to their movement by bus and trains (Shramik Specials). However, even when the arrangements were made, onerous conditions were sought to be imposed on them, such as obtaining a medical certificate after getting themselves tested at great cost to themselves. When arrangements were made to  $transport\,them\,by\,road, they\,were\,often\,left$ at the borders of the receiving states, which at times were unwilling to make any further arrangements for them to reach their homes, almost as if this was not one countrty with a common citizenship. The right to life, liberty and freedom of movement of these hapless poor millions was rendered virtually meaningless.

On May 15, a three-judge bench of the SC dismissed an application seeking immediate directions to all the district magistrates to identify the migrant workers who are walking on roads, provide them with appropriate food and shelter facility and facilitate their travel back to their home states free of cost. Without going into the merits, the said application was dismissed and it was left for the state governments to sort this out. We respectfully submit that this institutional deference to statements made on behalf of the government and the Court's apparent indifference to this enormous humanitarian crisis, would if not rectified immediately, amount to the Court having abdicated its constitutional role and duty to these teeming millions of poor, hungry migrants.

Amid the executive-imposed COVID-19 lockdowns, the Court cannot retreat into self-effacing deference, leaving millions of Indian citizens, especially those who are poor and vulnerable, to the mercy of the executive, reminding us of ADM Jabalpur when detenues were left to the tender mercy of the executive with "Diamond bright Diamond hard" hope that something would be done

This Court has the power bestowed by the Constitution of India under Article 142 to undertake any measure to do complete justice. The show of helplessness does no justice to the motto of this court "Yato dharmastato jaya". We believe that the survival of Indian democracy and the rule of law, particularly in the current COVID-19 pandemic, is dependent on the Court actively fulfilling its constitutional obligation.

The migrant workers' crisis is continuing even today, with millions still stranded on roads, at railway stations and state borders. We urge the Supreme Court to intervene and ensure that adequate transport arrangements, food and shelter are immediately provided by the Central and state governments free of cost. At this time, we recall the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

P Chidambaram, Anand Grover, Indira Jaising, Mohan Katarki, Siddarth Luthra, Santosh Paul, Mahalaxmi Pavani, Kapil Sibal, Chander Uday Singh, Vikas Singh, Prashant Bhushan, Iqbal Chagla, Aspi Chinoy, Mihir Desai, Janak Dwarkadas, Rajani Iyer, Yusuf Muchhala, Rajiv Patil, Navroz Seervai, Gayatri Singh, Sanjay Singhvi. Full version of this article is available at indianexpress.com

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Nehru's way

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Trump wades into India-China first time, Beijing says border situation controllable' (IE, May 28). This is not the first time that the US president has tried to intervene in bilateral issues between India and her neighbours. Earlier, he offered to mediate between India and Pakistan over Kashmir issue. Jawaharlal Nehru, following the policy of non-alignment, kept an equal distance from the US and USSR. Indian should revisit that policy. At the same time, it should have friendly relations with all its neighbours.

Anil Kumar Jain, Jaipur

### SAVARKAR'S CONTEXT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Misunderstood revolutionary' (IE, May 28). The Union minister does well to point out the similarities between V D Savarkar and BR Ambedkar. To take the best out of everything is wise, yet we must also remember the context of Savarkar's life. This is just to ensure that by normalising one aspect of Savarkar (patriotism) we don't end up normalising the other problematic aspects (his divisive communal ideology).

Abhijeet Yadav, Gurgaon

### LOCKDOWN DRAMA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Losing the plot' (May, 28). The blatant use of the

### **IDEAS ONLINE**

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

• SUBTLE SURVEILLANCE: **VRINDA BHANDARI** 

• NOT ATMANIRBHAR: SURABHI AGARWAL, **BOBBY RAMAKANT AND SANDEEP PANDEY** 

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pandemic for political gains in Maharashtra is deplorable. The Opposition's call for President's rule is irresponsible. Equally irresponsible was the state government's knee-jerk ban on inter-district movement.

S B Bhalerao, Mumbai

### DON'T COMPARE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A sobering comparison' (IE, May 28). It doesn't take much effort to realise that all comparisons of the COVID-19 response have political overtones. Every country has its own unique challenges. Our focus should be on sharing strategies to min-

imise the loss everywhere. Anirudh Parashar, Solan

## A health partnership

As it ramps up public healthcare, India must give more room to private sector

Both India and Japan share a

common interest in forging a

development. The COVID-

19 crisis has nudged many

countries to engage in new

formats. It is time for the

Quad Plus, in which the US,

India, Japan and Australia

have recently engaged other

countries such as the ROK,

Israel and Brazil, to exchange

Vietnam, New Zealand,

cooperation with select

African countries abutting

views and propose

the Indian Ocean.

partnership for Africa's

Nishikant Dubey

ON MARCH 25, despite fewer notified cases compared to other countries, India closed its international borders and enforced a lockdown. It adopted social distancing, testing and citizen isolation, with a clarion call to the private sector and entrepreneur who specialise in low-cost innovations to support the government in this hour of crisis. The efforts of the Indian government are being widely appreciated across the globe and by international organisations like the WHO.

Global efforts to develop a vaccine against COVID-19 are progressing at an unprecedented pace, but a quick-fix solution is not yet around the corner and we have to be prepared for myriad outcomes. Even if a vaccine is developed before December, getting it to our large population will certainly take some time. This is a serious concern that the government is grappling with.

Approximately 70 per cent of the healthcare services in India are provided by private players. If private healthcare crumbles due to economic constraints or other factors, India's entire healthcare system can crumble.

India has a doctor-to-population ratio well below the level recommended by the

WHO-1:1,445, which adds up to a total of roughly 1,159,000 doctors. The WHO says the ideal ratio is 1:1,000. Considering India's population, the number of doctors needed to meet this ratio would be roughly 1,674,800. If only government hospital doctors are included, India has one allopathic government doctor for every 10,926 people, according to the National Health Profile 2019 of the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI). As per an estimate, India has a shortage of about 6 lakh doctors and 20 lakh nurses and an even greater number of supporting med-

India has handled the COVID-19 pandemic exceptionally well. However, considering the rise in the number of infections, India is in dire need of more medical staff and amenities. According to the health ministry, India has 9,50,000 active doctors. Since the health ministry has predicted the number of cases would peak at 8,26,000, the number of doctors seems absurdly low. If the government wants to stay successful in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, it needs to rapidly build medical institutions and increase the num-

There seems to be a long battle ahead. The public healthcare system cannot be improved overnight. The army that India needs is a large private health sector that can sustain the battle against the coronavirus as well as other threats that we might face in the 21st century. There are multiple ways for the government to undo the mistakes of the past and create a medical system adept at fighting any emergency.

If India wants to achieve a 1:1,000 ratio, it will need an additional 2.07 million doctors by 2030. For this, the government needs to increase its spending on the health sector. It needs to aid attempts at constructing new medical institutes. The arrangement can be a semi-private or public-private partnership. Encouraging private parties to profit from their institutes while providing India with doctors will have two effects: The doctor deficit that India is facing will be eradicated and the economy will get a much-needed boost from an almost untapped market.

If the government wants to achieve an ideal ratio of healthcare workers to the country's population and create adequate health infrastructure, it is of utmost importance to bring in FDI to the sector. We need to further strengthen biomedical research and invest in cutting edge "made in India" health technologies. We must make it easier for health technology start-ups by giving them tax cuts. Scientific innovation is the key and the private sector can contribute to this area. If a few of these steps are taken by the government, the Indian healthcare system will be regarded as one of the best in the world. Most importantly, when, if ever, a similar kind of situation resurfaces, we will be well pre-

Only a healthy nation can grow. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented India with an opportunity. The Indian healthcare system can go through a radical overhauling, where it can be more sustainable as well as responsive. The economic package announced by the Prime Minister and offered by the finance ministry sets the tone. The private sector can be the flagbearer of this movement towards a healthy, fast-growing

The writer is a BJP Lok Sabha MP for Godda, Jharkhand. Views are personal

Party. In 2014, he contested Lok

Sabha polls from Palakkad as a

UDF candidate but lost. Later,

he was elected to Rajya Sabha

on UDF ticket, but quit in 2017

in protest against Bihar CM

Nitish Kumar joining hands

unit of JD(U) and returned to LDF,

which again elected him to the

from Wayanad, was initiated

into the socialist movement dur-

ing his school days. He remained

aligned with the socialist move-

ment in the country and state,

several green movements in

Kerala. His literary career in-

cludes two dozen major works.

He was at the forefront of

and stood for secular politics.

Later, he revived the state

Veerendra Kumar, who hails

with the BJP.

Rajya Sabha in 2018.

Veteran socialist leader

M P Veerendra Kumar dies

minister of state for finance in

1997 and held independent

charge as minister of state for

labour and parliamentary af-

of the early architects of the

CPI(M)-led LDF. In 1987, he was

elected to the Assembly, but re-

mained as minister of forest for

Veerendra Kumar's JD(U)

severed ties with LDF in 2009,

and he later moved to the

Congress-led UDF and floated

only 48 hours.

In Kerala politics, he was one

The

former

Union

Minister

#### **PERSONAL**

I, Aman Sehra S/o Gurdeep Singh R/o-3/1, Geeta-Colony, Delhi-110031. have changed Sehra, permanently.

I, Gurpreet Singh W/o Late Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Rajpal Singh R/o F-37, Sector-40, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Gurpreet Ahluwalia for all future 0040538256-1

I, Naik Tejendra Kumar,S/o Sh.Jaipal Singh R/o-34 Raj-Nagar Kankar-kheda, Meerut-UP,Inform That My Service-Record My Son Name Wrongly-Written Suryadeep Singh Correct-Name Is Suryadeep Hudda. 0040538272-4

I, RANJIT MOHANTY S/O SHASHADHAR MOHANTY, R/o-FLAT-NO-647, JAY-AMBEY-APARTMENT NEW LIG-DDA-FLAT KONDLI-GHAROLI. MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-3, DELHI-110096. changed my name to RANJIT KUMAR MOHANTY. 0040538 0040538272-2

I, Raj Kumar S/O Late Sh. 9th July 1957 R/O 80/78,1st Floor, Malviya Nagar m, New Delhi 110017; have changed my name to Rai Kumar Lalwan vide affidavit dated 27th May 2020, at New Delhi

0040538247-1

I, Sumesh Kumar Dawer S/o Subhash Chand Dawar, H.No.1303, First-Floor, RaniBagh, Delhi-110034. have changed my name to Sumesh Kumar Dawar. 0040538272-

I, Tarika Mahinder Arya D/o Mahinder Arya W/o-Ankit Behl, R/o.Block-A-257B, Palam-Vihar, Gurugram-122017(Haryana) have changed my name to Tarika Behl,for all,purposes.

0040538272-3

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the General public at arge that my client Mrs. Rashi Bansal Mrs. Sh. Albansal Mrs. Rashi Bansal Mrs. Sh. Rashes Mumar Rio WZ-177. First Floor, Gali No. 2, Lajwanti Sarden, New Delhi-110046, has purchased the property bearing No. WZ-177, First Floor, admeasuring 202.2/9 Sq. Yds. out of Khasara No. WZ-177, First Floor, admeasuring 202.2/9 Sq. Yds. out of Khasara No. WZ-177, First Ploor, admeasuring 202.2/9 Sq. Yds. out of Khasara No. WZ-177, First Noragai Raya. Colony, alwanti Garden, New Delhi-110046 rom Mrs. Narayani Devi vide egistered sale deed dated 24.10.2019 whereas Mrs. Narayani Devi was the basolute owner of the said property dee partition deed dated 90.96.244 Any varing registration No. 4354. Any berson having objection for the same hall intimate the undersigned within 7 lays from the date of publication.

Sd/- (VISHAL YADAV ADVOCATE
Chamber No. 664, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54
Mobile- 9716211867

### PUBLIC NOTICE

n the Public Notice dated May 24, 2020 published in the "Indian Express newspaper on behalf of my clients (1) Sh inewspaper on behalf of my clients (1) Sh. Manjeet Singh (3) Sh. Sanjeet Singh (3) Sh. Sarjeet Singh (3) Sh. Sarjeet Singh, all sons of Late Ran Singh, all Rob. H.No. WZ-45A, Village Palam, New Delhi - 110045 (4) Smt. Preeti Wlo. Late Mahender Singh Rlo. H.No. WZ-45A, Village Palam, New Delhi - 110045, (5) Sh. Sandeep Solanki Sol. Late Sh. Rai Singh Rol H.No. WZ-103, Village Palam, New Delhi - 110045, (6) Sh. Satpal Slo. Late Sh. Raghbir Singh Rlo. H.No. WZ-117, Village Palam, New Delhi - 110045, it may be noted that in the above mentioned notice the total area inter Definit Floots, interly be follow that if the above mentioned notice the total area of the land has been printed as 751 sq yds., instead of the actual area which is 858 Sq. Yds. The same is hereby being rectified by means of this Notice. Thus the actual total area is 858 Sq. Yds.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it Known to all that my client Sh Shrikant Samanto S/O Shri Kartik Chandra and his wife Smt. Rima Samanto Have disowned their sor Shubhankar Samanto R/O 1298 B Gali no.13, Govind Puri, Kalkaji New Delhi-110019 and they will no be responsible of any misconductor liabilities of their son Shubanka Samanto here in after. If anybody deals with him for any reasor whatsoever he will be doing such

RENU GUPTA Court. New Delhi-110003

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE
General public at large is hereby informed that my clientess Smt. Indrawalt, w/o late Ramesh Chand, r/o Village Kharkari Rond, P.S. Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi has severed all relations with his son Shri Tejpal, slo late Ramesh Chand (Caste Lohar) as he is not taking care of my clientess in her old age and is also not under her control, at all. My clientess hereby also disowns her above-named son from her all immoveable and moveable properties. If any person(s) deals with the above-named son of my clientess, he / she will do so at his/her own risks and consequences and henceforth, my clientess, and consequences and henceforth any clientess shall not be responsible for any action of her above-named son.

VINAY JAIDKA ADVOCATE M: 9811728775 **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**PUBLIC NOTICE** My client Shanti Chauhan Wo N C Chauhan, aged 70 years and NC Thauhan S/o R M Chauhan, aged 71 rears both are resident of RZ I-45 dahavir Enclave Palam, New Delhi 10045, has debarred/disowned their sor lamely Kuldeep, his wife Deepika and neir daughter namely Konika and sor rom their entire movable and immovable roperties and also severed their al elations from them due to bad habits and sisbehaviour, anybody deals with them thall be responsible themselves.

Sd/

Ghanshyam Dwivedi (Advocate) Off. Cum Resi.: RZ G-76, Mandir Marg, Mahavir Enclave I, Dwarka, New Delhi-110045

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Kumar S/o Tej Singh R/o H.No 995 K Block, Mangol Puri North West Delhi-110083 has debarred his son namely Parveen Kuma and his daughter in law namely Kavant from his movable and immovable assets & broke his relations with them. If anybody maintain relations with them that

any manner.

Mukul Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 471, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

## Classifieds Institutional deliveries dip in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand

Officials cite lack of transport amid lockdown, fear of hospitals

**DIPANKAR GHOSE AND ABHISHEK ANGAD** NEW DELHI, RANCHI, MAY 28

EVEN AS India battles Covid-19, data from two states, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, shows that the number of institutional deliveries of children has begun to drop.

Senior officials in Iharkhand said that while the state had listed 52,000 women for scheduled deliveries in May, only 5.9 per cent of these were conducted in medical institutions by May 21. Meanwhile, data compiled by the Chhattisgarh government shows that deliveries dropped 15.39 per cent in April from the numbers recorded in March.

Over the past two decades, India has made progress in increasing the number of institutional deliveries. According to NFHS 4, institutional deliveries went up to 79 per cent in 2015-16 from 39 per cent in 2005-06. Institutional births in public institutions went up from 18 per cent to 52 per cent in the same time period.

In Chhattisgarh, the percentage of institutional deliveries went up to 70.2 from 44.9 between NFHS 3 (2005-06) and NFHS 4, while in Jharkhand the corresponding increase was from 40.1 per cent to 61.9 per cent.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

TO MARK the first anniversary of

the Prime Minister Narendra

Modi-led government, the ruling

BJP is set to launch a month-long

campaign, including digital rallies

Signalling that the govern-

ment's efforts to contain the Covid-

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

in all districts, in June.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to General Public
that my client Suman Malhotra
W/o Late Shri Virender Kumar

Malhotra R/o A-32, Janta Colony Shivaji Vihar Tagore Garden

New Delhi is absolute owner of the Property No.A-32B Janta Colony, Shivaji Vihar Tagore Garden, New Delhi measuring 50 Sq. Yds. by Gift Deed Regd. No.2661 Book No.1 Vol. No.24887 Page 132-141 Date 06/03/2020 in

Sub Registrar SR II Basa Darapur New Delhi and after this

general public notice my clien shall not responsible for any type

loan, litigation, stay order and attachment, notification and acquisition, charges and liens,

rety and security, previous ntracts, H.U.F, benami, etc. USHA MAHAJAN (Advocate Chamber No.80

Patiala House New Delhi

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि. <u>ई- निविदा</u>

सूचना सं. 09/ ईसीटीसी/ मुरा./ 2020-21 ई-टैण्डर

चार माह की वैद्यता हेतु दो भागों में, भाग-1 व भाग-2 अधोलिखित विवरण के अनसार आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं-

क्रम सं.- 1, कार्य का नाम- 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र

चन्दौसी, सम्भल पर (2x160+2x40) एमवीए से

2x160x+3x40) एमवीए क्षमतावृद्धि से सम्बन्धित

जानपदीय कार्य। प्राप्त होने का दिनांक एवं समय-

16 06 2020 14 00 बजे। खोले जाने की दिनांक एवं

समयः 17.06.2020, 14.00 बजे। निविदा प्रपत्र ई-

प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in से ही

स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण

यथा तकनीकी विशिष्टीकरण, कार्यावधि, धरोहर राशि,

निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत इत्यादि एवं किसी प्रकार के

http://etender.up.nic.in अथवा www.uppt-

cl.org पर लॉगिन करें। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता.

विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल, मुरादाबाद, ''राष्ट्र हित

में बिजली बचायें'', पत्रांक- 440, दिनांक

वितरण मण्डल, हमीरपुर पत्रांक सं-

(प्रकाशन)/निविदा/2020-21 दिनांकः

28 May 20 अति-अल्पकालीन (ई-

निविदा) निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं

निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य सभी विवरण

etender.up.nic.in एवं निगम की

वेबसाइट https://dvvnl.org पर

उपलब्ध है। 1. ई-निविदा संख्या-

12/SE/EDCH/2020-21:- कार्य

का विवरणः एण्टी थैफ्ट थाने हेतु एक

नग वाहन मय चालक उपलब्ध कराने

का कार्य। 2. ई-निविदा संख्या-

13/SE/EDCH/2020-21:- कार्य

का विवरणः विद्युत वितरण खण्ड राठ

की सीमान्तर्गत आंधी तूफान में क्षतिग्रस्त

लाइनों के मरम्मत का कार्य। ''**राष्ट्रीय** 

हित में बिजली बचायें'' हस्ता./-

विद्युत वितरण मण्डल हमीरपुर।

(समित व्यास) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

ई-प्रोक्योरमैंट पोर्टल

शुद्धि

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण

निगम लि. कार्यालय

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत

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पत्र हेतु

परिवर्तन,

संशोधन.

28/05/2020

Government data accessed by The Indian Express shows that in February 2020, before the lockdown was imposed, Chhattisgarh recorded 37,984 institutional deliveries, which rose to 38,449 in March. Following the lockdown, the number of institutional deliveries fell to

32,529 in April. Of the 28 districts in Chhattisgarh, 20 saw a drop in numbers in April, while eight districts saw marginal increase. Some districts recorded a steep drop from March to April. Durg, for instance, saw 3,752 deliveries in March and only 1,583 in April, a drop of 57.8 per cent. Similarly, Bilaspur saw a drop of 45.35 per cent.

A district collector from Chhattisgarh said the drop was a cause of concern, but it was expected because of three main factors. "The first is that when the lockdown was imposed, public transport was off the roads. So getting to hospitals from villages became difficult. While people could use private vehicles, there was a fear of delay and being stopped by overzealous officials. The second was the fear of hospitals, as many thought they would get Covid there. The third clear reason is that many deliveries would happen at small private nursing homes. In the Covid atmosphere.

many have shut shop," the offi-

19 pandemic will be the cam-

paign's highlight, BJP general sec-

retary Bhupendra Yadav Thursday

told the media that party workers

distributed 19 crore food packets

and more than 4 crore packets of

workers were on the ground and

serving people in all 909 organi-

sational districts across the coun-

try and provided them all neces-

sary help. Besides food, the party

workers also distributed more

than 5 crore masks, made people

aware of the Aarogya Setu app,

and motivated them to contribute

ning to hold 500 digital rallies. BJP

Yadav said the party is plan-

in the PM CARES fund," he said.

"Amid the corona crisis, BJP

ration across the country.

BJP to launch digital campaign

to mark one year of Modi govt

Chhattisgarh Health Minister T S Singhdeo told The Indian Express, "We have been reviewing it every week. The figures dropped as coming and going from villages was very restricted. We have taken it as a challenge, and movement has improved. The department is holding up bravely. Even in vaccinations, initially there was a drop, but we paid attention to non-Covid health concerns, and that has gone up to 94 per cent."

Earlier this month, after the Jharkhand High Court rapped the state over reports of two stillborn children due to lack of health facilities, Principal Health Secretary Nitin Kulkarni had stated, "As of date we have a list of 52,000 pregnant mothers who may deliver child in May and we have asked all health establishments to be ready. If the delivery is expected in the next few days all the tests need to be done now."

However, as on May 21, only 3,070 deliveries happened across Jharkhand's government institutions such as district hospitals and community health

Kulkarni said: "As many as 26,870 deliveries were conducted in CHCs, Sadar Hospitals in April. And till May 21, only 3.070 deliveries were con-

April had already witnessed a 20 per cent drop from the usual delivery figures of 35,000-37,000 in the state.

**SHAJU PHILIP** 

night. He was 84.

MAY 28

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

RAJYA SABHA member and for-

mer Union minister M P

Veerendra Kumar died in a hos-

pital in Kozhikode Thursday

state president of Loktantrik

Janata Dal, he was the managing

director of Mathrubhumi, a lead-

ing newspaper group in Kerala.

since 1979. As an author, orator,

politician, intellectual, parlia-

mentarian and media personal-

ity, he has left behind an indeli-

ble imprint on the social and

elected to the Lok Sabha in 1996

and 2004. He served as Union

Veerendra Kumar was

political life of Kerala.

A veteran socialist leader and

Asked for reasons for the dip in Jharkhand, Kulkarni said, "The 52,000 are listed numbers, of which 30% do not go for institutional delivery. As for the rest, the numbers will increase by the month end. The entire health machinery is battling Covid-19, so non-Covid health services took a toll. Secondly, there is a general health scare among patients and health workers. Patients do not want to go to

hospitals.' The stillborn birth of photojournalist Vinay Murmu's child after a frantic search for hospitals in Ranchi was taken up by the Jharkhand High Court. In its response, the Health Department said that Murmu was advised to go to Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) Ranchi but instead he went to CHC Doranda, adding that it appeared that the death happened much earlier.

Murmu, however, said, "At RIMS pregnant women were said to be testing Covid-19 positive and we were scared. However, at Sadar Hospital there was no staff. At CHC Doranda I did not get any response. At last I went to Gurunanak Hospital where my child was declared stillborn."

### Covid-19 crisis greater in congested cities: Study

**ANURADHA MASCARENHAS** PUNE, MAY 28

AN ANALYSIS by Indian researchers of districts with the most coronavirus cases has shown that high population density is significantly correlated with a higher coronavirus burden. Published on May 28 in the British Medical Journal Global Health, researchers said 67.2 per cent of coronavirus cases and 77.2 per cent mortality related to Covid-19 is concentrated in only 20 districts (2.7 per cent) of a total of 739 districts in India. These 20 districts comprise 10.5 per cent of the 1.35

president JP Nadda will also adbillion population of India. dress party workers through Face-Experts from the Indian Institute of Public Health. book live on this occasion, he said. Gandhinagar and Public Health The party will also reach out to people with a letter written by the Foundation of India have said that Prime Minister about a self-reliant 50.8 per cent cases and 53.2 per India and achievements of the cent coronavirus deaths are congovernment, he said, adding that centrated in only five cities this letter will be distrib-Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, uted among 10 crore Chennai and Thane, together

comprising 4.4 per cent of the

country's population. India reported its first coronavirus case at the end of January and total reported cases crossed 1,58,000 with 4,534 deaths on May 27.

Researchers retrieved data from covid19india.org, a crowdsourced platform. Data for the urban population, population density and population above 60 years of age was extrapolated for 2020 using the Census of India 2001 and 2011. District level prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, obesity, adult anemia in the 15-54 years age group and the number of individuals sleeping in a room in a household were calculated using data from the National and Family Health Survey of India (2015-16).

"All cities with highest virus burden either have international airport or are financial/tourist hubs, with population density of 1.036-28.220 persons per square km in urban areas," said Dr Ashish Awasthi, assistant professor of Biostatistics at Centre for Chronic Conditions and Injuries, Public Health Foundation of India.

### Pinarayi says Kerala on 'brink of community spread' as cases spike **SHAJU PHILIP**

KERALA, WHICH had flattened the Covid-19 curve in the previous two bouts, is on the brink of community spread with a steady spike in cases in the last 20 days, mainly due to the return of people from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

MAY 28

Kerala on Thursday reported 84 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total to 1,088. The number of positive cases has more than doubled over the last 20 days in the state, which had reported only 503 cases for 100 days from January 30 to May 8.

After the review meeting. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told media that the state is on the brink of community outbreak of infection. "At this stage, we cannot say that there is community spread of Covid-19 in Kerala, But, we are on the brink of community spread. The number of positive cases has gone up. But, most of them are from outside and infected through contacts in Kerala.

Pinaravi That is a positive sign that we can

Vijayan

still contain the spread of infection," he said, adding that all cases with cold and flu would be subiected to Covid-19 test.

The data on daily cases over the last one week shows more people coming from other states are testing positive in Kerala than those coming from abroad.

Health department officials said there was hope because positivity rate is low. Of the 10,000 persons who came to Kerala from abroad by flights and ships till May 26, only 1% have tested positive. Nine out of 1,000 persons who returned from Maharashtra have tested positive and the figure for Tamil Nadu returnees is 3 out of 1,000, sources said.

The state has also ramped up

daily testing, which is also being cited as a reason for identifying more asymptomatic carriers of the virus. Till May 2, the state had only tested 31,183 samples as part of regular daily testing, to save test kits for emergency situation. But on May 28, the total tests in Kerala jumped to 60,685, which shows that 49% of the testing happened in the last 26 days.

Apart from above, 8,599 samples were taken from groups like healthcare workers, persons with high social exposure, workers etc. as part of Sentinel surveillance, of which 6 samples tested positive. As many as 8,174 samples tested negative, while result of 419 are awaited. What worries officials is the steady rise in cases of patients who got infected as primary or secondary contacts of persons with travel history.

"Cases from contact transmission is being regularly reported from Palakkad, a gateway to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, after curbs were eased. Tests are being ramped up with an assumption that there is a community spread lurking in the state," sources said.

### Man who took wrong train to Kerala dies of Covid-19

### **SHAJU PHILIP**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

A 68-YEAR-OLD Telangana resident, who reached Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram after boarding the wrong train from Jaipur, died of Covid-19 on Wednesday, with his test results

coming in a day after his death. The man, along with his family members had reached

the family was put in institu- members are under observation. tional quarantine, an official said. The 68-year-old man was later admitted to a hospital after

he developed symptoms of

results were declared. The body would be buried in Thiruvananthapuram as per the Thiruvananthapuram on May 22 laid down protocol. His wife, two on a special train. After arrival, children, and two other family said the official.

> The death of the Telangana man has taken Kerala's Covid-19 toll to seven, with three of them

## Covid-19. He died before his test being reported this week.

### दि. वल्लवगढ़ सहकारी दुग्ध उत्पादक संघ लि. मिल्क प्लांट, बल्लबगढ ई-नीलामी सूचना

दृश्य संघ, बल्लबगढ द्वारा जिला फरीदाबाद, गुडगांव, मेवात, पलवल, रेवाडी हरियाणा), राजस्थान व उत्तर प्रदेश के विभिन्न गायों से दुग्ध संवन्न, बल्तबगढ़ तथा दुग्ध शीतकरण केंद्र तक दूध एवं अन्य सामान अप्रैल 2020 से मार्च 2021 तक निर्धारित समय एवं कार्यक्रम के अनुसार पहुंचाने के लिए 41 वाहनों जैसे पिक-अप तथा फील्ड डब्टी हेत् ४ जीप महेंद्रा बोलेरो जीप, टाटा सूमो इत्यादि के लिए तीन बार ई-निविदाएं आमेजित की गई थी। अब सभी ई-निविदाए 08.06,2020 दीयहर 11.00 बजे तक गाडियों के मालिक या उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों की मौजूदगी में जो उस समय मौजूद रहना वाहेंगे, अधीहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय/मीटिंग रूम में खोली जाएंगी।

सभी शर्ते ई-निविदा पर पहले ही लिखी जा चुकी हैं, उन्हीं शर्तों के अनुसार अधीहस्तक्षरी को निविद्य को बिना कारण बताए स्थगित, रद्द करने या नेगोशिएट करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

मुख्य कार्वकारी अधिकारी, दुग्ध संघ बल्तबगढ़।

#### HARYANA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD, MANDI BHAWAN, C-6, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS FOR

**INSTALLATION OF MAIZE DRYER IN THE STATE** 

The Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board is willing to install the Maize Dryer (Husk/Diesel Fired) initially at two locations in the Mandis of Haryana State. These Maize Dryer will be in the set of 12 MT capacity with all the required accessories. The Maize Dryers must be of latest technology and fully computerized to handle the operation. These should also be equipped with sensors for all factors and Weighment System. The Expression of Interest to install Maize Dryers in mandis (Husk/Diesel Fired) initially at two locations is invited from the manufacturing firms/ authorized dealers having experience in this field and who have installed more than 05 dryers with the similar technology during last three years in private/State Govt. The firms should not be black listed by any of the Govt. Institution. The interested manufacturing firms/ author ized dealers are required to submit the detail of their firms along with turnover, experience in this field and technology used for Maize Dryer with estimated cost through email at ID chiefengineerone.hsamb@gmail.com or hard copy with the Executive Engineer, HSAMB, Mandi Bhawan, C-6, Sector-6, Panchkula before 01.06.2020 upto 03.00 PM. The firms are also requested to make presentation on 02.06.2020 during the pre bid meeting starting from 11.00 AM at Mandi Bhawan, Panchkula, The presentation should include all the details of the firm, detail of already executed projects, technology to be used, space requirement, initial/ operation cost, benefits of the proposed technology, details regarding operation of the equipment etc.

For further detail in this regard, the interested firm may visit the HSAMB website http://hsamb.org.in or contact sh. Mohinder Singh, Chief Engineer (94163-69064) or sh. Sudhir, Executive Engineer (94164-38809).

Sd/-Superintending Engineer HSAM Board, Panchkula

### Stranded for 2 months, no updates from govt, Indians in North Africa seek help

ANKITA DWIVEDIJOHRI NEW DEI HI MAY 28

FOR THE past month, Brijesh Mistry's 15-year-old daughter, a Class X student in Guiarat's Vadodara, is waking up at 4.30 am to attend online classes in Casablanca, Morocco. "The schedule has begun to take a toll; she is struggling," Mistry,

41, says. "The cost of Internet in Morocco is very high—almost Rs 500 per day—and my daughter has classes six days in the week... Besides, we have run out of most of the vegetarian food we brought from India," says Mistry, a structural engineer. He is among 140 Indians stranded in Morocco since the North African country imposed a lockdown on March 20 due to the coronavirus outbreak.

In neighbouring Algeria, nearly 150 Indians are seeking help from the government to

return home. Jamaludeen, 39, a textile mechanical engineer from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, arrived in Bejaia, "about two hours away from capital Algiers", in mid-February. On March 17, airports in the country were closed. Jamaludeen says the Indian embassy in Algiers had informed them about a common flight for Indians stranded in North African countries "soon", but they are yet to get any update.

Morocco for the last one-anda-half years and was slated to return to India on April 30. "In March, my wife and two

Mistry says he is working in

daughters came to visit me but they couldn't return. While we somehow managed to stav here in March-April, May has been punishing," he says. "People here speak only French and Arabic, and my family is finding it very hard to even go out for groceries."

Mistry's work visa expired on April 30, and since then, he says, he has been in regular touch with the Indian embassy in Rabat. He is also reaching out to officials in India through social media and emails to help

Like Mistry, travel journalist Baiju Nair and vlogger Sujith Bhakthan are also waiting to return home – in Kochi – for the past 80 days. "We raised our concerns in a Facebook Live with Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan. About 60 of us (in Morocco) are connected through a Whats-App group, and we are willing to pay for a chartered flight to take us back. But we are yet to hear anything from the government," says Nair, who is staying at a friend's guesthouse in Mohammedia, Morocco.

"Recently, 25 Indians were repatriated from neighbouring Tunisia. Why can't the same be done for us," he asks.

Amit Maheshwari, 32, a solution architect stuck in Morocco for three months, with his visa expiring on June 6, has another concern. "We are staving in a hotel where doctors treating Covid-19 patients have taken up accommodation. We are in a foreign land. If we get infected, we don't know what

rush at hospitals here. We requested the Indian embassy to provide us an alternate accommodation, but we never heard from them," he says.

Maheshwari, whose wife and baby live in Gurgaon, says, "We sent 300 emails and 1.000 tweets to the Indian government. We also registered with the embassy here 15 days ago."

In neighbouring Algeria, Jamaludeen says he is paying Rs 2,000 a day for hotel accommodation for two months and now fears losing his job. "My company paid for the hotel for the first month, then stopped. We tried to move to an apartment but the Algerian government does not allow people on short-

term visa to rent," he says. On May 23, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri had stated, "I am bombarded on social media by people stranded in Morocco, Latin America, the UK and Argentina, and we are doing the best we can and adding more flights. We will increase the number of international flights in the coming

The second phase of Vande Bharat mission to bring back Indians stranded abroad has heen extended until June 13. It covers 47 countries. Morocco and Algeria are not on the list so far.Planning for the third phase

is underway. On Wednesday, Nair says, the embassy said that a chartered flight for about 100 Indians stranded in Morocco could be arranged by mid-June. "We hope that happens."

61,000 stranded **Indians** have returned since May 7: Govt

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

MORF THAN 61 000 Indians stranded overseas due to the lockdown have been repatriated since May 7, the government said Thursday.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said Phase I of the Vande Bharat mission has been successfully completed from 7 May-16 May, during which 16,716 stranded Indians returned. "We are in the Phase II of VBM from 17 May - 13 June. As of 4.00 pm today, 45,216 Indians have returned. These include 8,069 migrant workers, 7,656 students and

5.107 professionals," he said. About 5000 Indians have returned through land border immigration checkpoints from Nepal and Bangladesh.

A total of 3,08,200 persons have registered their request with Indian Embassies abroad for repatriation to India on compelling grounds.

During the Phase II, a total of 429 Air India flights from 60 countries are scheduled to land in India. The Indian Navy will be making four more sorties to bring back returnees from Iran, Sri Lanka and the

New Delhi

### will be with their own responsibilit My client will not be responsible in

## 11 Express Network





### ABSENTEE CRITICISM

CABINET SECRETARY Rajiv Gauba's video conference on Thursday was attended by chief secretaries from all states and municipal commissioners from 30 cities across states, bar one: West Bengal. Ever since West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee spoke out angrily against the Centre in a meeting held by the Prime Minister, officials say it has become a matter of interest what will be said between the Centre and West Bengal at these meetings. On Thursday, West Bengal did not have the Chief Secretary or the Municipal Commissioner of Kolkata present. The one representative said he was making notes and everything would be duly communicated.

### RISKY WHISKY

AN ERRONEOUS post on the Facebook page of Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday became cause for a good laugh on social media even as the top officers expressed concern. While posting pictures of relief work being carried by the NDRF in West Bengal after Cyclone Amphan, a picture of a table full of snacks and two bottles of Royal Stag whisky was posted. As social media burst out laughing, the person responsible for the post, a contractual employee, was made to apologise for the "inadvertent error".

### AWAITING DATES

ALTHOUGH THE Election Commission has postponed the Rajya Sabha elections, the 37 members elected unopposed have been waiting to take oath. The Rajya Sabha secretariat has finally scheduled two dates – June 4 and June 5 – for them to take oath. But they may have more hurdles due to the confusion over protocols for air/train travel in many states. So these dates could be changed again. However, the elected MPs would be given an option to come and take oath in the first two weeks of June. They would also have the option of taking oath when the House sits in session. All 37 can avail all entitlements as MPs but they need to take oath for attending House proceedings.

### **HC: NIA showed** inexplicable, frantic hurry in moving Navlakha to Mumbai

Gautam Navlakha

render the present proceedings in-

fructuous and to take the applicant

out of the jurisdiction of this court".

She also submitted that Navlakha

was exposed to serious health risk.

the competent court...".

over weekends and gazetted holi-

days and obtaining orders by em-

ail, and 'whisking away' the app-

licant to Mumbai as it were, and

thereby rendering the present pro-

ceedings infructuous, it is deemed

necessary to call for the presence of

the Investigating Officer of the case

from NIA, Mumbai by video-con-

ferencing to answer certain factual

queries...," it said. Additional

Solicitor General Aman Lekhi ap-

peared for NIA, as did Vikram

Khalate, the IO for NIA in Mumbai.

The court recorded in its order,

"Mr. Khalate explains that it was

learnt that the lockdown was re-

opening for inter-state flights on

May 25, 2020 and being unsure of

the future course of events in rela-

tion to the lockdown, he moved an

application on May 23, 2020 for is-

suance of production warrants."

submit copies of proceedings in

Mumbai and Delhi and medical

reports of Navlakha. The matter

the NIA in Delhi on April 14 after

the SC refused to grant more time.

Navlakha surrendered before

WITH ENS MUMBAI

will be heard on June 3.

The court directed Khalate to

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

THE DELHI High Court has said that the NIA showed "inexplicable, frantic hurry" in moving activist Gautam Navlakha, who has been charged under the UAPA in the Elgaar Parishad Case, from Delhi to Mumbai when his interim bail plea was pending for hearing before it.

Navlakha was transferred to Mumbai on Tuesday, a day before his interim bail application was listed for hearing.

"While ordinarily this court would not see too much cause for hurry in this case, in view of the inexplicable, frantic hurry shown by the NIA in moving the applicant from Delhi to Mumbai while this matter was pending and the NIA had itself sought time to file status report, this court does get a sense that all proceedings in this jurisdiction would be rendered utterly infructuous if an element of urgency is not brought to bear on the present proceedings," Justice Anup Iairam Bhambhani observed.

The court said, "...the NIA has acted in unseemly haste to instead remove the applicant out of the very jurisdiction of this court; and. if the applicant is right, without even informing the Special Judge (NIA), Mumbai or the Special Judge (NIA), Delhi of the pendency of the present proceedings."

The court had on May 22 sought NIA's response on Navlakha's plea seeking interim bail on the ground that due to his "advanced age", he is at "higher risk" of being infected by Covid-19 in jail. Navlakha (67) also said he has a "preexisting underlying" medical condition. The matter was fixed for further hearing on Wednesday.

The court's observations came on Wednesday, when Navlakha's counsel Nitva Ramakrishnan apprised it that, while proceedings were pending before it. Navlakha was put on a train and taken to Mumbai. He is presently stated to be lodged at Taloja Jail in Mumbai.

Ramakrishnan said that the "only purpose for which the NIA has taken such hasty actions is to



## Chinese build-up will be matched, says NSAB member

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, MAY 28

ANY BUILD-UP from the Chinese side will be matched by build up of Indian troops as well, and New Delhi will continue with infrastructure development in eastern Ladakh, where Indian and Chinese troops have been involved in a face-for over three weeks, Lt General S L Narasimhan, member of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), said on Thursday.

Without disclosing exactly when diplomatic talks over the issue began, Narasimhan confirmed that "talks started much before last week"

Narasimhan also told The Indian Express that compared to the Doklam standoff of 2017, the Chinese side appears to be more aggressive this time, even as the strength of their troops is not as

He said: "There are two things you need to look into when you compare this (present escalation) to Doklam. One is the

strength --- that is (now) less than Doklam --- and the way it has panned out subsequently. At the moment, the strength seems to be somewhere around less than around Doklam-level."

He said it is "very difficult" to predict the number of Chinese troops positioned along the Line of Actual Control (LAC): "I have heard variations from 500 to 5,000 to 10,000., it will be extremely difficult to predict."

But he emphasised that Indian troop strength will be matched. "It is not required to predict the numbers.... if there is a build-up from Chinese side, there will be an equal build-up from our side.' Narasimhan, who was India's

defence attache to China between 2002 and 2005, said the trigger for the current crisis is that "we don't have an agreed boundary". He said summer is the patrolling season, "therefore, when the patrols go up there is always a problem of a face-off". With more patrols coming up from both sides, "there are more likelihoods of face-offs". he said.

He said the improved infra-structure on both sides, which has paved the way for easier movement, can be another cause of such face-offs. While China has "already de-

infrastructure", veloped Narasimhan said "they seem to be upsetting the infrastructure development when it takes place on our side". But India will not be deterred

to improve the infrastructure development, he said. "We will continue to develop infrastructure the way we have planned. The infrastructure development has been taking place in our territory and it will continue."

Stating that Chinese troops are not in Indian territory, Narasimhan, who had commanded China-facing III Corps of the Army in the Eastern Command and also commanded a mountain brigade in Sikkim, said: "I think they are trying to lay claim to their perception of LAC. I don't think it should be seen as if they want to pick up territory or otherwise. It should be seen as they are trying to lay claim to their perception of the LAC."

Also, he said, the troops are 'separated by some distance". Playing down the tensions,

he said, "Other than the first day, when face-off took place when things were more aggressive and some injuries were suffered, I don't think there has been any major conflagration or heating up in that area."

He said: "Daily meetings are taking place between the tactical commanders. The higherlevel military commander meetings have taken place on May 22 and May 23, (and) more are likely to come up in future. In addition, diplomatic talks have also been taking place between New Delhi and Beijing. So the communication has been open."

The NSAB is an agency of experts on national security, and serves in an advisory role to the National Security Council by providing analysis and recommendations on issues of national security.

**FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

### Day after Trump offer, India says engaged with China for peaceful solution

SHUBHAJIT ROY

A DAY after US President Donald Trump waded into the border tension between India and China, New Delhi on Thursday said that it is engaged with Beijing to

"peacefully resolve" the issue.

Responding to questions on Trump's offer, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We are engaged with the Chinese side to peacefully resolve this issue."

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

Srivastava refrained from addressing Trump's tweet, and did not reject any third-party mediation, as it had done in the past.

In the past, Trump had offered to mediate between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, but this is the first time he has made such an offer to India and China, referring to the situation along the LAC as a 'raging border dispute".

On the incidents along LAC,

have taken a "very responsible approach" towards border management and "strictly follow the procedures". He said India remains "firm" in its resolve to ensure its "sovereignty and national security".

This is the third time MEA has issued a statement on the tension along the LAC, and has for the second time invoked "sovereignty" and "national security" in the statement. In the May 21 statement, the government had said it is "deeply committed" to ensuring India's "sovereignty and security".

Srivastava said the two sides have established mechanisms, both at "military and diplomatic" levels, to "resolve situations" which may arise in border areas 'peacefully through dialogue" with the objective of "maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas with China".

He also said Indian forces 'scrupulously follow consensus reached by our leaders and the guidance provided", referring to decisions at Wuhan and Mahabalipuram summits between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

**FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

### In J&K, forces foil Pulwama-like car bombing plot

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police

on Thursday said security forces

in Kashmir have foiled a car

bombing "similar to the 2019

Pulwama attack" by intercepting

a vehicle fitted with at least 40 kg

foiled an attack which was simi-

lar to the 2019 Pulwama attack.

**ADIL AKHZER** 



The IED-laden car was destroyed by a controlled explosion. PTI



of explosives in the same district. "It is a big success for police and security forces today. We

The timely info generated by police and joint action averted a major tragedy. I congratulate the forces for the success." IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar told *The* India Express. In February 2019, an explosive-laden vehicle rammed into a bus that was part of a CRPF convoy, killing 40 personnel.

Police officers said that on the basis of an intelligence input, checkpoints were set up at differ-Wednesday night. Late in the night, a car didn't stop at a check-

"When the car did not stop, security personnel fired warning shots on the Shajimarg-Rajpora axis. The vehicle was later tracked to a nearby village and the area was cordoned by joint forces for the whole night," a senior officer said.

The officer said the car had a fake registration number and the forces found an IED fitted in a drum inside the car.

destroyed the explosives in the car through a controlled explosion.

Kashmir IGP Kumar said Pulwama Police had received inputs that Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen are going to carry out a suicide attack and have "got a Santro car and fitted IED".

"... yesterday evening, nakas carrying (out) this activity. They had plans to do this on Jang-e-Badr (during Ramzan), but that time we took a lot of preventive measures and a lot of cordon and search operations were launched. We suspect Adil, who is a Hizbul Mujahideen militant and is also with JeM. A Pakistan commander Fouji Bhai is also involved in this," he said.

On Thursday morning, sources said, a bomb disposal squad

Addressing the media,

were put... when the car didn't stop, our forces opened warning fire. The militant escaped. In the next naka, forces again opened fire left the car and escaped... our input was that (a) JeM militant is Saying that the attack plan was

similar to that of the Pulwama attack, he said, "They would have targeted security forces or a police vehicle...we are calling experts from outside. Primary investigation reveals that nitrate salt and

nitroglycerin was used. In the morning, we said the weight (of IED) could be 25 kg, but since the debris went up in the air to 50 m (after the controlled explosion), it looks like 40-45 kg of explosives were there," he said.

An Army release on Thursday said, "Neutralization of this vehicle based IED has averted a major Pulwama style fidayeen attack on the Security Forces Operations will be intensified in coming days to deny any opportunity to terrorists

### Open to engage with Nepal to solve border row, indicates India

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

A DAY after the Nepal government's move to bring in a constitution amendment Bill to give legal sanctity to its new map was deferred for the time being, India on Thursday said this matter is receiving "careful consideration" in Nepal taking its "seriousness" into account.

India also said it is "open to engaging" with all its neighbours, and the process requires 'constructive and positive ef-

On Wednesday, the Nepal government failed to table the scheduled Bill, to give legal sanctity to its new man fo

territorial spat with India, in Parliament. On Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We note that this matter is receiving careful consideration in Nepal, taking its seriousness into account. India is open to engaging with all its neighbours on the basis of mutual sensitivity and mutual respect, in an environment of trust and confidence. This is a

He also said India attaches "great importance" to the deeprooted historical, cultural and friendly relations with Nepal.

continuous process and requires

constructive and positive ef-

India's new road from Dharchula to Lipulekh as part of the 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 legitimise the alteration or addition of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura to the new map. **FULL REPORT ON** 

www.indianexpress.com

### **HIMACHAL PPE SCAM**

### Top health official sought bribe, never got it, investigators tell court

**GAGANDEEPSINGH** 

**DHILLON** SHIMLA, MAY 28

On this, Justice Bhambhani ob-HIMACHAL PRADESH'S suspenserved, "on May 22, 2020 Mr. ded director of health services, Dr Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General AK Gupta, allegedly "demanded a had informed the court that the bribe" following the delivery of six NIA was planning to transfer the to seven consignments of personal protection equipment (PPE) applicant to Mumbai sometime kits worth over Rs 1 crore by a soon in view of opening-up of air Derabassi-based manufacturer. travel after obtaining orders from but did not actually receive the "...considering evident haste money, an investigator told a speshown by NIA by moving applicacial court here on Thursday. tions across Mumbai and Delhi

Prithvi Singh, who allegedly recorded the audio clip, in which he can be heard discussing the purported handover of Rs 5 lakh, is a liasioning officer of Bio Aid, the firm in Derabassi, investigating officer DSP Kailash Sharma and public prosecutor Sandeep Attri

told the court during a hearing of bail application by the accused. Asked by Special Judge (forests)

Arvind Malhotra, the two said that no exchange money actually took place. They said Bio Aid had supplied kits worth "Rs 1 crore something" to the state government. The judge remarked that since bribery had not yet taken place, it could not happen now. "You cannot force him to take it." the court observed. Defence counsel K S Thakur

and Jagdish Thakur argued that Gupta was not directly involved in procurement. When the coronavirus outbreak occurred, the state's deputy director (procurement) started procuring supplies before the government asked the directorate to come up with a process for procurement. A technical committee and an accounts committee were formed to invite

tenders, and Gupta was part of neither, th counsels told the court.

Before the audio clip was recorded in mid-April, the committees invited tenders twice, during which two and subsequently five suppliers qualified, the defence counsel said. The defence and prosecution both said Bio Aid was not one of the qualifiers, and all supplies made by it - "around sixseven orders" - were made before the tendering process began.

The prosecution sought more time for custodial interrogation, saying that Gupta's medical examination during his police custody took too long.

The court put up the matter for further hearing on Saturday, when Gupta's police custody ends, and called for a "fair, impartial and scientific investigation" which is "not influenced by A or B".

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

SHIMLA, MAY 28

THE OPPOSITION Congress Thursday demanded a probe by a sitting High Court judge into the alleged medical purchase scam. Meanwhile, Dr Rajeev Bindal, who resigned as Himachal Pradesh BJP chief on Thursday, said he will come out as a "kundan" - pure gold — after this "agni-pariksha".

In his resignation letter, Bindal said he resigned on moral grounds after some people indirectly pointed towards the involvement of his party in the matter.

State Congress chief Kuldeep Rathore said that as Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur holds the portfolios of home and health, the Congress has no trust in the ongoing investigation. "The resignation of state BIP president means that an internal inquiry in their party



ing the pandemic.

Cong seeks probe, Bindal

says he will come out clean

Dr Rajeev Bindal

pointed towards his role," he said. He said it is likely that many people are involved in the matter and there has been sub-standard supply of medical equipment dur-

Bindal, in a video address on Facebook, said he has "full faith in the power of truth". "Truth has to undergo several rounds of agni pareeksha. I am sure I will come out of this test like a kundan. We have not made any mistake. Some people are trying to shine their selfish politics while others are washing their hands in the flowing Ganga. I request them to think four times before speaking anything," he wrote

### Govt weighs use of drones, planes to bring down locust swarms

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

WITH SWARMS of immature locusts sweeping across 13 districts in four states, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is considering the use of aircraft for spraying insecticides to control the spread of the cropdevouring insects.

"A committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary of the Department has been constituted to procure services and goods for spraying insecticides through drones and airplanes," the ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

The statement said: "Drones will be used to spray pesticides on tall trees and inaccessible places for effective control of locusts, while plans are afoot to deploy helicopters for aerial spray." Two firms have been fi-

nalised via tenders for the use of Meanwhile, Agriculture

Minister Narendra Singh Tomar reviewed locust control operations along with senior officials of his ministry on Thursday and said the government is "dealing urgently" with the situation. He also assured the affected states of additional resources and financial aid, if required. According to the Agriculture of immature locusts were active in six districts in Rajasthan-Barmer, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Bikaner, Suratgarh and Dausa; four districts in Madhya Pradesh—Rewa, Morena, Betul and Khandwa: two in Maharashtra—Nagpur and Amravati; and in Uttar Pradesh's

Ministry, as of Thursday, swarms

"Today, there is no information regarding entry of any new locust swarm from the Indo-Pak border areas, whereas, on 26.05,2020, a locust swarm entered from Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan and control operation is going on against these swarms," the ministry said.

Its statement added that the

spread has been controlled in an area of about 50.468 hectares in 334 locations in Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat and Madhya "The Centre is in close touch

with the affected States and an Advisory has been issued. 15 sprayers will start arriving from Britain in the next 15 days. Besides, 45 more sprayers will be procured in a month or one-and-a-half months," it said.

Several states and Union Territories, including Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, have warned against possible locust attacks.

However, there is no immediate danger of the swarms heading towards Delhi.

New Delhi



Several states and Union Territories, including Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, have warned against possible locust attacks. PTI

TENDER NOTICE e-tender is invited for the supply of following item.

e-Procurement Notice a-Tender Ro: BIOCOCIONET ASPETAGO DE LES TOUGHESTES.

De Tender Ro: BIOCOCIONET ASPETAGO DE LES TOUGHESTES.

De Tender Ro: and on sofial ISCONIMIES NATIONAL CANTED la review from Sidden reselle, pasifying requisitarior la for live vicin of "Construction of approach resell, approach reselle, noted dumping yeard were proposed bridge Na 17 8. Dumpin 113 P.2 by Roiney all the depressions are outling of only the Mill audies as required, including protection work such as Caldren, converte water elementing outwards at the restluction should be reselled to the Project.

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Descriptions outwards of the contract of the Project. : Rt. 156,2727-0 Last State & Time of e-Bid Submission (1970) 2020 upo 15:00 Hrs

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or further details, staff website https://elembers.gov/in/eprocure/legg. Comgendum, if any, would be ntolio General Manager/PH-Rangoo (RCON International Limbed "Guiriti", Satyapet Roy Lane, Jyoti Nagar, P.D. Shob Road, Siliguri-734081, Contact Ros. 181 9902543522, 0353-2541911



### M.P. STATE LIVESTOCK & POULTRY **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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#### **NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

NIT No. 01/MPLPDC/LN2/2020-21/Bhopal, Dated 29th May 2020 Online Tenders are invited by Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh State Livestock & Poultry Development Corporation, Bhopal for "Bulk supply of Liquid Nitrogen Ex-Factory & FOR destination for Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur &

Last date for Purchase & Submission of Tender document: 17.06.2020 up to 17.30.

Tender documents can be purchased Online from https:// www.mptenders.gov.in

M.P. Madhyam/97434/2020	MANAGING DIRECTOR
भारतीय स्वाच्य निवस्य क्षेत्रीय कार्यातव, हरियाणा, बैव	FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA त न. 29-32, सॅक्टर-64, पंपकूला
क्री.1(1)आर्गएसएस(बी)/एबीमी/2020-21	दिनांक: 29.05.2020
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रुसीआई राष्ट्र की खाद्य सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करते हुए

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

**GENERAL MANAGER** 

For more details, log on to website https://mahatenders.gov.in.

	TENDER NOTICE					
<u> </u>	Website: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)					
1.	Name of work with its location	Regirdering of Br. No. 09 (10X18.30m) in MB-CH section over MB-Division under the jurisdiction of AXEN/BL/MB.				
2.	Approx. cost of work	Rs. 11463836.95				
3.	Earnest Money	Rs.207300.00				
4	Completion period of the work	(08) Eight Months				
5	Cost of Tender form	Rs. 5000/-				
		Note:-Cost of EMD & Tender Form should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016).				
6	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. on <b>19.06.2020</b> Opening of tender after 15:00 hrs on same day				
7	Website particulars where complete details of Tender	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in				

Tender Notice No. 32-W-Br-9-REGIRDER-MB Date : 27.05.2020 1201/2020 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 



can be seen & downloaded

(1) 67566

PRO/AAM(M)/12/2020.

Note:

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: 60 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Hair: Black & White and White & Black Beared, was wearing Hospital Clothes, was admitted in Dr. RML Hospital Vide MLC No. E/89097/20 on 06.05.2020. During the treatment

he died on 24.05.2020. In this regard a DD No. 11A, dated 24.05.2020, has been lodged at P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi.

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

P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi DP/51/NDD/2020 Ph.: 011-23093040, 23093294

#### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY **OPEN TENDER**

Batch No. 30/20 dated : 27.05.2020 E-Tender Notice for supply of materials narticipation in through" web portal of PREPS-www.ireps.gov.in offers are nvited for supply of the following materials: The closing time for all tenders at 14.00 hr.

SI No. 1. Tender No.: 04204838 Brief Description: Axle Box pivot bush Quantity: 802 Nos. Published on/time 20. 05. 20/13. 32.19 Closing on: 22.06.20. Fund: Fund is available. Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tander notice on the tender document in tender notice on the

**Principal Chief Material Manage** E.C.Railway, Hajipur PR/0214/HQ/STORE/T/20-21/28

### दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., आगरा

ई-अल्पकालीन निविदा सुचना वधोहम्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा सक्षप/प्रतिष्ठित । श्नभवी संविदाकारों से निम्नलिखित साम<u>।</u> ही आपूर्ति/कार्व कराने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित को जाती है। निविदा के सबंध में विस्तृत नियम व शर्ते निविदा अभिलेखों मे प्रिल्लिशत है जो उपप्रश्न शासन को ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल https://etender. up.nic.in एवं दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिए की वेबसाइट www. dvvnl.org पर उपलब्ध है। क्रम संख्या निविद्या संख्या सामग्री/कार्य का विवरण निविदा खुलने का दिनांक, निविदा मुल्क धरोहर राशि (रूपये में) क्रमानुस्तर 1\_ ईंटएसटसी0/ए०/टी-01(2020-21) विद्युत भण्डार केन्द्र, आगरा पर स्टीह सैनशानों को सुरक्षित होंग से उतारने दुव्यवस्थित एंग से लगाने तथा उसके फैबरीकेशन का कार्य, 10.06-2020, रू. १९००-००, रू. २०,०००-००। अधीक्षण अधियना, विद्युत भण्डार मण्डल, द० वि०वि०नि०लि०, आगरा। "राष्ट्र हित में विजली यसाये" पत्रांक: 1357/अधी०अभि० (भं0)/आ/निविदा/दिनांकः 28/05/2020

### "IMPORTANT"

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branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry

1199/20

Road, New Delhi-110055.

any manner whatsoever.

### n 22-05-2020. Date & Time of Openin of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 22:46-2020. Th implete information with the betide ocument of above ellender will be available up)o 15:30 brs. on 22-66-2020 in website

MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

(Through e-tendering)						
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-91	8 Dated: 28.05.2020					
Name of work with its location	Provision of Analog PAE in Conference hall in Rail Bhawan.					
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 21,33,945.50/- only					
Tender Document Fee (₹)	₹ 3,540/- only					
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 42,700/- only					
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.					
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 24.06.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.					
Website particular & notice board	See the Northern Railway website					

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd. (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704) Regd. Office – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-02, Fax No. – 0651 – 2400123 (E-mail – cetjusnl@gmail.com)

### 1<sup>ST</sup> CORRIGENDUM-cum-PRE BID

Name of work:- Implementation of Reliable Communication & Data acquisition system in GSS of 132 kV Level and above of JUSNL in Eastern Region (Jharkhand Portion) on Turnkey basis.

Doranda, Ranchi – 834002. Interested bidders may physically present during the pre-bid meeting as per their convenience. Alternatively, they may submit their queries through e-mail (cetjusnl@gmail.com) latest by 04.06.2020

upto 06:00 PM. स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कपया अपनी

PR No. 228469

General Manager, C&M (NWBP) JUSNL,Ranchi PR 228715 (Jharkhand Uria

### SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

(Central University) B- 4, Qutub Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi -110016 No: F.7(514)/LNSU/UWD/2020-21 Dated: 27.05.2020

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Sealed item rate tenders are invited for the under mentioned

works from the approved and eligible CPWD contractors/ specialized agencies.

- Saraswat Sadhana Sadan in virtual e-class room during 2020-21 (S.H.: Soundproofing / Acoustic work, furnishing, electrification & VRV / VRF type air conditioning system etc. Complete). Estimated cost - Rs.22,65,307/-, Earnest Money -Rs. 45,306/-, Time Allowed – 90 Days. 2) NIT No. 03/2020-21/LBSU/UWD (T.ID. No.
- 2020\_SLBS\_535902\_1) Round "O" clock running, operation and comprehensive annual maintenance contract of 120 KLD fab type sewage treatment plant of the University. Estimated cost - Rs.12.03.746/-. Earnest Money - Rs. 24.075/-. Time Allowed – 365 Days (extendable upto 03 years), Tender Fee -Rs. 1000/- (Non-Refundable) for Sl.No. 1 & 2.
- . The last date and time of receipt of applications : 19.06.2020 / 15.06.2020 up to 4.00 P.M. 2. Date & time of issue of tenders: 22.06.2020 / 16.06.2020 up to 4.00 P.M. 3. Last date & time of submission of tenders: 25.06.2020 / 19.06.2020 up to 3.00 P.M. 4. Date & time of opening of tenders: 25.06.2020 / 19.06.2020 from 3.30 P.M for Sl. No. 1 & 2 respectively. 5. Date & time of opening of financial bids: 25.06.2020 from 3.30 P.M. for Sl.No.2. 6. For eligibility criteria, other details & corrigendum if any, please visit websites: www.slbsrsv.ac.in & www.eprocure.gov.in. REGISTRAR

#### कार्यालय आयुक्त, नगर निगम, गुरुग्राम नीलामी सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दमकल केंद्र, भीम नगर, न्यू रेलवे रोड, गुरुग्राम में पड़े पुराने कंडम/स्क्रेप लोहा, प्लास्टिक, गन मैटल, सिल्वर, रबड़, एल्युमिनियम, टायर व रिम इत्यादि को दिनांक ०८.०६.२०२० को प्रातः ११.०० बजे दमकल केंद्र, भीम नगर, न्यू रेलवे रोड, गुरुग्राम में नीलाम किया जाएगा। सर्व साधारण जो भी इस सामान को खरीदने के इच्छुंक हैं वो सभी उपरोक्त तिथि व समय पर दमकल केंद्र भीम नगर, न्यू रेलवे रोड, गुरुग्राम पर उपस्थित होवें। नीलामी की सभी शर्तें मौके पर सुनाई जाएंगी। नीलामी से पूर्व सभी बोलीदाताओं को रुपए 5,000/- अग्रिम राशि के रूप में जमा करने होगें। सफल बोलीदाता को पूरी रकम उसी दिन सायं सामान उढाने से पूर्व जमा करनी होगी। असफल बोलीदाताओं को अग्रिम राशि नीलामी उपरांत उसी समय वापस कर दी जाएगी।

हस्ता ./-लेखा अधिकारी, कृते आयुक्त, नगर निगम, गुरुग्राम। 81052/HRY

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT**

NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDERS FOR ALLOTMENT OF REMAINING ZONES OF RETAIL LIQUOR VENDS OF REMAINING DISTRICTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 IN THE STATE OF HARYANA

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that E TENDERS for ALLOTMENT of zones of remaining retail liquor vends of the thirteen districts against which these zones are mentioned below, are invited for the year 2020-21:-

Sr. No.	Name of District	Zone Numbers
1.	Bhiwani	ZBWN-48
2.	Faridabad	ZFBD-21, 23, 66, 86 & 103
3.	Gurugram (East)	ZGRE-67 & 69
4.	Gurugram (West)	ZGRW-66, 68 & 70
5.	Hisar	ZHSR-22
6.	Jhajjar	ZJJR-17
7.	Jind	ZJND-26
8.	Jagadhri	ZJAG-12, 18, 22, 27 & 36
9.	Kaithal	ZKTL-16, 20 & 21
10.	Palwal	ZPWL-17 & 18
11.	Panchkula	ZPKL-14 & 21
12.	Rewari	ZRWR-39
13.	Sirsa	ZSRS- 46 & 53

#### Schedule for invitation and evaluation for e-Tenders for remaining Zones of retall liquor vends

1.	Starting date and time for placing e-tenders.	29th May, 2020 (from 09.00 A.M. enwards)
2.	Closing Date and time for placing e-tenders.	29th May, 2020 (iii 05:00 P.M.)
3.	Evaluation of e-tenders.	29th May, 2020 (05.00 P.M.)

issued by the Department (published on 07th/8th March, 2020) in the leading newspapers inviting e-Tenders for allotment of retail Iguar licenses of Zones of vends for the year 2020-21. The public notice is available on the departmental website i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in The list of remaining Zones of vends in the Districts and venue for

evaluation of e-Tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the office of DETC (Excise) & DETC (ST) concerned. The list shall be available on the departmental website www.haryanatax.gov.in. The process of inviting tenders shall be continued by successive

ly reducing the original reserve price in the following manner:-(i) In the slab of 5% of the original reserve price in case reserve price of the Zone is less than Rs.5.00 Cr. (ii) In the slab of 3% of the original reserve price in case reserve

price of the Zone is more than Rs.5.00 Cr. The e-Tenders shall be received and the Zones of vends shall be allotted in the manner prescribed in the Excise Policy for the year 2020-21 and the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 (as applicable to the

State of Haryana), the rules framed thereunder. The allotment shall be subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana. He may reject, without

assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be within 10 days of the date of allotment

Excise & Taxation Commissioner Haryana.

### **NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

CORRIGENDUM

NIT No 01/2020-21-DSLBGKT 02/2020-21-DSLBGKT, 03 /2020-21 DSLBGKT & 04/2020-21-DSLBGKT in the earlier uploaded tende document on the website http://ireps.gov.in, the due date fo tender opening/closing was 28/05/2020, which is now extended til 08/06/2020. The tender opening/closing date should be read as 08/06/2020. Other terms and condition will remain same

Div. Mech Engineer (Dsl NW Railway, Diesel Shed 525-DK/20 Bhagat Ki Kothi, (Jodhpur

#### **WESTERN RAILWAY**

### **PROVIDING GLUED JOINTS**

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction)-I Western Railway, Ahmedabad for and or behalf of President of Union of India invites e-Tender for following work: E-Tender Notice No. Dy.CE(C)/I/ADI/ADI-MSH/24 RI) (1) Name of work with its location (N) (1) Name of work with its location Providing Glued Joints 60Kg/52K, between section Dangarwa and Jagudai in connection with Gauge Conversion Ahmedabad-Mehsana GC Project. (2 Approx. cost of work: ₹58,11,335,00 (3 ₹ 1,16,200.00 (4) Completio period of work: 6 (Six) months including monsoon (5) Date and time submission of bid and opening of bid: Submission of e-tender: 17-06-2020 upto 15:00 Hrs. (5) Website particulars Notice Boar website particulars Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen & address of the office: Office of Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) I, Western Railway, B.G. Station Building, Railwaypura, Ahmedabad-380002. Website: www.ireps.gov.in

### Like us on: f facebook.com/WesternRly





#### Office of B.R.D. Medical College & Nehru Chikitsalaya, Gorakhpur (U.P.) 273013 (Email Id: brdmcgkp1969@gmail.com, Website: www.brdmc.ac.in)

e-tender Notice

Online e-bids are invited for procurement of Medicines from Original Manufacturers/License Pharmaceutical Compar or the period of financial year 2020-2021 or up to the finalization of next tender in the next financial year having erformance of marketing and manufacturing certificate issued by the State Drug Control Authority/Licensing Authorit and quality & safety certification of any authorized National/International standards like GMP/WHO/IPF/CEE/ISO/DGQA certificate etc. The e-bid EMD is Rs. 1.00.000/- (Rupees One Lakhs only). The e

GMP/WHO/IP/CE/ISO/DUGA certificate etc. The e-bid EMD is Hs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Larks only). The element of comment processing cost is Rs. 1,180.00 (1,000.00+18% G.S.T.) only. The details for submission of e-bids will be available in the e-tender document on the UP Government e-Procurement website <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a> or Medical College website <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">www.brdmc.ac.in</a> from 31.05.2020 to 22.06.2020 at Sat date for submitting tender/e-bid shall be 22.06.2020 at S5P ML and opening date 22.06.2020 at 20.00 at 10.00 PM. The Principal Medical College Gorakhpur reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids/annual e-Bidding process without assigning any reason and decision of The Principal Medical College Gorakhpur will be final and binding. Sd/- SIC Sd/Neharu Chikitsalaya, PRINCIPAL
B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur JPID No. 151862 Date - 27.05.2020

### Govt. of Bihar

**BIHAR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE** 



**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD NOTICE INVITING TENDER** 

**FOR** 

Kahalgaon I&D and STP Project **NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA** (NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME)

**Invitation for Bids (IFB) National Competitive Bidding** 

No: BUIDCo/Yo-1492/20-155

The BUIDCo for and on behalf of the Owner in the State of...Bihar, India invites sealed bids (to be submitted in hard copy only) from eligible Bidders for the works comprising TO (I) DESIGN AND BUILD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OF INSTALLED CAPACITY 6 MLD AND ALL APPURTENANT STRUCTURES AND ALLIED WORKS INCLUDING MPS, STFF QUARTERS, UV DISINFECTION AND EFFLUENT CHANNEL FOR DISPOSAL CONTROLLED WITH SCADA (II) SURVEY, REVIEW THE DESIGNS REDESIGN WHERE NECESSARY, AND BUILD NEW 4 NOS I&D STRUCTURES FOR THE DRAINS CONTROLLED WITH SCADAINCLUDING SURVEY, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION OF 4 NO. PUMPING STATIONS AND ALL APPURTENANT STRUCTURES AND ALLIED WORKS; (III) OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, INTERCEPTION & DIVERSION WORKS AND PUMPING STATIONS FOR A PERIOD OF 15 YEARS IN KAHALGAON TOWN, STATE OF BIHAR, INDIA.

Period for design/ redesign, build, test and commissioning is 1years and Operation and Maintenance period is 15 years.

- 1. Detailed Invitation for Bid which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available on. website i.ewww.buidco.in. Bidding Documents will be available with effect from date of publication.
- The last date & time of bid submission (in procurement portal) is 04.07.2020up to 03:00 PM. The last date and time for submission of hard copy of bid (Bid document cost, EMD, all Affidavits, and Undertakings) is 07.07.2020up to 03:30 PM. The bids will be opened on the same day 07.07.2020 at 04:00 PM.
  - The interested eligible bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions  ${\bf r}$ given in the bidding documents. **Chief Engineer**

Planning, Design & Monitoring,

New Delhi

### BUIDCo, Patna

Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation, Near RajapurPul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-800001 (Tel: 0612-2558412, Email: mdbuidco@gmail.com)

PR. No. 001561 (Ni.Ni) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🐖 TOII Free No.: 🕇 🔾 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। खाव सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है। श्रमिकों के सहयोग एवं सहायता हेतु श्रम संसाधन विभाग का Toll Free No.: 18003456138

TeleFax: (0755) 2776086, mplpdcbpl@rediffmail.com

Sagar" during the year of 2020-21.

The amount of EMD is: Rs. 1 Lacs (Rs. One Lacs Only)

### CANTONMENT BOARD MATHURA

#### **INVITATION OF E-TENDERS (DUAL BID SYSTEM)** Electronic Bids are invited by Cantonment Board, Mathura for the under mentioned

SI. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money 2% in (Rs.)	Tender Form fee (Rs.)
1	Providing of contractual services of skilled/ clerical men power to Mathura Cantonment Board for the period of one year.	30.00 lac	60,000.00	1500.00

Cost of tender is shown in NIT. The interested contractors / firms may look up the website http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/.

No. CBM/TC/CS/2020-21/38

Dated: 28 may, 2020

work:

Cantonment Board, mathura (Nagesh Kumar Pandey)

**Chief Executive Officer** 

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTI OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt, for 6 on behalf of the President of India invites OPEN E.

prescribed closing time & date given below. Tender will  Tender No. and Particulars			and the second s	Tender Form cost	Time & date of closing of Tender
Tender No. RE/UMB/EL/Caution/9751 Supply and eraction of various type of GHE Caution	1096975.71	21900	12 months	2000/-	15.00 Hrs

months 19.06.2020 Boards, safety items, other equipments at various rwitching stations, Railway stations & L.C. gates, fabrication & supply of sectioning and TSWR diagram boards, provision of acid proof tites at various switching stations and DJ board for EMU in Gartii Harsanu (Excl) – Faruktriagar(incl.) section (Gr. 252), Sonipat (Excl.) – Jind (Excl.) section (Gr. 285) & Sidings work under Delhi Division, Ambala Division &

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.keps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. This facility is available free of the cost. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering will only be accepted through net banking and payment gateway only.

No other made of payment other than mentioned will be acceptable and such offer shall be treated as " invalid."

without Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost (TDC).

All other Terms & conditions may be seen and downloaded from Railway website J.e. www.ireps.gov.in. **Executive Electrical Engineer** Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt For & on behalf of the President of India No.PR/371/2020 Satya Adv.

### "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE" **HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

e-Procurement Notice **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** 1. The Executive Engineer, Bilaspur, Division No. 1, H.P. PWD, Bilaspur, H.P. on behalf of Governor of

	H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in Elementioned work from the eligible and approve					
S	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Limit	Eligible Class of Contractor
1	Construction of proposed Helipad at Luhnoo Bilaspur Distt. Bilaspur (H.P.) (SH:	Rs. 1,46,42,929/-	Rs. 1,79,000/-	Rs. 5000/-	One Year	Class A & B

2. Availability of Bid Document and Mode of Submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized as can use the same in

08.06.2020

08.06.2020

08.06.2020

22.06.2020

10.00 hrs.

10.30 hrs.

10.00 hrs. 10.30 hrs. upto 10.30 hrs.

10.00 hrs. 10.30 hrs. upto

upto 10.30 hrs. upto 10.45 hrs.

3. Key Dates:

Date of On-line Publication

Document Download Start and End Date

Bid Submission Start and End Date

4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document 22.06.2020 Date of Technical Bid Opening

22.06.2020 4. TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded On-line in 2 Covers: i) Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".
 ii) Cover-2 shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bids", where Contractor will quote his offer for each item.

SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in **O/o Executive Engineer Bilaspur Division No.1, HPPWD Bilaspur H.P.** as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on **22.06.2020 at 11:00 HRS in the office Executive** Engineer Bilaspur Division No.1, HPPWD Bilaspur H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the

next working day at the same time and venue. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the dead line date for bid submission Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for

any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Executive Engineer, Bilaspur HPPWD Division No. 1, Distt. Bilaspur, H.P.

INNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT Tender No.: NGCO-HVAC-01-2020-21 ed: 21-45-2020, E-Tondor are invite the undersioned for the following work me of Work: Annual Maintenant ontract (AMIC) of Cab HVAC units fitter New Cowstan Dissel Locu Sted bar HHPLocomorives, as perspecification No WDG#EL/PS/04WRevQfsr01 (one) yea riod. Tender Value: ₹20,05,056/ Earnest Money: ₹40,100%, Cost e eled :/000.651 : Inemuseb rebri ime of Closing of tender at 15:30 hrs

v.ireps.gov.in. Sr. DME/DNew Gowaha

n where complete details | www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T

### **MEETING NOTICE**

NIT No. 12/PR/JUSNL/2020-21

A pre bid meeting has been scheduled on 05.06.2020 (Friday) at 12:30 PM in conference hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, JUSNL Building, Kusai Colony,

शिकयतों को टॉल फी नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें

Sancharan Nigam Ltd)20-21#D

1) NIT No. 02/2020-21/LBSU/UWD (T.ID. No 2020\_SLBS\_535899\_1) Conversion of room no. 202 of

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

## How locusts came, what next

Over the last few days, swarms of desert locust have reached urban areas of Rajasthan, and parts of MP and Maharashtra. A look at how they arrived, the seriousness of the problem, and ways to solve it

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS PUNE, MAY 28

#### What are 'desert locusts' doing in nondesert lands?

Desert locusts (Schistocerca gregaria), which belong to the family of grasshoppers, normally live and breed in semi-arid or desert regions. For laying eggs, they require bare ground, which is rarely found in areas with dense vegetation. So, they can breed in Rajasthan but not in the Indo-Gangetic plains or Godavari and Cauvery delta.

But green vegetation is required for hopper development. Hopper is the stage between the nymph that is hatched from the eggs, and the winged adult moth. Such cover isn't widespread enough in the deserts to allow growth of large populations of locusts.

As individuals, or in small isolated groups, locusts are not very dangerous. But when they grow into large populations their behaviour changes, they transform from 'solitary phase' into 'gregarious phase', and start forming 'swarms'. A single swarm can contain 40 to 80 million adults in one square km, and these can travel up to 150 km a day.

Large-scale breeding happens only when conditions turn very favourable in their natural habitat, desert or semi-arid regions. Good rains can sometimes generate just enough green vegetation that is conducive to egg-laying as well as hopper development.

This is what seems to have happened this year. These locusts usually breed in the dry areas around Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea along the eastern coast of Africa, a region known as the Horn of Africa. Other breeding grounds are the adjoining Asian regions in Yemen, Oman, southern Iran, and in Pakistan's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Many of these areas received unusually good rains in March and April, and that resulted in large-scale breeding and hopper development. These locusts started arriving in Rajasthan around the first fortnight of April, much ahead of the normal July-October normal.

The Locust Warning Organisation, a unit under the Agriculture Ministry, had spotted these and warned of their presence at Jaisalmer and Suratgarh in Rajasthan, and Fazilka in Punjab near the India-Pakistan border. Subsequently, there has been arrival of several swarms from the breeding areas.

#### When July-October is the normal time, how did they arrive so early?

The answer to this question probably lies in the unusual cyclonic storms of 2018 in the Arabian Sea. Cyclonic storms Mekunu and Luban had struck Oman and Yemen respectively that year. Heavy rains had transformed uninhabited desert tracts into large lake where the locust swarms breed. If left uncontrolled, a single swarm can increase



A locust swarm in Jaipur on Monday. They are not usually seen in non-dedert urban areas. PTI

20 times of its original population in the first generation itself, and then multiply exponentially in subsequent generations.

Scientists of LWO had got the first whiff of impending problem in the 2019-20 rabi  $season\,when\,unusually\,active\,swarms\,were$ reported in Rajasthan, Gujarat and some parts of Punjab. Control measures minimised damage in India during that time. But further action could not be taken because of the lockdown around the world, and the swarms remained active in Yemen, Oman. Sindh and Balochistan areas. The present swarms are their direct descendants, and are arriving in India in search of food.

#### But why the further eastward movement?

The current swarms contain "immature locusts". These feed voraciously on vegetation. They consume roughly their own weight in fresh food every day, before they become ready for mating. But right now Rajasthan does not offer enough to satisfy their hunger. With no crops in the field, they have been invading green spaces, including parks, in Jaipur and orange orchards near Nagpur. LWO estimates that at present there

are three or four active swarms in Rajasthan while Madhya Pradesh has two to three of them. A small group deviated into Maharashtra as well.

Once they start breeding, the swarm movement will cease or slow. Also, the breeding will happen mainly in Rajasthan.

Apart from the search for food, their movement has been aided by westerly winds that were, this time, further strengthened by the low pressure area created by Cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal. Locusts are known to be passive flyers, and generally follow the wind. But they do not take off in very strong windy conditions.

### So, what damage have they caused?

So far, not much, since the rabi crop has already been harvested, and farmers are yet to really start kharif sowings. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has, however, predicted "several successive waves of invasions until July in Rajasthan with eastward surges across northern India right up to Bihar and Odisha". But after July, there would be westward movements of the swarms that will return to Rajasthan on the back of changing winds associated with the southwest monsoon.

The danger is when they start breeding. A single gregarious female locust can lay 60-80 eggs three times during its average life cycle of 90 days. If their breeding is coterminous with that of the kharif crop, we could well have a situation similar to what maize, sorghum and wheat farmers of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia experienced in March-April.

### How can these pests be controlled?

Historically, locust control has involved spraying of organo-phospate pesticides on the night resting places of the locusts. On May 26, the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, advised farmers to spray chemicals like lambdacyhalothirn, deltamethrin, fipronil, chlorpyriphos, or malathion to control the swarms. However, the Centre had on May 14 banned the use of chlorpyriphos and deltamethrin. Malathion is also included in the list of banned chemicals but has been subsequently allowed for locust control.

Special mounted guns are used to spray he chemicals on the resting places and India has 50 such guns, and 60 more are expected to arrive from UK by the first week of June. Drones are also being used this year.

# Desert Locust $The \ movement \ of \ locusts \ so \ far, \ and \ projections. \ Source: Food \ and \ Agriculture \ Organization \ of \ the \ UN$

### A joint fight by India and Pakistan, over the years

#### **SHUBHAJIT ROY**

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

IN 1993, as swarms of locusts started coming into Jaisalmer, Anil Sharma, a locust warning officer, was asked by a senior official, "How locust can come to India when we have fencing on the (India-Pakistan) border?" Sharma politely replied that locust is an insect and knows no barriers.

As another locust swarm comes from Pakistan, the spotlight is again on the India-Pakistan dynamic that has come into play. The Ministry of External Affairs says it has reached out to Pakistan for cooperation, and is awaiting their response. Despite the ups and downs in the bilateral relationship, cooperation on the locust warning system has survived the wars, terrorist attacks, and political turmoil.

#### **History of outbreaks**

While legend has it that locusts were part of the Mahabharata during Karna's battle with Arjuna, modern-day records suggest that since the beginning of the 19th century, there have been at least eight "outbreaks" in India from 1812 to 1889, and a ninth in 1896-1897.

According to history of the Locust Warning Office published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), there were "serious invasions" of locusts in India every few years during the 1900s. A "fiveyear invasion" from 1926 to 1931 is estimated to have to have damaged crops worth Rs 2 crore (about \$100 million at today's prices).

The princely states and provinces had their own structures to deal with this, but there was no coordination. After the 1926-32 "invasion", the British Indian government sponsored a research scheme, starting 1931, which led to the permanent Locust Warning Organization (LWO) in 1939, with its headquarters in New Delhi and a substation in Karachi.

In 1941, a conference of princely states in desert areas and provinces affected by locusts was held. Its role was expanded in 1942, and in 1946 a bureaucratic structure was put in place.

### Beginning of cooperation

Iran too suffered locust attacks, in 1876, and in 1926-1932. "Apparently the first case of collaboration between countries in the region occurred in 1942 when a delegation from India helped with locust control work in southwest Persia. Over the next two years, Indian help was also provided to Oman and Persia. This was followed by the first conference within the region on Desert Locust, which was held in Tehran in 1945 and involved Iran, India, Saudi Arabia and Egypt... A second conference took place in 1950 also in Tehran with Pakistan participating," the FAO says.

In the 1950s, India and Iran cooperated and Pakistan provided two aircraft for locust surveys in Saudi Arabia, Following another attack during 1958-61, a decision was taken to group Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India together and the FAO Desert Locust commission was formed in 1964. The commission held annual sessions, skipped in 1965 and 1999 but held in 1971. Even in the last six years when the relationship between India and Pakistan has deteriorated, it has been held in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

The meetings are attended by locust control experts, with no diplomats.

#### **India and Pakistan**

In 1977, the two countries began to meet on the border. From 1991 to 2003, special border surveys took place during the summer, undertaken by locust control officers in their respective countries.

Joint border meetings have taken place every year since 2005 till 2019, except in 2011. This has been despite every diplomatic strain, including the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

Monthly meetings are held between June and October-November at Zero Point, west of Barmer, Rajasthan and east of Chor, Tharparkar. Three to four officers from each country normally attend. Each country takes turns at hosting the meeting on its respective side of the border.

Arrangements are made in advance and protocols are followed for crossing the border. The meeting is held in the morning. "Fortnightly bulletins, FAO bulletins and maps showing survey locations, locust infestations, green vegetation and rainfall in each country are exchanged and discussed," the report on their activities said.

While politics and diplomacy is kept out of the technical discussions, locust control authorities feel that one of the more difficult challenges faced by the commission is that of "insecurity and sensitivities" in the region.

### CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD THE WORLD 268,620 United Kingdo 159,797 181,918 **1,703,989** US

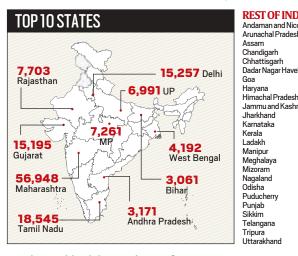
**TOTAL CONFIRMED: 5,731,837** 

411,821

**DEATH COUNT: 356,606** 

 $Source: \textit{Johns Hopkins University}, updated at 11\,pm on May 28. \textbf{\textit{JHU's India tally and Health}}$ Ministry's tally (below) may not match as these are accounted at different times.

### INDIA COUNT: 158,333 (4,531 DEATHS)



Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, May 28. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. **67,692 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

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

### Restrictions eased, what Maharashtra needs to do to control Covid spread

Maharashtra accounts for more than one-third of India's Covid cases. With restrictions relaxed in many areas, an immunologist looks at the way ahead



Vineeta Bal

#### What needs to be specially done to contain the spread of the disease in Maharashtra now?

Nothing very special or different from what we have already been doing. Maybe, much more vigorously and doggedly. One thing that does need to happen is more decentralisation in decision-making and allocation of resources. A lockdown, the kind of which we saw at the national level, is no longer sustainable. Such strategies would now need to be implemented at very local levels, at the community levels, and the authorities who have to take these decisions need to be empowered suitably. In Mumbai and Pune specifically, there are lots of very crowded localities where physical distancing is very difficult to maintain. Therefore, home isolation is something that might not be very effective in these environments. We need to identify, or create, isolation facilities in nearby localities, where relatively milder patients can be housed, and these need to be equipped with things like ventilators, and also with

healthcare staff. Keeping people in quarantine facilities that are nearer to their homes is not just easier and faster, but also psychologically comforting for the patient and the family.

And this may sound boring and repetitive, but we must continue to make all efforts to keep increasing our testing capacities, and our abilities to trace and isolate contacts of confirmed positive cases. We should try to trace and isolate every primary contact at least. I know tracing secondary contacts can require much more energy and effort, and we are all already stretched out.

#### But with travel restrictions considerably relaxed, would these containment strategies still work? We saw cases consistently rising in Maharashtra even during the lockdown.

The lockdown restrictions had to be eased. It was absolutely necessary, and it is welcome. We did benefit from the lockdown to a certain extent. My concern is that we still don't seem to have been able to create adequate healthcare infrastructure in the time that the lockdown provided us. Not that we haven't been able to do anything. There has been substantial scaling up of health resources, and a lot of work has been done. But I am not sure whether it is still adequate for the enormity of the problem in Mumbai. We are hearing there is already a shortage of hospital beds in the city.

Another thing that the state government probably can do is employ more and more surveillance staff. These are the people who have been going door to door to collect health information from the people. In many cases, these are the first ones to flag possibilities of infection in a locality. Currently, a lot of these people are teachers or other employees who are not trained for this purpose. But this is an important job that will help not just in containment of Covid-19 but also in other infectious diseases. At a time when several jobs are being lost, this is also an employment opportunity that the state can offer.

#### But will the numbers continue to rise, or is there any peak in sight?

I don't think we are at the peak right now. We don't even know where the peak is. We are still on the ascending curve. But we also need to take the fear out of the people. Political leaders, community elders, and other influential people need to keep reinforcing this message that a Coronavirus infection is not the end of the world. To most people, it would not matter more than a few days of sickness and isolation. But lots of fear persists. At the other extreme, we have seen some reckless behaviour as well, which does not care about physical distancing norms. Both these behaviours are problematic, and I don't think there is enough happening on communication front.

Dr Vineeta Bal is an immunologist and a visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune. She spoke to Amitabh Sinha

New Delhi



### Surgeries held up, how long to clear backlog?

NON-ESSENTIAL surgeries have been suspended around the world because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the US, a new study by Johns Hopkins University researchers found that it may take between seven and 16 months for surgeons to complete the backlog of elective orthopaedic surgeries. This accounts for more than a million surgeries in the US for spinal fusion and knee and hip replacements.

The study is published in The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. Lead author Dr Amit Jain said that in fields such as orthopaedic surgery, where procedures are frequently performed in an inpatient setting, the ramp-up may be slower than surgeries typically done in outpatient facilities. "We will keep adding to the backlog as long as we are not operating at 100% capacity," Jain said in a statement.

Using a national database of hospital inpatient data, Jain and colleagues modelled the number of current and forecast spinal fusion and hip and knee replacement surgeries in the United States. In an optimistic scenario where most elective surgeries are back to full capacity in June, it would take approximately seven months to get through the backlog. Delays to the ramp-up to full capacity could extend the backlog to 16 months.

To help ease the backlog, Jain has proposed several strategies to increase surgical throughput, including more use of telemedicine. He also suggested making more timeslots available in operating rooms for orthopaedic surgeries.

Source: Johns Hopkins University



In Munshiganj. Reuters/File

### **BANGLADESH** Govt opts for restricted reopening

Dhaka: Bangladesh on Thursday issued an order allowing restricted reopening of the offices and transport services from May 31as the country recorded 2029 new cases the highest in a day. "All

government/semi-government, autonomous and private offices will remain open in a limited scale under their own management (from May 31)," read the Cabinet division order. But the order exempted "vulnerable people, sick employees and pregnant women" from attending offices and directed that all meetings would be held through virtual media

### **UNITED KINGDOM Boris aide** made 'minor breach' of curbs

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's top aide, Dominic Cummings, might be guilty of a "minor breach" of the legal regulation when he took a journey during the coronavirus stay-at-home lockdown last month, UK police concluded on Thursday. Downing Street said the UK PM considers the matter closed following the latest development. "The prime minister has said he believes Mr

Cummings behaved reasonably and legally given all the circumstances and he regards this issue as closed," a Downing Street spokesman said

### **NEPAL** With 156 new cases, total crosses 1,000

Kathmandu: Nepal on Thursday registered its highest single-day surge in the coronavirus cases with 156 new infections, taking the COVID-19 tally in the Himalavan nation to 1,042, the health ministry said. Among the 156 newly infected people, 12 are women. The newly confirmed COVID-19 patients were aged between 2 and 70, according to the Ministry of Health and Population. Dhanusha, Jhapa and Rautahat districts, bordering India, have reported 29, 25 and 20 new cases respectively in the last 24 hours, it said.

### **RUSSIA**

### Cases see upward trend

Moscow: Russia is continuing to see high numbers of new cases even though its far-flung regions have increasingly moved to reopen the economy. The government's anti-coronavirus task force reported 8,371 new infections Thursday, about the same as in the previous day and lower than the peak levels of more than 11,000 cases earlier this month. The total number of infections topped 379,000, the world's third-largest caseload behind the US and Brazil. Russian officials reported 174 new deaths, repeating the highest daily toll recorded two days ago.

### PROTESTERS IN HONG KONG

had hit the streets, defying distancing norms

### **'SUBVERSION', 'SECESSION'**

among acts China will be able to suppress

### **U.S. CALLS SECURITY COUNCIL**

meeting, China hits back

## China approves plan to rein in Hong Kong

KEITH BRADSHER BEIJING, MAY 28

CHINA OFFICIALLY has the broad power to quash unrest in Hong Kong, as the country's legislature on Thursday nearly unanimously approved a plan to suppress subversion, secession, terrorism and seemingly any acts that might threaten national security in the semiautonomous city.

As Beijing hashes out the specifics of the national security legislation in the coming weeks, the final rules will help determine the fate of Hong Kong, including how much of the city's autonomy will be preserved or how much Beijing will tighten its grip.

Early signals from Chinese authorities point to a crackdown once the law takes effect, which is expected by September.

Activist groups could be banned. Courts could impose long jail sentences for national security violations. China's feared security agencies could operate openly in the city.

Even Hong Kong's chief executive this week appeared to hint that certain civil liberties might not be an enduring feature of Hong Kong life. "We are a very free society, so for the time being, people have the freedom to say whatever they want to say,' said the chief executive, Carrie Lam, noting, "Rights and freedoms are not absolute.

China's premier, Li Keqiang, tried to strike an optimistic note about the national security law, saying on Thursday that it would provide for the "steady implementation of the 'one country, two systems'" political framework that has enshrined Hong Kong's relative autonomy since the territory was reclaimed by China in 1997.



Xi Jinping in Beijing. AP



#### Significant global outcry

MANY COUNTRIES such as the US, Australia, the UK and Canada have criticised the proposed laws in strong terms, calling it an erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy. Similarly, the EU said Beijing was "ignoring" global treaty obligations. So far, China has issued a strong defence, with one official saying things could "change for the worse" if foreign nations push hard on the issue.

The rules, the premier said, would protect "Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability."

A protest on Sunday — the city's first large-scale demonstration since the outbreak - underscored the depth of many residents' outrage and fear about Beijing's national security push. The protesters flouted social distancing rules and police warnings against illegal assemblies. NYT



Local residents watch a news show about the new national security legislation, in Hong Kong on Thursday. NYT

### US, China lock horns over new security laws

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, MAY 28

THE US and China clashed over Hong Kong at the UN Security Council, with Washington calling a meeting over the controversial national security law introduced by Beijing to tighten its control on the former British colony.

The US Mission to the UN on Wednesday said Washington was "deeply concerned by actions taken by the People's Republic of China (PRC) National People's Congress that funda-

This is a matter of urgent global concern that implicates international peace and security, and warrants the immediate attention of the UN **Security Council**"

- U.S. MISSION TO U.N.

mentally undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and freedoms as guaranteed under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984, which was

registered with the UN as a legally binding treaty and the Basic Law (of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region).

The US mission added that the United States had called for a virtual meeting of the Security Council on Wednesday to discuss these acts and China's proposed national security law that would threaten Hong Kong's democratic institutions and civil liberties.

China's Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun hit back at the US, saying Beijing categorically rejects the baseless request of the US for

"Legislation on national security for Hong Kong is purely China's internal affairs. It has nothing to do with the mandate

a Security Council meeting.

of the Security Council," he tweeted. The Chinese envoy added that the US is the troublemaker of the world." "It is the US who under the international law.

that "facts prove again and again has violated its commitments China urges the US to immediately stop its power politics and

#### **IN BRIEF**

### OFFENDERS WON'T **BE SENT TO CHINA** FOR TRIAL: REPORT

Beijing: Chinese officials have clarified that those facing charges for offences committed in Hong Kong will not be sent to China to face trial under a new security law. The Hong Kong Bar Association said China's proposed new security law could run into problems in courts as Beijing has no legal authority to enact its national security law for the former British colony. The association also expressed concern over suggestions that mainland security agencies would be set up within the city.

### **U.S. TO EXPEL SOME CHINESE STUDENTS**

Washington: The Trump administration plans to cancel the visas of thousands of Chinese graduate students and researchers in the US who have direct ties to universities affiliated with the People's Liberation Army, officials said. The plan would be the first designed to bar the access of a category of Chinese students, who, overall, form the single largest foreign student population in the US. It portends possible further restrictions, and the Chinese government could retaliate.

### **UK launches mass Covid** trace-and-test service

France moves to Phase 2 of

easing coronavirus lockdown

**ADITI KHANNA** LONDON, MAY 28

A NEW test and trace service operated by the National Health Service (NHS) got underway in England and Scotland on Thursday as the next stage in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and bringing the UK out of lockdown in gradual steps.

The UK government said the new service will help identify, contain and control coronavirus and reduce the spread of the deadly virus, which has claimed over 37,000 lives in Britain.

PRIME MINISTER Edouard

Philippe on Thursday said France

was moving to phase two of re-

laxing its lockdown and the

greater Paris region was no

longer deemed to be a "red"

Philippe told France's 67 mil-

lion people that danger still

coronavirus hot-spot zone.

**REUTERS** 

PARIS, MAY 28

Under the new system, anyone who tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and will need to share information about their recent interactions. This could include household members, people with whom they have been in direct contact, or within two metres for more than 15 minutes.

"As we move to the next stage of our fight against coronavirus, we will be able to replace national lockdowns with individual isolation and, if necessary, local action where there are outbreaks," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock. PTI

lurked and the government

would pay particular attention

to public health indicators in

Paris and its surrounding area as

rule, bans the exception," Philippe

said in a televised address. The

coronavirus has claimed the lives

of more than 28,500 people in

France, but on Wednesday the toll

rose by less than 100 for the sev-

enth day running.

"Freedom will become the

the restrictions are relaxed.

### Manhunts after hundreds flee quarantine in African nations

ASSOCIATED PRESS BLANTYRE, MAY 28

the coronavirus, fled quarantine centers in Zimbabwe and Malawi while authorities worry they will spread COVID-19 in countries whose health systems can be rapidly overwhelmed.

In Malawi, more than 400 people fled a center at a stadium in Blantyre, jumping over a fence or strolling out the gate while police and health workers watched. Police and health workers said they were unable to stop them as they lacked protective gear.

At least 46 escapees had tested positive for the virus.

And in Zimbabwe, police spokesman Paul Nyathi said officers were "hunting down" more than 100 people who escaped from centers where a 21-day quarantine is mandatory for those returning from abroad.

"They escape and sneak into the villages ... We are warning people to stop sheltering them. These escapees are becoming a serious danger to communities," Nvathi said.

### US coronavirus deaths top 100,000 as country reopens

**REUTERS&PTI** REUTERS, MAY 28

THE US has surpassed the "sad MANHUNTS HAVE begun after milestone" of over one lakh coronavirus-linked deaths, the highest in the world, President Trump acknowledged on Thursday, some four months after he said the situation in the country was "totally under control" and assured the nation that it was "going to be just fine".

"We have just reached a very sad milestone with the coronavirus pandemic deaths reaching 100.000." Trump tweeted. hours after the country registered the grim figure. "To all of the families &

friends of those who have passed. I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy & love for everything that these great people stood for & represent. God be with you!" the president wrote.

"We have it totally under control," Trump said on CNBC on January 22. "It's one person coming in from China, and we have it under control. It's going to be just fine."

Trump initially said "50 to 60,000" people could die during the outbreak but this month the



Demonstrators, many wearing masks, protest the death of a black man in police custody in Minneapolis. AP

president said he was hopeful the toll would be lower than

About 1,400 Americans have died on average each day in May, down from a peak of 2,000 in April, as per a tally.

In about three months, more Americans have died from COVID-19 than during the Korean War. Vietnam War and the US conflict in Iraq from 2003-2011 combined. The disease has also killed more people than the AIDS epidemic did from 1981 through 1989, and it is far deadlier than the seasonal flu has been in decades.

### 41 MN HAVE LOST JOBS SINCE VIRUS HIT

ROUGHLY 2.1 million people applied for jobless benefits last week, a sign that companies are still slashing jobs in the face of a deep recession even as more businesses reopen and rehire some laid-off employees. About 41 million people have now applied for aid since the virus outbreak intensified.

### crackdown in S Korea as case surge continues **REUTERS**

Social distancing

SEOUL, MAY 28

SOUTH KOREA reported 79 new the most in nearly eight weeks, triggering the return of tougher social distancing curbs amid the spectre of a second wave of disease in a country praised for containing the first outbreak.

At least 82 cases this week have been linked to a cluster of infections at a logistics facility run by Coupang Corp. one of the country's largest online shopping firms, in Bucheon, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) said.

The new cases on a third day of rising infections took South Korea's tally to 11,344 with 269 deaths by midnight Wednesday.

The rise prompted health officials to call on Thursday for a return to tougher social distancing rules in metropolitan areas, including closing public places such as museums, and getting employers to adopt flexible work plans. Health officials said they would perform on-site inspections of logistics centres to develop better prevention policies.

enough supplies, said Ivette Díaz,

an intensive care nurse. Bandages

don't stick to patients because

they've lost their adhesive. But af-

ter her colleagues blocked roads

leading into the hospital last

month, executives began provid-

ing more protective equipment.

Still, the masks that they gave out were perforated, because of a

manufacturing flaw, Díaz said.

in the health sector, if we had ade-

quate materials, things would look

very different," she said.

"If here in Mexico they invested

### 'IF THEY INVESTED IN HEALTH SECTOR...THINGS WOULD LOOK VERY DIFFERENT'

### 'It's not the virus': Mexico's broken hospitals become killers, too

**NATALIE KITROEFF& PAULINA VILLEGAS** MAY28

THE SENSELESS deaths torment doctors and nurses the most: The man who died because an inexperienced nurse unplugged his ventilator. The patient who died from septic shock because no one monitored his vital signs. The people whose breathing tubes clogged after being abandoned in their hospital beds for

In Mexico, it's not just the coronavirus that is claiming lives. The country's broken health system is killing people as well.

Years of neglect had already hobbled Mexico's health care sys-

tem, leaving it dangerously short of doctors, nurses and equipment to fight a virus that has overwhelmed far richer nations. Now, the pandemic is mak-

ing matters much worse, sickening more than 11,000 Mexican health workers — one of the highest rates in the world — and depleting the already thin ranks in hospitals. Some hospitals have lost half their staff to illness and absenteeism. Others are running low on basic equipment, like heart monitors

Patients die because they're given the wrong medications, or the wrong dose, health workers say. The protective gloves at some hospitals are so old that they crack the moment they're slipped on, nurses say. People are



In Iztapalapa, as the outbreak continues in Mexico City. Reuters

often not sedated properly, then wake up and yank out their own breathing tubes, hospital em-

Adriana de la Cruz, a nurse at Dr. Belisario Domínguez hospital in the southeast corner of

Mexico City, said the overstretched and often undertrained work force has made glaring errors — at great cost.

"People have died because of a lack of medical attention and because of negligence," said Ms. de la Cruz. "These patients would have a better chance of surviving if we could offer better care."

The Mexican government spends less on health care as a percent of its economy than most countries in the Western Hemisphere, according to the World Bank, and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador presided over spending cuts even after acknowledging his country had 200.000 fewer health care workers than it needed.

When the epidemic hit

New Delhi

Mexico in March, many hospitals sent front-line workers to confront the deluge of cases without any protective equipment or training. Some nurses say they were told not to wear masks to avoid causing panic. Many say they were forced to buy face shields and goggles themselves.

The fallout has been severe. About one in five confirmed cases in Mexico are health workers — a greater share than in the United States, Italy or China.

Mexico's outbreak is growing quickly and shows no signs of slowing. Cases and deaths have risen every week for the last couple of months, hitting Mexico City and Baja California, which includes Tijuana, particularly hard.

The hospital has never had

She spent her day off recently scouring the streets of her neighborhood until she found a local vendor to sell her a batch of masks. She paid \$7 for each, a small price for a mask free of

holes, she decided. NYT



\$35.00 Brent crude as of 2000 IST

SENSEX: 32,200.59 ▲ 595.37 NIFTY: 9,490.10 ▲ 175.15 NIKKEI: 21,916.31 ▲ 497.08 HANG SENG: 23,132.76 ▼ 168.60 FTSE: 6,213.23 ▲ 68.98 DAX: 11,724.66 ▲ 66.97

### COVID-19 WATCH – HOSPITALITY SECTOR

### Hotels, airlines look for new revenue streams, hold on to cash to tide over liquidity crunch

PRANAV MUKUL& **AANCHAL MAGAZINE** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

THE HOTEL and airline segments of the tourism industry, which are typically high fixedcost sectors and have forgone revenue for almost a full quarter due to the impact of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown, are now accessing future revenues to tide over the short-term working capital deficit. While all airlines, which had to cancel flights on account of the lockdown, issued credit shells to passengers to make future bookings, some hotels are offering discounts for future bookings.

Even as the airlines industry was completely shut for two months, with the exception of sporadic cargo flights, the hotel industry, too, has been operating at 10-15% occupancy, with losses for both these segments mounting on account of incurring fixedcosts. According to experts, a typical 200-room premium hotel needs to operate at an occupancy of 38-40% to record a cash breakeven. Furthermore, unlike goods, which can be consumed later, a deferred service, like that in the hospitality industry, cannot be consumed later. To generate cash for keep-

ing themselves afloat, companies in these segments are not only finding new revenue streams but also holding on to the cash they have. A4-star hotel in Shimla, for instance, is offering a flat 45% discount through gift vouchers which would be valid for bookings till one year. Such a measure would provide some funds for the hotels to wade through cash crunch as they continue to keep their staff engaged to maintain the premises and keep them sanitised.

În addition to stocking up of liquidity, other measures such as "drastic cost control...preliminary reopening plans and a sharp reduction in future supply addition" are in the offing. "The pandemic and the containment measures introduced by governments globally and in India resulted in a severe drop in foreign and domestic travel across the world, in both the business and leisure travel segment. This will leave a lasting impact on the credit profile of airlines and hospitality companies. Globally, airlines and hotels have acknowledged the depth of this decline with recovery stated two to three vears from now." said Pavethra Ponniah. Vice President and

Sector Head, ICRA. For airlines, the government has announced a set of advisories to refund domestic and international tickets booked for the flights suspended due to lockdown. However, as per the advisories, airlines are bound to provide full refunds only to those pas-

test positive

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** 

ATOTAL of 16 asymptomatic pas-

sengers on seven different flights

including 13 of them who trav-

elled by IndiGo have tested posi-

tive for COVID-19 since the re-

sumption of domestic air services

on Monday, according to airlines

Two of the three asympto-

matic passengers who tested pos-

itive for the infection had travelled

by SpiceJet while one took a flight

of Air India subsidiary Alliance Air.

Other steps like drastic cost control and a sharp reduction in future supply addition are also in the offing

sengers who have booked during the lockdown period for travel during the lockdown period. Globally, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has estimated that ticket refunds to the tune of \$35 billion may worsen the financial situation of cash-crunched airlines during April-June 2020.

However, for airlines, which have pointed out that the lack of any direct relief from the government may lead to downsizing or even shutting down of operations, the supply can be reduced given that most airlines lease their aircraft. The hotels industry, on the other hand, are bound by permanent supply. "Unlike airlines, hotels are largely permanent supply and the only way to reduce supply is to convert them into apartments and office spaces, but India has not witnessed this trend in the past, With limited scope to fix the supply side of the equation in the immediate term, almost all previous down cycles in recallable history have led to deep discounting. The fragmented nature of the industry defeats cohesive action," rat-

In a bid to partially hold on to lost revenues, hotel companies are also looking at alternate revenue streams such as food delivery, in the same way that airlines operated cargo flights on their passenger aircraft. A number of hotel companies across the country volunteered for offering services as quarantine centres for those people. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) requisitioned taking over of 60 hotels with 3,000 beds under provide air-conditioned facilities without any charge from patients. The cost for this is to

ings agency ICRA said.

be borne by the AMC. As per some hotel industry executives, most hotels have remained operational with at least 20-25% of the staff being asked to turn up for duty to handle minimal loads that are being witnessed. For a future scenario, even as they are receiving queries for room availability, they are not translating into bookings and subsequently hotels are considering discounted offerings to attract consumers at future dates.

A survey of general managers in the hospitality industry by HVS-Anarock pointed out while most general managers did not plan to discount their rates by more than 20%, higher discounting levels were expected in economy and midscale hotels, while upperupscale and luxury hotels were likely to discount the least.

### 'PANDEMIC A THREAT TO STABILITY OF FINANCIAL SYSTEM'

## FM takes stock of economy in 1st FSDC meet after COVID outbreak

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

THE FINANCIAL Stability and Development Council (FSDC), at its meeting chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, noted that the COVID-19 pandemic poses a serious threat to the stability of the global financial system, as the ultimate impact of the crisis and the timing of recovery remains uncertain at this point of time.

It highlighted the need for the government and regulators to remain vigilant on financial conditions that could expose systemic vulnerabilities. The Council stressed that the government and regulators would continue to provide liquidity and capital support to domestic financial institutions.

"While decisive monetary and fiscal policy actions aimed at containing the fallout from the pandemic have stabilised investor sentiment in the short run, there is a need to keep a continuous vigil by government and all regulators on the financial conditions that could expose financial vulnerabilities in the medium and long-term. The efforts of the government and regEXPLAINED A review of liquidity, solvency in the system

A COUNCIL of financial sector regulators stressed the need to remain extremely vigilant in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on financial markets. It reviewed the pain points in the financial system, including liquidity and solvency levels of financial sector entities. The Council's commitment that the government and regulators would stand ready to provide liquidity and capital support to financial institutions will provide comfort to the markets, which are rattled by the extreme volatility since March.

ulators are focused on avoiding a prolonged period of dislocation in financial markets," according to a Finance Ministry statement.

The FSDC, which is a council of the country's financial sector regulators, also reviewed the liquidity and solvency position of nonbanking financial companies, housing finance companies and micro-finance institutions. These institutions have been severely hit by the economic lockdown enforced to tackle spread of COVID-19. Moratorium on loan payments have put a pressure on inflows of these companies while banks have turned risk averse in lending to them. NBFCs have sought that they should also be allowed moratorium on their dues to banks.

The 22nd meeting of the FSDC. which was held through video conferencing, reviewed issues relating to market volatility, domestic resource mobilisation and capital flows. Stock markets fell sharply in March on expectation of COVID-19 spreading across the country and the nation-wide lockdown imposed to contain it. Markets subsequently recovered

up of the NPAs between the

state-run and private sector

THE STIMULUS MEASURES

day moratorium on recognition

of impaired loans to 180 days,

**IMPACT:** These measures will

in addition to several

relaxations in bank lending

limits, including allowing

banks to fund interest on

working capital loans

include extension of the 90-

part of the losses in April and May.

The banking sector has been particularly affected as uncertainty in the economy pushed people and companies to opt for moratorium in loan payments. While much of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package is dependent upon aggressive lending by banks and financial institutions, RBI data shows a near collapse of industry demand for bank credit since 2016. While the bank credit outstanding to the industry grew marginally by 0.7 per cent to Rs 29.05 lakh crore in the year ended March 2020, over last four years, credit outstanding to the industry has expanded by just Rs 1.74.451 crore. or at a CAGR of 1.56 per cent.

The government expects credit deployment to pick up pace when firms come forward to take disbursement of sanctioned loans as the lockdown eases. Apart from top Finance Ministry and regulatory officials, the meeting was attended by Ajay Tyagi, Chairperson, Sebi; Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Chairperson, Irdai; Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairperson, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority and MS Sahoo, Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

### FPIs invest ₹7,136 cr in 2 days, Sensex jumps 595 points to gain for 2nd straight session

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, MAY 28

THE SENSEX on Thursday rallied another 1.88 per cent on the back of strong global cues triggered by the European Union stimulus package and sustained buying by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) ahead of the derivative contract expiry. The Sensex gained 595 points at 32,200.59 and the NSE Nifty Index shot up by 175 points to 9,490.10 amid short covering and expectations of relaxations in lockdown and more stimulus measures.

gained 1,591 points in the last two days despite reports about the shrinking economy and rising COVID infections. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought stocks worth Rs 2,354 crore on Thursday, taking total FPI investments to Rs 7,136 crore in two days. The EU Wednesday unveiled a \$826 billion coronavirus recovery programme as the region attempts to claw its way back from its worst economic crisis in decades.

With this, the Sensex has

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "the proposed huge EU stimulus plan provided a boost to European shares while Asian shares were affected by the US-China diplomatic issues. Indian markets are banking



Sensex has gained 1,591 points in two days. Express file

on continued resumption of economic activities, in spite of still high number of new infections. Further stimulus measures are also expected to boost demand in the economy and help the most impacted sectors to recover. The market is rising on the back of expectations while there has been little change on the ground realities."

Ahead of derivative expiry, traders were seen covering short positions in technology, banking and auto stocks, pushing up the market for the second consecutive day. "High-net worth-investors were seen bargain hunting in select beaten-down stocks. At the end of the trading session, we believe most long-positions were rolled over by traders to June 2020 contracts," said Rahul Sharma, Research Head, Equity99

### 'Forced lending to hurt banks: NPAs to soar up to 600 bps in 2 years'

Lenders face significant asset quality challenges which can increase their dud loan ratios by up to 6 percentage points over the next two years, as per a Fitch Ratings report



THE IMPACT OF forced lending on banks' impairedloan ratios can be anywhere between 200 and 600 basis points (bps), depending on the severity of stress and banks'

individual risk exposures and the higher regulatory provisions

NO BREAK-UP: The agency, however, did not offer a break-

put a heavy onus particularly on state-run banks which already have very weak balance sheets to bail out the

affected sectors, due to their quasi-policy role, considering that much of the so-called stimulus measures is in the form of new loans

NPA pain points: The report said impaired-loans recognition will now take longer, and the more relaxed and forced lending norms means rising balance-sheet risks. despite their heightened risk aversion and the state-run banks are more at risk

| Ratings/PTI

### FDI rises 18% to \$73.46 bn in FY20

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI. MAY 28

TOTAL FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) into India jumped 18 percent to \$73.46 billion in the 2019-20 financial year — the highest in four years, according to data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Thursday. Of this FDI equity inflows through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), RBI's automatic route of through acquisition rose 13 percent to around \$49.98 billion.

Investments by Foreign Institutional Investors was \$247 million. Commerce minister Piyush Goyal attributed the total inflows to a "strong vote of confidence" in the Narendra Modi government's flagship Make in India programme.

'Total FDI has doubled from

13-14 when it was only \$36 billion This long term investment will spur job creation," tweeted Goyal on Thursday.

The sectors that attracted the most foreign inflows during 2019-20 included services (\$ 7.85 billion), computer software and hardware (\$7.67 billion), telecommunications (\$4.44 billion), trading (\$ 4.57 billion) and automobiles (\$ 2.82 billion). However, of this. investment in services, construction and chemicals was lower than the previous financial year.

Singapore once again emerged as the largest equity FDI source, contributing to inflows of \$14.67 billion. However, this is a drop from the \$16.22 billion Singapore contributed in 2018-19. Total FDI inflows, which include investment through the equity, reinvested earnings an other capital routes, stood at \$62 billion in April-March 2018-19.

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

Petition to PM

for transport,

rehabilitation of

migrant workers

AN ONLINE petition signed by over 4,000 persons including retired judges, bureaucrats, economists and activists has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure safe transportation and rehabilitation of migrant workers across the country.

The petition, started by Working People's Charter and Aajeevika Bureau, has asked for facilitation of dignified movement of millions of migrant workers using central forces, facilities, and re-

The signatories include former Planning Commission members, Abhijit Sen and Syeda Hameed, Governor Najeeb Jung and former

UGC Chairman Sukhadeo Thorat.

**BRIEFLY** —

S&P, Care Ratings

New Delhi: S&P Global

Ratings has said the econ-

omy will shrink by 5 per cent

in this fiscal. GDP is likely to

be at 3.6 per cent in January-

March 2020, says a Care

on GDP outlook

### DGFT lifts export curbs on paracetamol APIs

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

THE DIRECTORATE General of ForeignTrade(DGFT)onThursday lifted restrictions imposed over two months ago on exports of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) of painkiller and fever medication paracetamol during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The move was done after the government reviewed the availability of the API and its formulations and was able to ensure that there was sufficient stock to meet domestic as well as international demand, The Indian Express has learnt.

The restrictions were first implemented on March 3 due to a

shutdown in Covid-19 affected Hubei, from where the ingredients were mostly imported.

"There was a thought to remove the restrictions earlier, but the government wanted to be very sure that there was sufficient supply of the API in India. Now that there is enough production in India and data on the availability of the APIs, this was recommended and the restrictions removed," said a senior government official on condition of anonymity.

While DGFT removed curbs on shipments of paracetamol formulation shipments on April 17, the ingredient had remained restricted until now, which meant that exporters would need no-objection certificates (NOC).

VIRUS HITS US ECONOMY, SHRINKS 5% IN Q1



Macy's store in Santa Ana, California, The US Commerce Department reported that GDP fell at an annual rate of 5% in the first quarter, a bigger decline than the 4.8 per cent drop first estimated a month ago. It was the biggest quarterly decline since an 8.4 per cent fall in the fourth quarter of 2008 during the depths of the financial crisis. APfile

### **CBDT** notifies new Form 26AS; to have share, property transactions

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, MAY 28

TAXPAYERS WILL now have a detailed annual information statement listing out financial transactions such as those of mutual funds and property transactions beyond the details of tax deducted or collected at source.

The CBDT notified the new annual information statement in Form 26AS, which will have details regarding financial transactions, demand and refund and pending and completed proceedings. It will come into effect from

largely unaffected supporting con-

### E-PAN based on Aadhaar

Ratings report.

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday launched a facility for instant allotment of online PAN on furnishing of Aadhaar details.

### MSIL partners **HDFC Bank**

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Thursday said it has partnered with HDFC Bank Ltd to offer flexible finance schemes for new car

### SBI cuts rates on fixed deposits

Mumbai: SBI has cut rates on retail term deposits by up to 40 bps across tenors. PTI

### RBI slaps fine on 3 banks

Mumbai: The RBI has im-

posed fined Bank of India Rs 5 crore, Karnataka Bank Rs 1.20 crore and Saraswat Cooperative Bank Rs 30 lakh for non-compliance of certain provisions of the central bank's guidelines. **ENS** 

#### 'Govt could have put to better use DBT architecture to transfer money to migrants' 16 passengers on flights of IndiGo, ing the vast dataset available in ment — is not fit for purpose." to do so...and for that you need a **ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** the form of Jan Dhan accounts The migrants workers such as 2 other airlines NEW DELHI, MAY 28 and NREGA payment details, Roy taxi drivers and waiters who re-

THE GOVERNMENT could have put the direct benefit transfer (DBT) architecture and its muchtouted Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile solution to better use to send money into accounts of the needy migrant workers, said Rathin Roy, director at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. The government's main strategy to tackle the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic has been enabling companies and people to borrow more liberally, using the largely the credit policy options without relying much on fiscal support, Roy, a former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, said at an E-XPLAINED



Rathin Roy, director at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and ex-member of the EAC-PM, during the E-XPLAINED webinar.

government could have expanded cash transfers to migrants stranded across the country, us-

said: "Either I have to believe the government when it has been saying very dramatically, including the Principal Economic Adviser, that they have the (system)

make cash transfers and cess of this government is its ability to make di-

rect cash transfers. If at these kind of crisis, the government gets into a sulk, because people are actually going back home and...then says let's start an all India ration card, then that means that the programme to reach out to population of India using Aadhaar, Jan Dhan and mobile — that has been touted to me as the major architectural success of this govern-

turn from cities (like Mumbai) to their villages are unlikely to come back to cities even when economic conditions normalise, he said, necessitating greater use of works under

National Rural **Employee** Guarantee Act (NREGA). by The Indian EXPRESS Roy, sponding to

a query, said the government needed to coordinate with states to provide better cash transfers. 'The obvious way to transfer money would not be to sit in the headquarters of the empire in the Capital and decide how the money will be transferred but to ask the states and the local governments to identify governments people who need the transfers and then

policy announcement that income transfers would come what may and mobilise the country to make those transfer with the same alacrity as the yet gloriously unspent PM CARES was mobilised," he said.

Roy also spoke on how the economy which has already been in a slowdown mode got further hit as consumption — one of the four engines of growth which was firing — stopped working due to the lockdown. "If you consume less, if you produce less; then the economy begins to decline."

The services sector will be far more hampered in the current situation, because it requires greater physical contact when compared with agriculture. State governments have managed to make sure that agriculture harvesting of the Rabi crop is largely successful, and farmers to able to sow kharif crop, then that sector will be

sumption in rural areas, he said. On the manufacturing front, companies will first need to clear inventories before stepping up production. On the debate over monetisation of the fiscal deficit, Roy said this should be the last resort

because if the money so raised is not well spent then that will be an extremely undesirably situation. Deficit monetisation simply means that the Reserve Bank of India directly funds the Central government's deficit. Until 1997, the government used to sell securities — ad hoc Treasury-Bills directly to the RBI, and not to financial market participants. This allowed the government to technically print equivalent amount of currency to meet its budget deficit.

The webinar was moderated by P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor, National Affairs and Anil Sasi, National Business Editor.

New Delhi

#### Air carriers in the country have operated over 1,500 flights carrywebinar conducted by The Indian ing over 1 lakh passengers during Express Tuesday. To a query on whether the the first four days of operations.

### National Games postponed indefinitely

The much-delayed 36th National Games, scheduled for October-November in Goa, was on Thursday postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Indian Olympic Association recently asked the Goa government to host the National Games as scheduled from October 20 to November 4 this year. However, a spurt in the number of novel coronavirus cases has led to the postponement.

## Treadmill world champion

With all outdoor events postponed, American ultra runner Zach Bitter took to the fitness machine to break 100-mile record

**NIHAL KOSHIE** 

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

AN AIR-CONDITIONER humming non-stop, a fan whirling for over half a day, two treadmills placed side-by-side with one running constantly at any given time, two cameras for streaming, litres of hydrating fluid, a bag of potato chips for a quick snack, classic rock playing almost continuously. Zach Bitter needed all this and loads of willpower to break a 'world record' in his living room when sporting activity around the world had come to a standstill.

A fortnight ago, ultra marathon runner Zach, 34, was on a treadmill for 12 hours, 9 minutes and 15 seconds - the fastest any human being has covered 100 miles on the fitness machine - to set one of the lesserknown, but gruelling, marks in endurance running. When tracks and trails around the world cancelled ultra running competitions because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Zach decided to go for an unconventional distance record.

At the 'finish line', he touched a 'tape' made out of toilet paper by wife Nicole, the only bit of improvisation in an otherwise exhausting day on which he started running at 7 am.

He had woken up two hours earlier, drank a cup of coffee and had a protein bar before jumping onto the treadmill.

Like most others around the world, Zach was stuck at home for a few months. Mid-March's Ultra London, an event he had set his sights on, was postponed, but Zach was in the shape of his life. Rather than letting the hard work fritter away, he decided to make the best of his predicament.

'My events that I originally started training for were cancelled. The ultra event was on a 400 metre track and the treadmill didn't feel too far away from a mechanical standpoint. In terms of the treadmill record being on my mind, I was kind of aware of it but I just didn't have a really good spot to put it in my schedule. There are so many events nowadays, it almost seems contrived to do a treadmill event. But the Covid-19 pandemic made it a little more

palatable I would say," Zach told *The Indian* Express from Phoenix, Arizona.

He has completed over 50 ultra events, yet going long distances on the treadmill was uncharted territory for the experienced endurance athlete. The most he had clocked on the belt was 30 miles and in the build-up to the attempt, he ran 22 miles one evening and 21 miles the next morning. He drew confidence from being the holder of the ratified world record for the 100-miles, which he achieved in August last year on a 442-metre track in Milwaukee where he completed 363 laps around an ice-hockey rink.

It took him 11 hours 19 minutes and 13 seconds. The average temperature there was 15 degree Celsius. Zach expected it to be as cool in his room at home when he attempted to break the treadmill record. But he was in for a surprise.

#### Rising temperature

An unexpected rise in temperature meant Zach needed more fluids when running on the treadmill than when on the track, something he didn't foresee.

"I basically underestimated how much water I was going to need relative to what I have in other events. In August, I was taking about 25 ounces (730 ml) an hour whereas on the treadmill I was going through 40 to 50 ounces per hour (1.1 litres to 1.4)," Zach says. For someone who never ran on a treadmill regularly or for too long, there were many hurdles.

"It (heat) was a product of running in a stationary motion and not creating a little bit of breeze like when you are running around the track. So, I was kind of running with the body heat stagnant around me. There was also heat coming off the motor of the treadmill. So it created a micro climate around you, which is warmer than the rest of the room."

At one point, the air-conditioner stopped working and the display on the treadmill blanked out briefly because the room was drawing too much power with multiple appliances and devices running treadmills, fan, AC, camera set-up. Fortunately, using an extension chord to



Ultra runner Zach Bitter during his successful attempt to break the 100-mile treadmill record.

connect to another room solved the issue. Zach took 50 minutes more to complete 100 miles on the machine than he took on the track. He feels it was down to the number of breaks and the miscalculation when it came to fluid requirements. "In this event, I made a mistake early on with hydration and I had to catch up on that and I spend quite a bit... like hours three and four catching up on a lot of water.'

On May 16, he switched treadmills 10 times, each change costing him 20 seconds, to ensure the machines didn't burn out. In addition to this, he took five bathroom breaks, including one at 87 miles during which he ate potato chips for energy. In August last year, when he broke the record on track, Zach took just three breaks for a

### Is 100 miles an official record?

The 100-mile treadmill record is listed in the Guiness Book of World Records, while the 100-mile track record which Zach Bitter broke last August is ratified by USA Track and Field (USATF), the governing body for the sport in the country. World Athletics recognises

the 100-kilometre world championship winners and records. Longer distances well over a marathon course (42.195 km) falls in the ultra running category. Ultra running is held either over a particular distance, like 50 miles or 100 miles or 100 kilometres, or for a pre-set time like 12 hours or 24 hours or even multi-day events. These races are organised either on the track, most of the time 400 metres ones, where athletes go round and round, or over trails through forest tracks or even on the road. Some events combine the courses - track and road or trail and road - and also conduct the event over stages.

The International Association of Ultra Runners was recognised by the IAAF (old name of World Athletics) in 1988.

total of four minutes.

### Monotony of a machine

Being on a machine for hours can be mentally exhausting. Zach says. Switching treadmills helped him take micro-breaks and allowed his mind to switch off and on.

"For a lot of people who are doing more ultra marathons on trails, the lack of scenery and change will be a huge challenge to get over. But I have done six events on a track now, and the lack of visual changing wasn't a hurdle. But the hardest part mentally was that on the treadmill, you are kind of responding on a machine and it is following a pace. When you are running on a track, you have slight changes in pace and you seem a little more in control, whereas on a treadmill you feel a little less in control, and that kind of eats away at you after a while," Zach explains.

To set a rhythm of his own, the endurance runner altered the speed on the treadmill unlike on a track where he runs almost consistently at one pace.

"I tried to go back and forth so that there was change in pace. It gave me a sense of control. The fastest I went was 9.5 miles per hour and the slowest was 8 miles per hour. The average speed was 8.2 miles per hour.'

What kept him going, apart from his reserves of mental strength and endurance, was the 'live streaming' hosted by 30 different people. At times when he wasn't tuned into the live streaming, Zach listened to classic rock to keep the tediousness and fatigue at bay.

By the end of the successful attempt, Zach kicked off his shoes to reveal the physical toll. "The balls of my feet were bruised completely. I don't get that when I run on a trail or a track.'

Zach is now waiting for the world to open up and races to start around the world. He wants to have a go at lowering his own 100-mile record on the track sometime. Will he attempt to break his own treadmill record?

"The psychology of being able to stay on the machine for long periods was the hardest part. I feel if I could do it a few more times, I would get better at that but it seems to me that I needed to have breaks in order to make it feasible from a mental standpoint. I don't think I will get back on a treadmill again anytime soon, but I think it will be useful in future events for getting a little tougher mentally. And thankfully, it is going to make the next race I do (on track or trail) a little more palatable," he

## India poised to play first overseas D/N Test at

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY** 

ADELAIDE OVAL will host a day-night, pinkball Test match when India tour Australia in December-January. On Thursday, Cricket Australia (CA) released the 2020-21 men's and women's international schedule, which has four Tests, three T20 internationals and three ODIs against India.

CA confirmed that the second Test from December 11-15 would be a day-night affair. "The Test at the SCG is the traditional Iane McGrath Foundation Pink Test which is a day Test. Adelaide is a day-night Test with a pink ball," a CA spokesperson communicated in an e-mail. If things go to plan, this would be

As per the itinerary, the Test series starts Sydney from January 3.

the Test series, but with the Covid-19 pandemic providing the backdrop, the Indian board will go by the Government of India's directive with regards to foreign travel. CA chief executive Kevin Roberts, also, admitted that the "final schedule potentially may look different".

CA wants to host India for a Test series which is reportedly worth \$300 million including broadcast rights. With their finances taking a Covid-induced hit, the India series is considered to be Australian cricket's monetary redemption.

ODIs in Australia in January next year.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

BY PETER VIDAL

Changes at home or

in the family seem to be of far greater long-

term significance

A discussion may

confusion than it

resolved. You still

have twenty-four hours to get to

first step might be to check up on

the nub of the matter, and your

whether you were right - or

wrong. And if you see that you

by making a speedy confession.

made a mistake, you'll gain credit

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

events beyond your control.

However there still seems to be

an excellent chance of rational

best — like bank managers. In

matters of the heart, you'll be

most attracted to people from

backgrounds and places very

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

the case, try re-running the

script, offering them all the help

and encouragement they need.

Leave financial complications

until tomorrow, and postpone

an emotional demand until

everyone is good and ready.

You may have

someone else's

stamped too hard on

aspirations. If this is

different from yours.

 $dialogue\,with\,people\,who\,know$ 

Control over

domestic spending

may have been taken

out of your hands by

than those at work. However, it is very difficult to establish exactly

where your priorities truly lie in

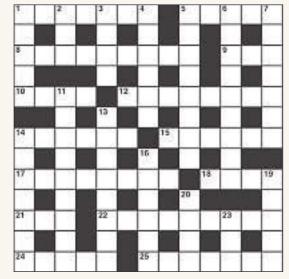
terms of the available resources

Give it time. In fact, give it all the

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

time you need.

### CROSSWORD 4130



### **ACROSS**

- Exacts payment for those in one's care (7)
- Memento from more licentious times (5)
- Deficiency that should break no bones (9) Unmarried sister (3)
- 10 Uninspiring call for help comes to nothing
- 12 Stop or start playing snooker (5.3)
- 14 It's said to be articulated (6) 15 More eager to be a mourner
- rooster?(8)
- 18 Sort of saw for pine (4)
- 21 A sucker for honey? (3) 22 Wild lamenting - what a row! 24 X is about right as a sign
- 25 Witty saying has some point with farm animals (7)

#### **DOWN** The price of a suit (5)

- A party activity (3)
- Entrance for spectators (4) Steps inside? (6)
- Allowed somebody to get away with a further tenancy?
- 6 A capitalist world Anne saw
- differently (9) Tree yielding a fir cone (7)
- Random inspection to see who has measles? (4.5)
- 13 Holiday downpour and what it may do to one's activities?
- wine nevertheless (7) 16 Six annoy in a masculine way
- 19 Symbol reverenced in Shinto
- temples (5) 20 It turns up after an opponent
- 23 One hasn't been taught to play by it(3)
- Solutions Crossword 4129: Across: 1 Chancery, 5 Alas, 9 Fatal, 10 Mahatma, 11

Takes the lead, 13 Treats, 14 Slogan, 17 Perambulator, 20 Against, 21 Evoke, 22 Site, 23 Presides. **Down:** 1 Cuff, 2 Actuate, 3 Called to mind, 4 Remote, 6 Lather, 7 Standing, 8 Cheerleaders, 12 Stopgaps, 15 Grow old, 16 Butter, 18 React, 19 Pets.

### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis







### CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

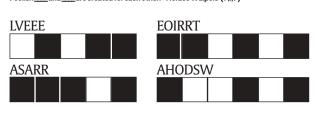




## AMERICA THAT'S WHAT MY

### **JUMBLED WORDS**

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. Foolish\_\_\_and\_\_\_are created for each other. - Horace Walpole (7,.,7)



Answer: Foolish writers and readers are created for each other. - Horace Walpole SOLUTION: LEVEE, ARRAS, RIOTER, SHADOW

#### Difficulty Level 2s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

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

5	9	1	4			6	
1				3			5
3		5	7	8		9	
2							8
	7		2	6	1		4
8			1			١.,,	7
	5			7		8	9
	4	2	8 5		6		

4	7	6	2	3	9	8	1	4	5
SOLUTION SUDOKU 41	8	3	1	5	7	4	9	2	6
<b>X</b>	9	5	4	1	2	6	3	8	7
<u> </u>	4	1	8	2	5	9	6	7	3
	3	7	9	4	6	1	2	5	8
Z	6	2	5	8	3	7	4	1	9
2	2	8	7	9	1	3	5	6	4
5	1	4	3	6	8	5	7	9	2
7	5	9	6	7	4	2	8	3	1

### **DAY TODAY**

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

and carry on as if nothing has happened. However, is that what you really want?

Someone who has behaved

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Your position is still strong, so I have

every confidence that a current challenge is about to be overcome. At the very least you will acquire respect and put yourself on a better footing to succeed next time round. The longer you wait, the better your position should become —

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) done, and a good

be rminded that you can't take other people for granted, just as they need to understand how much they rely on your sound emotional sustenance. LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

This looks like a busy day, although it will



compensating for someone else's mistakes or inefficiency. You may just have to shrug your shoulders and get on with it, but keep an eye open for short-cuts.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Ouite aside from

the fact that any younger people in your care still seem to be rather demanding, this is

a fine time to enjoy yourself. The emphasis is on the arts as well as simple pleasures, so take your pick. Activities which elevate your spirit will be desirable.

New Delhi

# **Adelaide Oval**

KOLKATA, MAY 28

India's first overseas day-night Test.

at the Gabba, Brisbane on December 3, while Melbourne will host the Boxing Day Test on December 26 followed by the fourth Test at The BCCI has agreed to tour Australia for

The three T20Is against India, at Brisbane, Canberra and Adelaide on October 11, 14 and 17 respectively, appear to be a precursor to the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November. There's, though, a serious question mark over the tournament's future. Today, the ICC Board deferred its all agenda items, including the T20 World Cup's future, until June 10. India's three ODIs are scheduled at Perth, Melbourne and Sydney on January 12, 15 and 17 respectively. The Indian women's team, too, is scheduled to play three

There is still time to pick up the pieces

unfairly may be put in their place, but you will have to choose your moment with care — and use all your charms to their best effect.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) The emphasis still falls on monetary affairs but the psychological

picture shows the deeper situation. In particular, anything that happens now will be deeply tied in to your view of your own spiritual worth. You need to know that partners value you for your real. underlying qualities.

You may be a little surprised by what someone has said or thing too. It is always useful to

> AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19) You still don't know what's going on, at



least not in the real world. Where you score over the rest of us is in matters of the spirit, and anyone who has any sense will turn to you to answer those ultimate questions - like who am I? and why am I here? Oh, and don't have qualms about accepting a loved one's generosity.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Devote a great deal



especially if you didn't receive the encouragement you deserved when you were younger. You'll feel more confident as one of a group of like-minded people, ready to take a decisive leap into

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